

When my children were little, I was often amazed at how freely they gave. Whether it was sharing candy with a friend or offering their favorite toy to comfort someone, they didn't stop to calculate the cost — they simply gave from their hearts.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 18:3 that unless we become like little children, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Children have a purity in their generosity that reflects God's own heart — giving without expectation, loving without condition, and forgiving without keeping score.

As a children's ministry director, I see this every week. A child will gladly offer to pass out crayons, help a friend with an activity, share toys, tidy up the Sunday school rooms, or participate in 5th Sundays — not because they have to, but because they want to serve. That kind of giving is contagious. It teaches us that generosity isn't measured by the size of the gift, but by the love behind it. It reminds us that being generous is an act of worship and a joyous exchange from bitterness and malice to tenderheartedness and compassion.

I saw this same spirit during our recent VBS missions trip to Zambia. The children there had so little in material possessions, yet they overflowed with joy in sharing what they did have — a song, a smile, a helping hand. Their generosity wasn't about abundance; it was about a heart willing to give. That experience reminded me that true generosity crosses cultures, languages, and borders because it comes from God Himself.

As part of the 40 days of prayer and fasting, let's ask God to renew in us that childlike spirit of generosity. Let's give joyfully — our time, our attention, our resources — trusting that God will multiply what we offer. And let's model this for the children in our lives, so they grow up knowing that generosity is not just something we do, but part of who we are in Christ.

Lord, give me a heart like a child — open, trusting, and quick to give. Help me to model generosity in a way that inspires the next generation to live with open hands and open hearts. Amen.

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