



## FIVE AREAS PARENTS CAN INVOLVE KIDS IN JOYFUL GIVING

### HOME

Just as discipleship starts in the home, generosity begins by stewarding our own space. It's the first place children will learn to be, or not be, cheerful givers.

- Making their bed each day
- Folding the laundry (Don't expect perfection. Be accepting of their best work)
- Do daily acts of service (simply avoiding the "chores" term helps kids to understand it's not a chore to serve, but stewarding what God has given)
- Teach finances in the Spend, Save, Share model. Have your child separate their money into three jars and let them choose where to give monthly.
- Get outside! We steward the outside of our homes in the same way we do the inside. Include kids in raking, small repairs, planting and watering flowers, and gardening.
- Talk about how you steward your gifts, including your budget. The goal isn't to boast about what you are doing, but to share your actions so that your children understand what you are doing and why.
- Help choose, plan, or cook a meal once a week.
- Look for ways to serve your family. Mow the lawn, wash a car, or help put away groceries.
- Regularly assess your family belongings & share excess with those in need.
- Donate unused or outgrown items to a charity.
- Commit to "Thankful Thursdays" by handwriting and mailing a thank you note to someone who has blessed your family.

### CHURCH

Since children have established relationships with other parishioners, a good next step is sharing generously in the Church. It's a safe space to develop giving skills.

- Send a card to someone absent from church telling them you missed seeing them.
- Keep the names of supported missionaries in a visible place in the home. Look up where they serve on a map and learn about what life is like there. Talk about the local food, housing, and way of life.
- Be a pen pal to a missionary supported by your church.
- Be a greeter to people as they come to worship.
- Talk to a new visitor.
- Bring cookies to the office staff.
- Start a circle of prayer for those in need.
- Host a pizza party in your home for college students or young adults attending your church. (Yes, even if they have their own group or "programming")
- Help clean up seats after a worship service.
- Participate in a church clean-up day as a family.
- Serve in the nursery or younger children's program together (at the appropriate age and as church allows)



## SCHOOL

Established relationships in a comfortable space makes the school another good step in becoming joyful givers.

- Be a friend to someone who sits alone at lunch or recess.
- Let someone else go ahead in line.
- Share your lunch or snack.
- Be a helper in a class of younger kids.
- Help your teacher clean up after class or during recess.
- Talk to someone new.
- Bring cookies to the custodian.
- Pick up trash on the playground.
- Help a friend with homework.

## NEIGHBORHOOD

Neighborhoods are familiar but have less developed relationships. That makes this space a logical next step in learning to give to others.

- Learn your neighbor's names. Sounds simple, but a study done by Forbes learned that 50% of Americans don't know a single neighbors name.
- Pick up litter.
- Make a thank-you poster for your trash carrier.
- Check on an elderly neighbor.
- Shovel a snowy sidewalk.
- Say hello to everyone you see.
- Bring up neighbor's garbage cans for them.
- Walk around the neighborhood & hand out popsicles on a warm summer day.

## CITY

Stepping out of our comfort zones and into the city allows us to meet new people in new places. Of course, use guidelines to stay safe and promote dignity.

- Volunteer as a family once a month in your city. [Volunteermatch.com](http://Volunteermatch.com) lists volunteer needs in your local community.
- Leave a note on a parked car wishing the owner a nice day.
- Visit a nursing home and read to a resident.
- Return someone's shopping cart at the store.
- Bake treats and deliver them to your fire or police station.
- Hold the door open for someone wherever you go.
- Say thank you to road workers as you pass in your car.
- Write a letter of thanks to someone on your city council.
- Spend Thanksgiving serving the homeless at a shelter.
- Explore how to support families offering foster care (provide occasional respite care or needed items) or, become a foster family yourself!
- Keep several bottles of water in your car to share with those in need.
- Take supplies to a local animal shelter, play with the kittens, or walk a rescue dog.
- During the holidays, participate in Merry Mercy Christmas by Growfamily or Operation Christmas Child by Samaritan's Purse.