

ALL SAINTS at HOME and TOGETHER

SUNDAY 2 MAY 2021

Being Generous

Hi everyone,

This week we're considering generosity, and what it means to be generous.

Look at the picture below.

What do you think it shows?



There's some sort of collection pot where people are putting in money.

There's a man in fancy clothing putting in a gold coin ..and it looks like he's making sure all the people around him see that he's putting the gold coin in the pot.

There's also a woman in tattered clothing carrying a child and a basket on her head. She's looks like she's about to put something in the collection pot but she appears to be hiding what she's putting in.

There's a beggar behind the man with the fancy clothing.

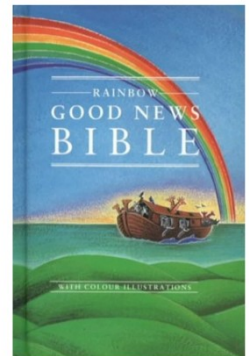
- So who appears to be the most generous in the picture and why?
- To find the answer read the following from Luke 21 v1-4.

Luke 21 v1-4

Jesus looked round and saw rich people dropping their gifts in the temple treasury, and he also saw a very poor widow dropping in two little copper coins.

He said, "I tell you that this poor widow put in more than all the others.

For the others offered their gifts from what they had to spare of their riches; but she, poor as she is, gave all she had to live on."



Even though the woman probably gave the least money, she gave all she had. She was the most generous and freely gave with all her heart. The story takes place at the temple, so she was giving all she had to God.

I wonder where the two little copper coins came from? Maybe, she'd been begging (like the man in the picture) before she went into the temple, and put the coins she'd collected into the pot?

So Jesus is showing that being generous is about:

- giving "freely" - so not being forced to give;
- giving with your "heart" - so giving with humility and compassion and not giving to show-off (like the man in the picture), and not giving because you feel forced to give;
- giving all you can - like the woman in the story.

This story was about giving money generously. Is generosity just about giving money to those who need it?

The answer of course is "no". Being generous is about much more.

It's about freely giving something that you have to help others.

Proverbs 3:27-28 says

Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it.

Never tell your neighbours to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now.

So being generous can also involve:

- Using your skills and talents to help others - for example patiently helping a younger brother or sister with their reading or homework;
- Giving your time and effort to help others - for example running errands for others, or helping during a litter pick.

Here's the story of a generous act where a teenager uses his skills to help his elderly neighbour.

These days, getting to grips with "new technology" like computing, the internet and the use of smart mobile phones seems to be something that young people seem to pick-up a lot quicker than the "not so young".

13 year old Mark was a quiet boy but was very good at tech. His elderly neighbour Gwen asked his mum if Mark could help her set up her computer so that she could email friends and have live video links with her family. Mark's mum asked him and he agreed.

When helping Gwen with setting up her computer Mark didn't just click a few buttons, tell Gwen it's done and the walk off. Instead, he took the time to explain to Gwen in simple terms what he was doing and showed her how to use email and how to make video links. He also left Gwen with a few written notes with little diagrams of what to do in case she forgot. He also said she should contact him if she was having problems with the computer.

Mark wouldn't accept, and didn't expect any payment for helping Gwen. Gwen was so happy with Mark's help and she couldn't stop praising him. She also made a point of telling Mark's parents how helpful and generous he had been. Mark's parents were so proud and told Mark exactly what Gwen had said. Mark felt so happy.

In this story, Mark gave his all to help Gwen.

What were the 5 things that demonstrated Mark's generosity?
(Answer at the bottom of the page).

Mark didn't expect a reward for helping Gwen. However, his reward wasn't money. It was the great feeling he got from being thanked by Gwen, and also the great feeling he got when his parents said how proud they were of him. He may not have realised it, but he was also following what Jesus' preached.

Answers to Questions about Mark and Gwen

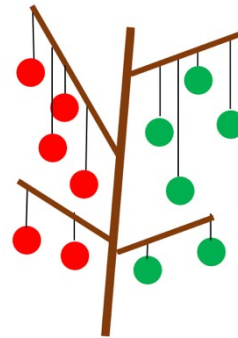
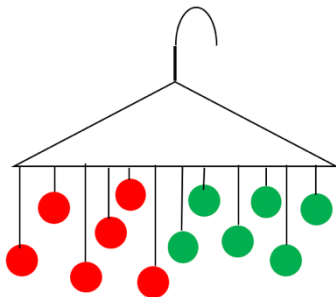
1. Mark firstly freely agreed to help Gwen.
2. He didn't just press a few buttons and walk off after setting up the computer. He explained to Gwen what he was doing and then showed her how to use emails and video links.
3. He left Gwen a few written notes in case she forgot what Mark had said to her.
4. He said for her to contact him if she was having problems with the computer when trying to use it.
5. He didn't expect to be paid for his help.

