



**Mennonite
Church
Canada**

Resource Centre

Generosity is like a potluck lunch

Children's Story

Cycle A, Proper 20

Title: Generosity is like a potluck lunch
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Church: Bergthal Mennonite Church, Didsbury AB
Theme: God's generosity is without limits.
Text: Matthew 20:1-16

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder why we bring so much food to our potlucks.
- I wonder what other things we can share generously.
- I wonder why God is so generous.

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Gathering Activity:

Begin by welcoming the children and telling them how glad you are that they came to share your story and this special part of the worship service. This is where we talk about the worship theme in words and with stories to help the children understand what the whole service is about. Explain that today's service is about God's generosity. This is the place in my Bible where the ideas for my story come from. Show them Matthew 20. Tell them that one reason we gather to worship is to thank God for God's amazing generosity. Introduce the theme with questions such as:

- What does the word "generous" mean?
- Has anyone ever been generous with you? *Ask for examples.*
- Can you tell me how you have been generous with others?

Help the children settle into a mood of holy listening. Imagining themselves onto the lap of Jesus is a good way of doing this.

Story:

To find out more about what generosity meant I looked in my dictionary. The dictionary says that the word “generous” means overflowing and abundant. Do you know what those words mean? Well, I started thinking about things that were “overflowing” and “abundant”. Can you guess what picture came into my mind?! Come with me on this imaginary trip.

The picture I saw was that of a long table in our church. It was overflowing with plates and bowls and pots and baskets at a potluck. There were so many plates, bowls, pots and baskets that you could hardly see the table at all! Wonderful smells drifted from the table. I couldn't help but come closer to see and taste what was causing that delicious aroma. Can anyone tell me what is inside those plates, bowls, pots and baskets? Food! All different colours and kinds – breads, meats, vegetables, salads, casseroles, cheese, pickles and... my favourite... dessert! Let's pretend we're eating some of it. Mmmmm!!

The words “generous”, “overflowing”, and “abundant” made me think about yummy church potluck lunches! Do you know why?...Because it seems that no matter how many hungry people are waiting in line and no matter how many hungry people fill their plates, there's always plenty for everyone. It doesn't seem to matter whether you are the first in line or whether you are at the end of the line, there's still lots of food for everyone.

That's kind of how it is with God's love for us. God is very generous, and has plenty of love for everyone. God has even more love than our church has at our potlucks. God doesn't hold back! Better than a yummy church potluck lunch, there is plenty for all! Now that's worth saying thank you for when we gather to worship.

Prayer:

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for your generous, overflowing love. And thank you for the generous people in our church who bring so much food to our potlucks. Amen.

Finale:

End the children's time by offering the children each a treat from your “dessert” buffet bag. Remind them to wait patiently because, just like at a potluck, you have plenty for all!