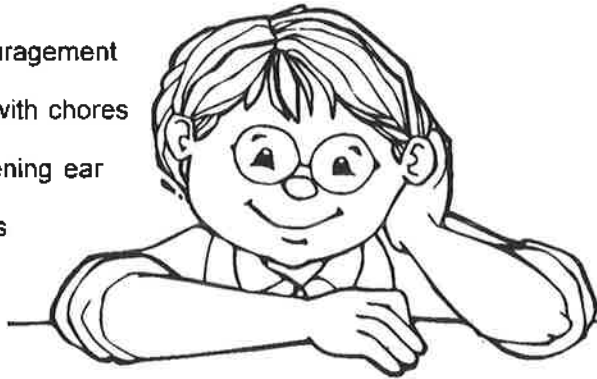


FOR PRIMARY: A Cheerful Giver

You've probably heard the Bible verse that says "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Usually when people hear that verse, they think about giving money. And it's true—giving money is important, and God wants us to give it cheerfully.

But there are other things we can give, too, that are just as important as money. We can give

- ☺ encouragement
- ☺ help with chores
- ☺ a listening ear
- ☺ smiles
- ☺ hugs
- ☺ time
- ☺ hurrahs when someone else does something well or wins something
- ☺ careful use of the earth.



Can you think of other things that you could cheerfully give? Write them here:

Sometimes it's hard to be a cheerful giver. Maybe we don't feel well, or we really wanted our team to win and it didn't, or we really, really want to see a program on TV, or we feel lazy and just want to stay in bed, or we don't feel like sharing, or we hate doing a certain chore.

All of us feel those things sometimes. God knows that, and God forgives us. But God will also help us to have a more giving spirit if we ask. For one month, make this Bible verse your prayer:

*Dear God, please help me
to be a cheerful giver—even
when I don't feel like it. Amen.*

Copy this prayer on several small cards or slips of paper. Put copies in places where you'll be sure to see them each day. At least once a day for a month, pray the prayer.

Here are some questions you can ask yourself to see when you are a cheerful giver and when you are a not-so-cheerful giver. Write *yes* or *no* beside each one.

- ☺ I take turns with others a lot of times. ____
- ☺ I play with my pet often. ____
- ☹ I want to be first all the time. ____
- ☹ I complain about having to do my chores. ____
- ☺ I thank God every day for my family, food, home, and all of the good things in my life. ____
- ☹ I complain when Mom or Dad asks me to look after my brother or sister. ____
- ☺ I find time to read to or play a game with my little brother or sister. ____
- ☺ When someone in my class makes an A, I congratulate him/her. ____
- ☹ I don't want to give away any of my toys or books. ____
- ☺ I cheerfully give part of my allowance to help others. ____
- ☺ I give away lots of hugs. ____
- ☹ When the other team wins, I stomp away. ____
- ☺ I recycle as much as I can. ____
- ☺ I listen to people when they are talking to me. ____
- ☹ I pick wildflowers in the park. ____

Look back over your list. If you answered *Yes* to any of the frowny faces or *No* to any of the smiley faces, these are places where God can help you to be a more cheerful giver. On a piece of paper, write down the ones you want God to help you with. Then at the bottom of the page write this prayer:

*Dear God, please help me to be a more
cheerful giver in these ways. Amen.*

Look back at your list several times a week to see how you're doing and to ask for God's help again.