

HERE for GOOD

KID CITY

DID YOU KNOW?

The Algonquin people were the first to call our city "Milwaukee"? It might have sounded a little different in their language, but the meaning of "Milwaukee" was "the GOOD land"! God has blessed our city with rivers, a beautiful lakefront, and fertile soil. As we journey through the next five weeks, we want to bring God's GOODness to every neighborhood of this "good land"!

During the *Here for Good* season, our Eastbrook Kids department is continuing their journey through the Bible using *The Gospel Project* curriculum. The Gospel Project is leading us through the life of Solomon, one of the writers of the Book of Proverbs. So, during Here for Good, we'll be focusing on Proverbs of Generosity. To go along with each week's theme, there will be a key verse from Proverbs that you can discuss and memorize together!

THEMES & STICKERS

Every weekend throughout *Here for Good* (October 18–November 15), we will give out a new sticker to capture the weekly theme—a Proverb of Generosity. Just as God told the Israelites to mark the doorposts of their home with His commandments (Deuteronomy 6:6-9), we pray that these stickers will be a visual reminder of God's desire for His people to live generously. *Please note that each of the stickers will be available for one week only; children must be present at Sunday School to receive each week's sticker.*



WEEK
1 GIVEN
GOOD

WE CAN BE GENEROUS WITH OUR **TIME**.

Proverb of Generosity: “Whenever you are able, do good to people who need help.” Proverbs 3:27 (ICB)

Have you ever heard the saying: *Time flies when you’re having fun*”? When we’re having fun, we don’t realize how quickly time passes. Have you noticed that an afternoon at the park goes so quickly, but waiting at the doctor’s office feels like forever? ?

Our Proverb of Generosity this week tells us: “WHENEVER you are able, do good to people who need help.” The verse afterward continues, “If you have what your neighbor asks for, don’t say to him, ‘Come back later. I will give it tomorrow.’” The **time** we have is a gift from God—a gift that He wants us to use to encourage and help others. It’s hard to stop what we like to do in order to help someone else. The time we give up is like a gift that we give back to God. Jesus told His followers that whatever they do for someone else, is something they are really doing for Him (Matthew 25:40). This week, think of how you can be **generous** with your time.

Family Storytelling: What kinds of activities make time go fast? When does time seem to drag? Can you think of a time when you gave up what you were doing in order to help someone else?

Family Footprint Challenge: This week, be generous with your time! Can you give up a little time doing something you like in order to serve someone else? Ideas: doing an extra chore, reading a book to a younger sibling, going on a family prayer walk.

WEEK
2 ALL FOR
GOOD

WE CAN BE GENEROUS WITH OUR **FRIENDSHIP**.

Proverb of Generosity: “Worry makes a person feel as if he is carrying a heavy load. But a kind word cheers up a person.” Proverbs 12:25 (ICB)

Have you ever watched a tiny ant carry a huge load—part of a leaf or maybe a berry or a twig? Ants can carry 10–50 times their body weight! How do they do it? Ants may be tiny, but their muscles are much thicker than that of other animals. This means they can use more force to carry heavy things.

As humans, we sometimes say that we “carry heavy burdens.” This doesn’t mean that we are lifting 50 times our bodyweight! This usually means that we are very sad, worried, or fearful. These hard times can make us **feel like** we’re carrying something very heavy. Jesus doesn’t want people to face hard things all by themselves. He wants His people to help one another “carry burdens” or “lighten the load.” We can do this by reaching out in friendship. Even our words and smiles can brighten someone’s day and help to make them feel a little “lighter” and more hopeful. Can you think of someone who could use your friendship this week?

Family Storytelling: Think of a time when someone you didn’t know all that well reached out to help you. How did it make you feel? Why are our words so important in helping others?

Family Footprint Challenge: This week, be generous with your friendship! Ideas: bring cookies to a new family in your neighborhood. At recess, invite someone you don’t know to play with you and your friends. Invite a family you have met at church over to your house for dinner and games.

HERE for **GOOD**
HOW TO USE THIS PLACEMAT FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

This devotional is intentionally printed on a placemat, so that it can be used at dinner and for a weekly after-dinner family devotional! Each week’s devotional will focus on the Generosity Proverb of the week, which could be used as a family memory verse. There will also be a short devotional reading, some Family Storytelling questions, and a Family Footprint challenge—a suggested way to live out generosity in your home, neighborhood, and beyond!

