

## Character Trait October 31<sup>st</sup> – Nov 4th is Generosity

### Proverbs 11:3, “The integrity of the upright guides them”

**Character:** the qualities built into an individual's life that determine their responses, regardless of circumstances.

**Generosity:** Carefully managing my resources so I can freely give to those in need.

**Derivation:** In Latin, *generosus* means “of noble birth.” Like the word *noble*, which originally referred to a station in society and then became associated with the qualities expected of that station, the English word *generous* refers to the magnanimity of those who used their nobility well.

gen•er•os•i•ty n 1: nobility of spirit 2: willingness to give or share 3: magnanimity 4: the quality or fact of being generous

**Weekly Verse:** II Corinthians 9:6 “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”

**Bible Story:** In the book of Ruth chapters 2 and 3, Boaz provides generously for Ruth and Naomi.

**Quote:** “Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out.”

**Application: Manage Your Resources**--A person's assets are not nearly as important as how that person manages those assets. Enhance your potential for generosity by carefully managing your resources.

**Identify a Need**--More than giving out of your abundance, generosity identifies with the person in need and shares the burden. Know the people in your world. Be sensitive to their needs, pressures, and dreams.

**Share your resources**--Generosity seeks to invest the available wealth, time, and ability to the best advantage. Adopt the mindset of generosity: share what you can today, identify future needs and carefully develop new resources to meet them.

**Give of Yourself**--The relationship you have with another person will determine what form your generosity takes, but your willingness to give time, thought, energy, and possessions will express generosity, whatever the situation. Look for ways that you can benefit others, and freely invest in them.

**Invest in Others**--The ultimate measure of effective generosity is the maturity it inspires in the recipient. Building others up in a way that enables them to move on for themselves will inspire confidence in them and show that you believe they are worthwhile.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. If you could meet one need in your community, what would it be?
2. How might debt hinder generosity?