

WEEKLY ELEMENTARY LESSON

#KEEPLARNING



Week Five: The Gift of Giving

Overview: This lesson introduces philanthropy and how even young students can give back.

Preparation: Review the activity and session materials. Make sure your students have all the needed materials to complete the lesson.

Recommended Time: 30-45 minutes

Materials:

Computer/Tablet with Internet

Paper

Writing Utensil

Printer (optional)

1) Presentation: Tell your students that this week, they will be learning a new, very big word. Introduce the word philanthropy. Ask students if they have ever heard of the word. Have them repeat it several times. Ask students to guess what it means. Ask students, "Have heard of giving?" Explain that philanthropy means giving of your time, talents or treasure for the common good. It is a way of sharing.

Ask the students:

- What does it mean to give your time? What is your time? Recess, after school, weekends, etc.
- What does it mean to give your talent? What is your talent? Can you play a musical instrument, sing, dance, paint, be a good friend? Are you kind or patient?
- What does it mean to give your treasures? What are your treasures? Your treasures are your money or belongings.
- What does common good mean? For the good of everyone.

2) Watch: Have your students watch the video [Philanthropy and Service Learning- Why do they matter?](#)

3) Discussion: After you watch the video, ask the following questions. You can ask them verbally or have students write out their answers.

- What does philanthropy mean? Love of mankind
- Who can be a philanthropist? Anyone
- Do you have to be rich to be a philanthropist? No, you can give your time, talent and/or treasures (which is not always money)

4) Presentation: Tell your students, "Philanthropy can come from individuals, called philanthropists, or from groups, usually foundations or nonprofit organizations." Explain what foundations and nonprofit organizations are.

- A foundation is supported by donated funds from a family, an individual, or a corporation.
- A nonprofit is an organization developed to increase the well-being of others but does not seek a profit from doing so (Junior Achievement is a nonprofit).

Let your students know that often when someone gives back to a group of people or an organization, it makes them feel good and it makes others feel good. The act of giving becomes an act of kindness that goes around in circles and comes back tenfold. When someone gives to others who are less fortunate, it makes them realize that the things they have and take for granted are not a given for everyone in this world.

Ask students for examples of times when they or their families contributed their time, talent or treasure to help others. Lead students in a discussion about what they have to offer and to whom they could offer it. For example, it may not be appropriate for a child to say, "I could give \$1,000 to the Animal Shelter," but it would be very appropriate for them to say, "I could volunteer my time at the Animal Shelter. I could walk dogs, clean cages or just play with lonely animals." Explain that people give some of what they have (time, talent or treasure) because they have strong feelings for the cause they selected.

5) Activity: Identifying Philanthropists

In this activity, students will read about young philanthropists and decide if they are giving their time, talents or treasures. Have students select this [worksheet](#). Student can either print the worksheet or fill it out directly on their computer or tablet. To begin, either read the scenarios out loud or have the students read them to themselves. After each scenario, they need to type or write the correct response. Some scenarios will have multiple correct answers.

Worksheet answer key.

6) Activity: How can I give back?

Remind your students there are lots of ways to be philanthropic. Ask your students to think about ways that they could give back to their communities and have them come up with at least one way they can give their time, talent and treasure. Have them write down their response using this [worksheet](#). They can either type directly into the document or print it out.

After your students come up with their ideas, ask them to set a plan for when they can act on at least one of the items, if not all three, in the next week.

7) Discussion: Review the term philanthropy and remind students it is not just donating money and you don't have to be an adult to do it. Most philanthropists did not set out with the idea of becoming a philanthropist, but they saw a need and met that need with their resources. Encourage your students to complete their plans for their acts of philanthropy over the next week. They have some time to do some research and can donate some of their treasures, even if it is only a dollar, to one of their favorite non profits (like Junior Achievement). Every dollar counts!

The Money JAR - When we discuss the value of “giving back” with our children, we often think in terms of money. But what about giving other resources like time? [Click here](#) to listen to this week's episode - **The Impact of Volunteering on You and Others**.

Bonus Activity! Play Freerice

Extended Activity: 15 minutes

Materials:

Computer/Tablet with Internet

Activity: As students play Freerice and answer questions right, advertisements appear on their screen. When they see one of these advertisements, it will trigger a financial payment to the World Food Programme (WFP) to support its work saving and changing lives around the world.

In the game, these payments are represented via grains of rice. The amount of money generated when they see an advertisement can vary, but is roughly equivalent to what the World Food Programme spends to purchase 10 grains of rice.

By playing, students will generate the money that pays for this rice. This money is used for many types of assistance - not just rice - depending on where needs are greatest. Regardless of the type of assistance, students can be sure that 100% of all funds generated on Freerice go to the World Food Programme, and 93.5% of every payment received by the World Food Programme goes directly towards helping children and their families. Freerice does not earn or keep any money it raises. The links to learn about Freerice and to play the game are below:

[About Freerice](#)

[Play Freerice](#)