**The Virtue of GENEROSITY: Discussion and Reflections**

**What is Generosity?**

Generosity is giving and sharing. It is giving freely because you want to, not with the idea of receiving attention, a reward, or a gift in return. Giving freely also means you give without a concern for what someone does with your gift.

Generosity is a quality of the spirit. It is an awareness that there is plenty for everyone. It is seeing an opportunity to share what you have and then giving just for the joy of giving. It is one of the best ways to show love.

**Why Practice Generosity?**

Without generosity the world would be a sad place. People who need help would feel like beggars -- without pride or dignity. In a world without generosity, every gift would have a string attached. Every gift would come with conditions that would enable the giver to gain something and to manipulate things for his own advantage. That is not giving.

When people do give freely, especially when there is some sacrifice involved, this is an important way to exercise their spirituality. Giving freely and fully is contagious. When one person is generous, it touches other people's hearts and then they want to be generous too. It just keeps going. Then everyone has more of what they need.

**How Do You Practice It?**

Generosity begins by recognizing some person or group that deserves your help. It could be your family. Then think of some way to help or something to give.

Look for things to share that mean something to you. You can share your time, knowledge, things, or money. Look for a way to give what you can - - a way that gives others the feeling that they deserve what you are giving.

Don't look for anything in return. Don't look at how your gift is used - - just give it freely and let it go. You'll feel good because you have given generously!

Affirmation

I am generous. I look for opportunities to give and to share.

There is plenty of time for thoughtfulness. I give freely, fully, and joyfully.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Who is the most generous person that I have ever met? Why would I describe them in this way?

2. List some of the ways that God is generous to me.

3. How can I show God's generosity to others?

4. What needs do I know of presently within my community, either at the overall level or in my immediate relationships? How could I be a part of generously meeting those needs?

**Quotable Quotes:**

"The gift which is given without thought of recompense, in the belief that it ought to be made, in a fit place, at an opportune time, and to a deserving person - - such a gift is pure.

"That which is given for the sake of the results it will produce, or with the hope of recompense, or grudgingly - - that may truly said to be the outcome of Passion.

"And that which is given at an unsuitable place or time or to come who is unworthy, or with disrespect of concept - - such a gift is the results of Ignorance."

- Bhagavad-Gita 17:20

“Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need.”   
― [Kahlil Gibran](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/6466154.Kahlil_Gibran), [Sand and Foam](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2779610)

“When will our consciences grow so tender that we will act to prevent human misery rather than avenge it?”   
― [Eleanor Roosevelt](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/44566.Eleanor_Roosevelt)

“For it is in giving that we receive.”   
― [Francis of Assisi](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/149151.Francis_of_Assisi)

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”   
― [Anonymous](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/5158478.Anonymous), [Holy Bible: King James Version](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/6405906)

“Rings and jewels are not gifts, but apologies for gifts. The only gift is a portion of thyself. Thou must bleed for me.”   
― [Ralph Waldo Emerson](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/12080.Ralph_Waldo_Emerson), [Gifts: an essay](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/14942351)