



The Virtues and Character Development Project

The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

I Thessalonians 5:24

Charity – Composite of Activities Curriculum

Note – before reading the content in this module, it is important that the *Charity Pre-Activity Curriculum* has been reviewed.

The following list provides examples of activities that leaders will be able to do with their students. They are divided into Primary School, Secondary School, and Higher Education.

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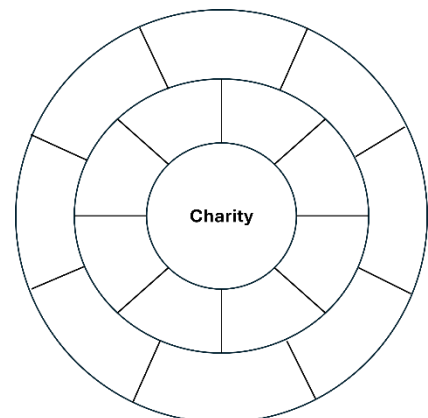
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Primary School (Kindergarten through 5th grade)

Cyndi Fannin

Activities:

1. Bible memorization: Have children memorize the following verses that illustrate the character of charity.
2. Charity circles
 - On two large sheets of paper, make **word webs** with *Charity* in the center of two concentric circles.
 - At the top of the first sheet, mark *Synonyms* or (*Similar Meanings*).
 - At the top of the second sheet, mark *Antonyms* (or *Opposites*).
 - On the first set of spokes out from the inner circle will be either *synonyms* or *antonyms* depending on the sheet.



- Examples are *synonyms*: giving, loving, kind, patient, selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love, etc.
 - Examples of *antonyms*: envious, selfish, greedy, cruel, harsh, expecting something in return.
- The second set of spokes from the outer circle will be examples of how it is lived out or applied.
 - Examples for *synonyms*: The Good Samaritan story, helping the needy, donating money to charity, helping anyone in need, etc.
 - Examples for *antonyms*: being nice to someone in order to receive something in return, giving so others can see and honor you, lying about being charitable, etc.
- 3. Use sticky notes and have children post notes of random acts of kindness they have been observing.
 - These could be put on a refrigerator or other board.
 - Discuss once a week.
- 4. Make a list with children of ways to volunteer.
 - Let children decide which volunteer activities they would like to do from the list created together.
 - Get out a calendar and add to the calendar the activities of when they want to do them.
 - It could be one a week or one a month based on time available.
 - Examples might include: *Operation Christmas Child* (in November), visiting a friend in a nursing home and taking handmade cards from the kids to many who stay there.
 - Have children make appreciation cards to service people like the mailman, the garbage man, cashiers, waitresses, and any others.
- 5. Find stories in the Bible of examples of first Jesus and then others who were being charitable.
 - Write these examples on slips of paper.
 - Find at least 10 examples.
 - Have children write a short summary or title on a slip of paper.
 - Have children pull a slip of paper from a container and act out the story from the paper while other children guess which story it is.
 - Here are a few examples: the feeding of the 5,000, the story of Ruth being faithful to Naomi, Abraham's generosity in Genesis 18, Zaccheus repaying those from whom he had stolen
- 6. Instead of birthday gifts, encourage children to choose a favorite charity or cause.
 - Before the birthday party, explain that the presents will be going to a certain charity.
 - Use a birthday box for during the party children put wrapped presents in the box.
- 7. Sponsor a child.
 - There are many organizations that can help in this endeavor.
 - Have your child choose the sponsor child and learn as much as possible about their life and their culture.
 - Help your child to write letters, work to earn money to sponsor, and tell others.

Scripture:

1. Acts 20:35 (ESV)
 - *In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*
2. Luke 6:38

- *Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*
- 3. I John 3:17
 - *If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?*

Recommended books to read together:

1. *Be Kind* by Pat Zietlow Miller
2. *The Little Green Jacket* by Jodi Dee
3. *The Little Lamp of Faith: A story of faith, hope, and charity* by Debra A. Holcomb
4. *Give This Book Away* by Darren Farrell

Sheri Nessmith

What does it mean for us and for our children to live charity in our daily lives? It starts at home, in the classroom, on the soccer field, etc. – in those we encounter every day.

Here are a few ways that you can help foster the virtue of charity of home:

5. **Memory Scripture:** John 13:35 *“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*
6. **Charity in thoughts and words** are the first steps. If we can think kindly and speak kindly of others, we are more likely to treat them with kindness. Encourage your child to look for the good in the other person, especially when they would like to complain or tell you what the other person did wrong. Our example as adults is crucial in this area; if we can speak kindly of others, our kids are more likely to pick it up.
7. **Pray for the needs of others** with your children. The more specific (and age-appropriate) you can be about these intentions, the better. This teaches that you can bring those in need to God in prayer, while also growing in relationship with God through prayer.
8. **Encourage your child** to reach out to someone they normally would not, to teach them to be inclusive of others. It will be uncomfortable at first, but that discomfort is part of growing in virtue. Again, your example is key here in your own relationships with others.
9. **Encourage acts of kindness** towards others, not in return for praise or because that other person has done something kind to them. True charity seeks to give and to love without needing anything back.

