

Practical Ways to Train for Generosity:

“Open your eyes and look around. There are always opportunities to be generous.”

Parents:

- Fight selfishness: Demonstrate generosity with your money, time, and possessions – within your family and with others. Always give more than is asked of you. Your children will see this trait in you.

Ages 2-5:

- Establish play dates with other children early on. This way you can help them learn the joy of sharing toys with friends.
- Do not immediately answer to their every whim. They need to learn that they are not the center of everyone’s world. Others must be considered.
- Read themed books on “helping others” to your children. Then demonstrate a helpful attitude at the playground, the store, etc. Point out to them after the fact why you were generous in helping others.
- Establish an “others first” policy. (i.e. getting in line, playing with a toy, telling a story, etc.)

Ages 6-10:

- Take your children with you when you volunteer or serve others. Let them help as much as they can.
- Train your children in gifts and tithes. What’s the difference?

- Establish money jars – Tithes (10%), Savings (50%), Spending (40%). Encourage them to keep their eyes open for ways to bless others with their spending money.
- At birthdays and Christmas or when donation bags come in the mail, have your child go through their belongings and pick out two or three nice things to give away.

Ages 11-17:

- Take your children with you on mission’s trips.
- Teach the principle of “rounding up.” (i.e. If they owe someone money, they don’t pay back the exact amount to the penny. Always round up. If they are asked to give two hours of their time to a task, they give two and a half.)
- Help your child find a place to volunteer their time helping others. Utilize their talents for another’s benefit.