

GENEROSITY

Objective: *To stimulate thinking about the impact that each one of us has on the other, and that we all have something important to give and how we give it makes a difference to the community*

Key Words: *generosity, possessions, congregation, inexpensive, community, parishioners, glowingly, diary*

QUOTATION/THEME FOR THE WEEK

THE VALUE OF A GIFT IS IN THE LOVE WITH WHICH IT IS GIVEN



YOU GIVE BUT LITTLE WHEN YOU GIVE OF YOUR POSSESSIONS.
IT IS WHEN YOU GIVE OF YOURSELF THAT YOU TRULY GIVE

Kahlil Gibran, The Prophet



.... TO THE NOBLE MIND RICH GIFTS WAX POOR WHEN GIVERS PROVE UNKIND
Shakespeare (Hamlet 3.1)

Discuss what these three quotations mean and whether they have anything in common.

SILENT SITTING

Step 1 (*See page 40 of the introduction*)

Steps 2, 4 (*optional*)

Step 5: As you listen to the music imagine ...

You have a magic carpet and are flying across the world ...

You are not afraid, sitting comfortably and safely on the magic carpet ...

The sun is shining and there is a gentle warm breeze ...

If you feel like it, you can take a look at the country below ...

See the trees and seas ...

It is very beautiful and you feel happy and contented ...

Look at the children playing, as you fly across many countries ...

Some are well dressed and some are ragged ...

Some are clean and some are playing in the muddy streets ...

Listen to their laughter as they play ...

SILENT SITTING *(Continued)*

Some of them have no homes to go to ...
Many won't have a proper meal tonight ...
Perhaps we can do something to help?
Can you think of one way you might help another child?
What might make it difficult to do this?
What can be done to overcome the difficulty?
Thinking how you may be able to help makes you feel happy.

Step 6.

STORY TELLING

THE POOR WIDOW

by John Vesty

In a small country town, there was a beautiful old church. Amongst the congregation of that church were two women. One was rich and dressed in fine clothes and the other was very poor and wore inexpensive plain garments.

Each Sunday the wealthy woman would dress up in her finery and make a show of putting several large bank notes into the poor box at the entrance of the church. The onlookers felt her to be an upstanding example to the community. She was very popular amongst the congregation.

The poor woman also attended the church on Sundays in her plain dress, arriving slightly later than the others. As she quietly slipped into a seat at the back, shortly before the service began, she too would place money in the poor box, usually only a small coin, for it was all she had.

One Sunday after the service, the priest asked all for their attention.

“Over the years,” he said. “There has been much good work done by parishioners, but one in particular has been unswerving in her generosity of heart.”

All heads turned to the wealthy woman, who smiled glowingly in return.

The priest continued. “A good person who has given all she has to those who may need it more than herself. I shall not name this person because she would not wish it. Her giving has been complete and unseen without a thought for herself.”

All those in church looked puzzled, for they could not see that the minister was smiling at the poor woman sitting unseen in the back row.

QUESTIONS:

1. What did you feel when you heard this story?
2. What can you say about the differences between the two women?
3. What did the priest do?
4. Was the rich woman really generous?
5. What is generosity? Give some examples.
6. What are riches and what is poverty?
7. Describe some things which are riches besides money.
8. What riches do you think you have that you might share with someone else?

GROUP SINGING

GIVE, GIVE, GIVE

(music and lyrics by Sara John)

If you give from your heart
Then you've made a good start,
To a life that's full of joy and happiness.
And you won't feel bad, if you haven't had
A little something in return.
The more we give, the more we learn.

*Chorus: Let's give, give, give, as we live, live, live
With joy in our hearts as every day starts
Let's give, give, give, as we live, live, live
With love in our hearts as every day starts.*

Let us give to all
No matter how small,
The gift is very special indeed.
We'll feel so glad and never feel sad,
When a smile shines at us through the day
We know this is a better way.

Chorus: Let's give, give, give, as we live, live, live ...

You can give of yourself
In a way that will help,
It may not be a gift you can see.
But it works when you just give and do,
It's a present to someone in need
And they'll never forget your deed.

*Chorus: Let's give, give, give, as we live, live, live ...
(Repeat chorus)*

GROUP ACTIVITY

Brainstorm and discuss ways how we, as a class or school, can give something we value to some other children who have less than we have.

Extension exercise/Links to Other Subjects:

Draw the facial expressions of:

- a) the wealthy woman
- b) the poor widow
- c) other members of the congregation when the priest delivered his special announcement of appreciation.