CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Winning in Life

Lesson 4: Generosity

About This Lesson

Generosity is the key to an abundant life. The world tells you if you give you will have less for yourself. God's Word says when you give, more will be given to you. This lesson teaches the importance of a generous heart, which leads to sowing generously in all areas of life.

Key Takeaway: People who have a generous heart lead a winning life because they are generous with their money, time, talent, and heart.

Key Verse: Luke 6:38 *Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.*

Teaching Outline:

I. THE PARADOX OF GIVING

Luke 6:38 *Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.*

A. A paradox is something that seems contradictory or opposed to common sense but, when investigated, is actually true.
   1. Things that are true in the spiritual realm contradict the carnal realm of the five senses.
   2. Give a personal example of a time you gave and received more back, or a time when it was tough to give, but you didn't experience a lack.

B. You have to sow seeds to get a harvest.

Proverbs 11:24–25 *There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty.* [25] *The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.*

1. Scattering means that you are sowing a lot of seed in a lot of places. You are looking for ways to bless other people!
2. Generosity comes from the heart and flows into several areas of your life! People who have a generous heart are generous with their money, time, talent, and heart. They try to find ways to be a blessing to others!
   Isaiah 32:8 *But a generous man devises generous things, and by generosity he shall stand.*
3. When you are a blessing to others, you will be watered yourself! God will send people who will bless you and help you do what He has called you to do!
4. The generous soul will be made rich! There are some riches that only God can give you!

II. GENEROSITY IS A KEY TO THE ABUNDANT LIFE IN JESUS

Luke 16:10–13 *He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.* [11] *Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?* [12] *And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?* [13] *"No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."*

A. Faithfulness is a key to growing and increasing in purpose and success in life.
   1. Some of you have very high-level goals in life—start now! Be faithful with where you are right now and what you have. Be consistent and excellent in what has been entrusted to you.
   2. If you want to run in a marathon, you don't wait until the day before the marathon to start running.

B. Money makes a great servant but a terrible master!

C. Don't let money be your main motivation for making important decisions in life.

D. God values people more than money.

E. Generosity is a way to be a master over money. You are using it as a tool to bless others. You don't want money to be the master, and turn you into a tool! 1 Timothy 6:17–19 *Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy. [18] Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, [19] storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*

III. BE GENEROUS

A. Using 2023 statistics, 99% of the world's population earn less than $34,000 per year. If you and your family earn more than that, you are part of the global top 1%.
   1. Almost half the world's population lives on less than $5.50 a day.
   2. Most of us, in this present age and in our present country, are rich. Don't focus on money, focus on sharing what matters most—knowing Jesus as your Savior.

B. God gave an example of generosity by sending Jesus to the earth to pay the price of sin.

C. Jesus showed generosity by giving His life as the sacrifice for your sins.

D. When you have Jesus as your Savior, YOU are rich now and in the life to come. Show your generosity by:
   1. Doing good.
   2. Being ready to give.
   3. Willing to share.
   4. Trusting in God, enjoying what He has given us, and laying hold of eternal life.

NOTE: Give the young people an opportunity to receive the free gift of salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Bottom Line:
Generous people win in life!

Small Group Time:

1. Many scriptures are paradoxical, meaning that they seem not to be true, but in fact are definitely true. Remember, spiritual realities often contradict the carnal realm (things that you can experience with your five senses: touch, taste, hear, see, and smell). Here are two examples from scripture that seem paradoxical.

RECEIVING TRUE LIFE FROM JESUS: Matthew 16:25, *"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."*

- How can you lose your life if you try to save it?
- How can you gain life if you lose it?

BECOMING RIGHTEOUS (truly good in God's eyes): Romans 4:4–5 *Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.* [5] *But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness.*

- How can you not work and receive everything good?

2. God blessed Abraham. We see God's reason for blessing him was so that Abraham would be a blessing to others (Genesis 12:1–3), and people would learn that God gives the blessings.

- Who have you seen be very generous? What makes them a good example of generosity?
- Do you think generosity is important to be truly successful in life? Why do you think that is so?
- What are some ways that you can be generous? (giving your money, giving your time, giving your talent, giving your heart).

Declaration:
"I choose to be generous in every area of my life."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** What area of your life are you being generous in now? Which areas need to improve in generosity?

- **Pray:** Ask God to send opportunities for you to practice faithful generosity.
- **Read:** Genesis 12:1–3 daily. Each time you read it, ask God to show you ways He has blessed you so that you can be generous and bless others.
- **Live It:** Choose an area of your life to practice faithful generosity, such as time, possessions, money, words, or talents. Set a goal of how you will practice generosity each day.
- **Create:** When you are generous, you will start to notice that people become generous towards you. Use a wall calendar or digital calendar to record how you sow seeds of generosity, and keep track of how people show generosity to you. At the end of the month, reflect on the ways you gave and received and thank God!

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What was the funniest gift you were given?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Invite the youth to share any act of generosity that they have witnessed. Let them share examples of receiving from someone's generosity. Ask them how it felt to see someone being generous, or how it felt to be the recipient of the generosity.

Opening Affirmation: "God wants me to win in life and has given me His playbook. God's keys to winning in life are faith, love, humility, generosity, and diligence."

Giving Time: 2 Corinthians 9:7 *So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.*

When you give to God, check your attitude. You shouldn't be grumpy about being generous. God isn't taking from you; He is preparing to give to you! God loves a cheerful giver, so make sure your attitude shows that you are giving from a heart that loves Him and loves to give.

BEYOND –
ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: People who have a generous heart lead a winning life because they are generous with their money, time, talent, and heart. This week, who will you sow generously into? Encourage the young people to value relationships and people over money and self-centeredness. Have them pair with someone and share their generosity goal. Next week, let them share the results of their generosity challenge with the same person.

Biblical Worldview: Many people are takers rather than givers. The Bible teaches that a key to winning in life is generosity. Sometimes people will take advantage of your generosity, but God is the rewarder who sees and takes care of you. Encourage the young people to follow God's plan and be generous.

Outreach/Missions: Missionaries often go to the poorest people to share hope from the message of Jesus and salvation. Giving solar-powered audio Bibles is one way they can share the Gospel with people who can't read or afford to buy a Bible. Pray for generous people to donate so the Good News can be shared with everyone, everywhere. Take up a special offering for a project sponsored by one of your church's missionaries.