



"Generosity" vs. Stinginess

"Carefully managing my resources so I can freely give to those in need."

I will:

- ◆ share what I have with others.
- ◆ recycle.
- ◆ not expect anything in return for my generosity.
- ◆ give of my time and talents.
- ◆ praise the good I see in others.

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What is Generosity?

"Generosity" comes from a Latin word meaning "of good or noble birth." The heart of generosity is realizing that everything a person has is the result of others helping him, so he wants to give to others too.

A generous person gives without expecting anything in return and with no hidden motives. He is more concerned with others than himself and sometimes gives sacrificially. Generosity can be shown by giving gifts, time, attention, energy, and love.

Generosity means giving wisely and in the right timing to people and causes that are worthwhile investments. Even when people are not being kind to him, a generous person still gives!



What does generosity look like?

1. Giving coupons to your parents for tasks you can do to help them.
2. Giving your new box of crayons to a child who doesn't have any and using your old ones.
3. Saving money from your allowance to help buy a gift for a needy child at Christmas.
4. Skipping play time one afternoon to help an elderly neighbor weed her garden.
5. Saving old cups, string, ribbon, etc. to give to a pre-school for craft projects.

Generosity in Nature

The Brown Pelican



The pelican gives in many different ways. First, pelicans give honor. During courtship and nesting, pelicans greet with a graceful sweeping bow. When approaching the nest, it waits to be honored with a greeting before joining its mate. The waiting pelican stands, arches its neck, spreads its broad wings, and honors the other with a deep sweep of its head.

Not only do pelicans give honor, but they also give shelter. By adjusting its wings, the pelican provides a feathered roof for both eggs and young on cold rainy days. It will also use its wings to cast a shadow over the nest to protect them from the intense heat of the sun. Pelicans care for their young and give the shelter they need.

Pelicans give food to their young. The pelican swallows the fish, predigesting it so the young pelicans can then poke their heads down the parent's throat, retrieving the contents of its stomach. Young pelicans are so well-fed that when they are ready to leave the nest, they weigh 20 percent more than their parents.

In former days, fishermen would capture a pelican and tie it to a stake along an empty stretch of beach. Other pelicans flying overhead would see the trapped pelican and drop fish for it to eat. The fishermen would collect the fish for themselves! The pelicans would continue to deliver fish as long as the pelican was tied to the stake.

Pelicans give nests to their mates. The male pelican chooses the nesting site, gathers all the materials, then builds a nest. Once ready, he gives the nest to his mate. This gift bonds the two birds together.

Pelicans give their time. Both parents take turns standing on their eggs. Their webbed feet cradle the eggs under their body, ensuring that they don't break. Each parent's turn can last up to three days. During that time they don't eat or drink, but instead devote their full attention to care for their eggs.

Finally, pelicans give good in place of wrong. A pelican catches fish by diving into the water and opening its mouth. Its pouch quickly fills with two and a half gallons of water plus the fish! The pelican must drain the water from its pouch in order to eat the fish. Often, a pesky seagull takes advantage of this moment and grabs the fish right out of the pelican's mouth. The pelican doesn't get mad or upset when bad things happen. A pelican doesn't attack or attempt to get even. It patiently catches more fish, even if it ends up feeding another pesky seagull.

Follow the example of the pelican and learn to give generously too. Look for ways that you can give honor, shelter, time, food, comfort, and good in place of wrong.

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Memory Work

I will share my things with others,
I'll recycle and conserve.
And when I see good in others,
I'll give praise as they deserve.

I will give my time and talents
And I'll do my best to learn,
When I freely give to others,
To ask nothing in return.

Commitments are important steps
To guard us from disaster.
And just to show we know them well,
Let's say them even faster.

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