

**A Generous Sharing**

(based on 2 Corinthians 9:6-15)

Many years ago, in a city called Corinth, there lived some followers of Jesus. They met to sing to God and learn about living in God's way.

The people in the church wanted to live like Jesus and help others. They were collecting money to share with those who had nothing.

One day, a messenger named Titus arrived with an urgent letter from one of the leaders in the church. The leader's name was Paul. Paul had heard about the Corinthian church's plan to help others. Everyone came to listen to the letter being read out loud. It was a long letter, and this is part of it:

Dear friends in Corinth,

I am so proud of you. Everyone has heard about your plans to collect money to give to the poor. Other churches are starting to do the same.

Remember, God blesses you with everything you need so that you can help others.

God loves it when we share. We can all share what we have because there is more than enough for everyone. Sharing what God has given us is a wonderful way to say thank you to God.

Your friend, Paul

For a moment, there was silence while the people thought about the things Paul had written. Then everyone started talking at once.

"Did you hear that?" someone exclaimed. "God loves it when we share! God has given us so many good things. We can share them all."

So that is what the people did. They shared all kinds of things. They soon discovered that sharing with others made them happy. Following Jesus' way of love was exciting.



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Use one or more activities from each section to explore grace and gratitude with your children this week.

Recognizing God's Grace

- ✦ Read and enjoy the story with your children—imagine and wonder.
- ✦ Like the people of Corinth, sing to God and learn about living God's way. Sing "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me," *Glory to God* #700, or watch the YouTube video "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me—African American Spiritual (w/lyrics)" (bit.ly/GonnaLiveSong, 2:12).
- ✦ Make a list together of all the ways God has provided for your well-being.



Responding to God's Grace

- ✦ Share goods with others who may have needs by:
 - ✦ choosing a nonperishable food item and give it to a local food pantry
 - ✦ providing nonfood items such as toothbrushes, shampoo, socks, or toilet paper to a local shelter
 - ✦ purchasing extra notebooks, pencils, or even a backpack to give to a school for children who need school supplies.
- ✦ Share time with others who may have needs by:
 - ✦ providing child care
 - ✦ offering yard or house maintenance
 - ✦ offering tutoring or reading with a child
 - ✦ providing transportation
 - ✦ offering company and conversation.

Celebrating in Gratitude

- ✦ Enjoy a family meal at the table together. Give thanks for the food and for the many things that make your family unique.
- ✦ Go to pda.pcusa.org, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website. Explore the site and learn how the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) works together to help those in need. See what ways you can GIVE, ACT, and PRAY.
- ✦ Pray this prayer each day this week:

*God, you have shared many things with us.
Help us to follow your way by sharing with
others in need. Amen.*

Note: bit.ly web addresses are case sensitive.