You might notice that the weekly Generosity Proverbs come from a variety of Bible versions, including the International Children’s Bible (ICB), the New International Version (NIV), and the New Living Translation (NLT). This is because we wanted to choose biblical language that is direct and easily understood for young children in the context of practicing generosity.

WEEK
3 STEWARDS
OF GOOD

WE CAN BE GENEROUS BY **SHARING**.

Proverb of Generosity: “The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.” Proverbs 22:9 (NIV)

What is that one thing on your dinner plate that you most want to eat? Maybe it’s the fries, the applesauce, the bread? Do you “save the best for last,” or do you gobble it right up?

Food acts like fuel for our bodies, helping us to move, breathe, and grow. Everyone needs food, but there are places in the world where food is very scarce. Some people have only one meal a day! Today’s Proverb of Generosity is about sharing food with others who have little or none at all. So, when you have lots of food, what should you do? If your friends come to visit, would you share your treats with them—even if it means that there’s less for you? Proverbs 22:9 says that we are **blessed** when we share what we have. We can give freely, because we know that God will continue to give us all we need!

Family Storytelling: What was on your dinner plate tonight? Which foods on your plate would be easy to share with others? Which might be harder to share? How do you share food with your family members? How do you share food with others?

Family Footprint Challenge: This week be generous with your food! **Boxes of Love** provides Thanksgiving dinners to people who have little food, right here in Milwaukee. Consider shopping together and having each family member choose an item to place in the box. Or, bring an extra snack to school and share one with a friend.

WEEK
5 HARVEST
OF GOOD

WE CAN BE GENEROUS WITH OUR **POSSESSIONS**.

Proverb of Generosity: “Honor the LORD with your wealth. And with the best part of everything you produce.” Proverbs 3:9 (NLT)

Imagine helping your mom bake a batch of cinnamon rolls. You stir all the ingredients together, then plop the dough on the countertop to knead it. You let the dough rise for over an hour. Then, you roll it into a rectangle, brush on melted butter, and sprinkle cinnamon sugar over it. You roll the rectangle into a log and slice off rolls. It needs to rise—*again!* Finally, after baking, Mom drizzles frosting over the cinnamon rolls. You can’t wait to take a bite, but—*wait!*

Mom doesn’t give you the first roll—she hands it to someone else! *What?*

Maybe this is the way Bible people felt when they offered their “firstfruits” God? They worked hard planting crops, but the first grain harvested was not taken home and eaten—it was offered to God. By giving the first and best to God, people showed their love for God and their trust that He would provide more.

Family Storytelling: What would it look like for us to give our “firstfruits”? It’s easy to give away things we don’t need. Giving our “firstfruits” means giving something that we’ve worked hard for, or something that we would like for ourselves. What can you give that shows your love and trust in Jesus?

Family Footprint Challenge: Clear out your closets before the holidays. Besides giving away something that doesn’t fit or isn’t used, is there something you have that another child would be really excited to have? Or, as you write your Christmas list, think of one present that you would give away to another child, and donate it to a community toy drive this Christmas season.

WEEK
4 HEARTS
FOR GOOD

WE CAN BE GENEROUS WITH OUR **TALENTS**.

Proverb of Generosity: “She makes thread with her hands and weaves her own cloth. She welcomes the poor. She helps the needy.” Proverbs 31:19-20 (ICB)

Would you rather play the piano or play soccer?
Would you rather help decorate for a party or plant seeds in the garden?
Would you rather swim laps or make up a skit with friends?

Chances are, whatever you answered for each question, is also something you are good at! We usually enjoy the things that we are good at, because we feel confident when we do them. We call these things “talents.” When God formed you, He gave you a special blend of talents!

God gives people different talents so that we can benefit from each other’s work. In this week’s Proverb of Generosity, we read about a woman who makes her own thread and uses it to weave cloth. She doesn’t do this just to make her own clothes. She uses this skill to help others in need. Whatever our talents are, God wants you to use them to bless others. What do you like doing? What are you good at? Your talents can help build up our church and our community!

Family Storytelling: Let each member of the family take a turn describing the talent they see in another member of the family: “*Grady, you’re so fast at putting things back together! You have a talent for problem-solving!*”

Family Footprint Challenge: This week, be generous with your talents! If you’re a good athlete, try teaching younger kids a specific athletic skill. If you’re a good artist, make a picture for someone you know who needs cheering up. If you are good at making friends, say “hi” to someone new.