Noticing Others:

1. Scripture story
 - *The Good Samaritan*
 - Read Luke 10:25-37
2. Jesus told this story to teach his disciples about love.
 - It is important that we show love to everyone, even if we don't know them. The Levite and the Priest didn't show love because they walked past the man and didn't help him. Only the Samaritan, who stopped to help, showed real love.
 - Help children understand that sometimes helping or loving others means that we must put aside what we want and focus on what other people need.
 - It also means that we need to learn to notice other people and pay attention to what they need.

- You may also want to role play this story in a modern-day example, like kids on a playground or a stranded car on the side of the road.
- 3. Questions to discuss:
 - Have you ever seen anyone hurt? How did it make you feel? What did you do?
 - Why did the Levite or priest not stop to help the injured person?
 - Who did stop and why do you think they decided to help?
 - What would Jesus have done?
 - Can you think of a time when you didn't help someone who needed your help?
 - Whom do you know who needs help?

Activities:

- **Put Yourself in the Picture**
 - Find a collection of books that have people displaying a variety of emotions and situations. Have the children look at the pictures and have them explain how the people might be feeling, what they might be experiencing, etc. For example, if you show a picture of a family eating dinner you could talk about whether they look happy or sad and why, what the food they are eating might taste like, if you think the room would be cold or hot, etc.... The idea is to get them thinking about what it feels like to be another person. You could also do this activity by having the kids flip through magazines and cut out pictures.
- **Eye Contact Game**
 - Have you ever noticed how if you make eye contact with a stranger you both smile? This is because you are seeing each other and acknowledge one another. It is a way of showing love. Discuss with the children how it makes them feel when someone looks them in the eyes when they are talking. How does it make them feel when they are talking to someone and they don't look them in their eyes? Challenge the children to find ways to make eye contact with people and smile at them. You might even take them to the grocery store (or some other public place) and have a contest about who can get the most people to smile back at them by making eye contact with them (not talking aloud).
- **Service & Giving Activities**
 - **Charity Love Coupon Book:** Students create coupons for chores or kind acts (e.g., helping clean up toys, setting the table) to give to family members.
 - **Kindness Chain:** Write acts of kindness on paper strips and loop them together to make a long chain, demonstrating how small acts add up.
 - **Get Well Kindness Box:** Assemble small goody bags or make cards for children in local hospitals, nursing homes, or to thank community workers.
 - **Give and Keep Activity:** Use a story or role-play to teach children how to share their treasures, such as deciding which toys to keep and which to donate to a charity.
- **Classroom & Personal Growth Activities**
 - **Kindness Journal/Book:** Have students draw pictures or write sentences about a kind act they did, saw, or experienced each day.
 - **Put Yourself in the Picture Empathy Activity:** Show pictures of people in different situations and discuss how they might be feeling, encouraging empathy.
 - **JOY Acronym Craft:** Create a craft to teach the acronym JOY, **J**esus, **O**thers, **Y**ou, reminding them to put others before themselves.
 - **Loving Actions Game:** Play a game where students act out or draw scenarios showing love, such as sharing a toy or helping someone up.

- **Reflective Activities**

- **Compliment Circle:** Students pass a ball around and take turns saying one specific thing they love or appreciate about the person next to them.
- **Prayer for Others:** Teach children to pray for the needs of others, focusing on empathy for people outside their immediate circle.

Other Activities

- **1. Share the ways you like to feel love.**
 - Find out how your child likes to feel loved by asking *How do you know when someone loves you?*
 - Think about your own answers to this question also.
 - Take turns sharing how each of you likes to be loved such as hugging, having someone's help, or enjoying a game together.
 - You may like to make a list under a self-portrait of each family member, sharing each person's favorite ways to feel love.
- **2. Show your love for the earth.**
 - When we care about the environment, we care for it as best we can.
 - Collect trash on the street, gather up recyclable items in your home, or do some gardening outside.
 - Explain how actions must go along with our verbal expressions of love.
 - By showing loving actions and not just saying the words *I love you*, we are actually embodying the virtue.
 - We can show love to everyone and everything around us by looking out for what each person or thing needs to be happy and healthy.
- **3. Make a card for someone you love.**
 - Ask your child who they would like to make a card for and talk about why they chose that person.
 - Is that person kind to them?
 - Do they enjoy spending time with that person?
 - Think about how that person makes you feel and how we can try to display those same qualities to other people around us.
 - Make a card for the person and arrange to get it to them by post or by dropping it off in person.

Secondary School (6th through 12th grades – Middle School and High School)

Since charity involves identifying a need, especially the need of a friend, and working to help alleviate the need, the following activities might aid in developing charity.

Middle School

Doing chores for a sibling

- Identify a chore (or several) that a sibling is to do each week.
- Arrange with your parents to do the chore(s) without any compensation.
- As you do them, think how this makes life better for your sibling.

High School

Taking care of the year of an elderly person

- Find an elderly person in your neighborhood or church who has difficulty getting around.
- Arrange to take care of the yard where the person lives – mowing the grass, raking leaves – for one month, or even one year.
- Reflect on the impact this has on the daily burden for the person.

Higher Education (College and Professional School)

Cleaning up for roommates

- It is common for students to live with other students to save costs.
- This usually means sharing the responsibility for taking care of the living space – keeping it clean and orderly.
- Decide to take responsibility for cleanup – kitchen, living room – for a month.
- Write a reflection paper that examines the purpose and impact on the life of the roommates.

General

To be added

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