Generosity Tree

Think of ways that show you've been generous and in a few words write your acts of generosity on the apple drawings below and colour them red.

Also think about ways in which others have shown acts of generosity towards you (especially your mum and dad). Did you realise they were being generous and how did you show your appreciation? Also in a few words, write these on the apple drawings below and colour them green.

Now find some string or cotton and a clothes hanger or a twig and hang the red and green apples as shown below.



Then talk to your mum and dad about your generosity tree.

- Ask them if they've noticed something you've done but forgot to write on an apple.
- How does it make you feel when you know others have recognised your generosity?
- For acts of generosity your mum and dad have shown to you, ask them how they feel seeing them mentioned on the green apples on the tree. (I suspect they'll feel very happy that you've recognised their generosity).

Prayer

Here's a prayer from St Ignatius of Loyola (1491 - 1556) who was a Spanish priest and theologian, who together with six companions, founded a religious order called the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Dear God,

Teach me to be generous.

Teach me to serve you as you deserve,

to give and not to count the cost,

to toil and not to seek for rest,

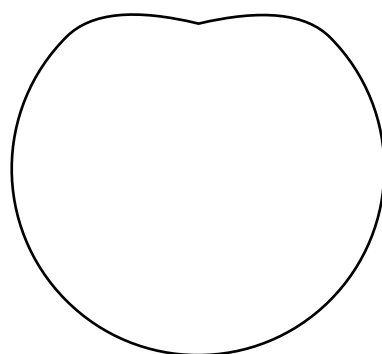
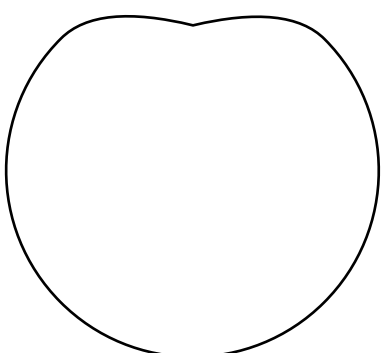
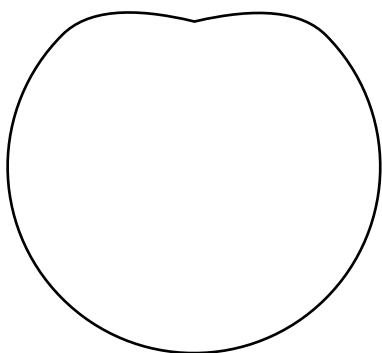
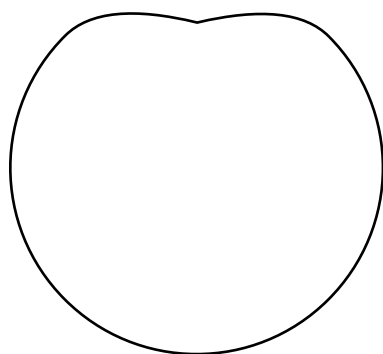
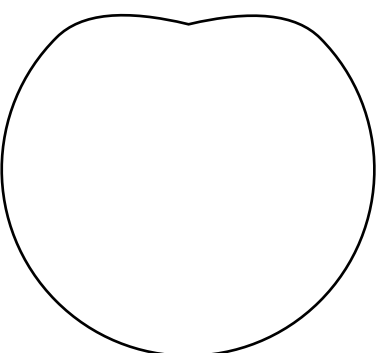
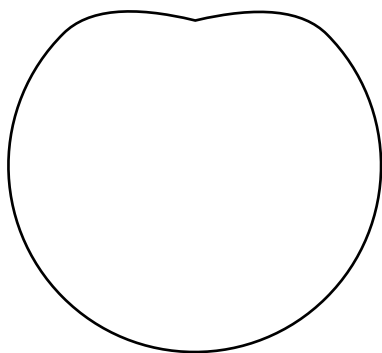
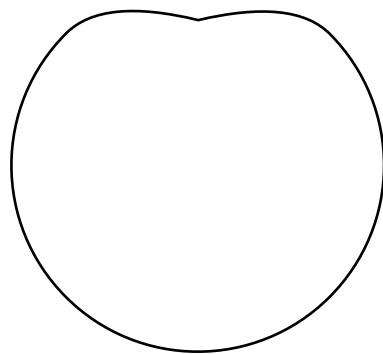
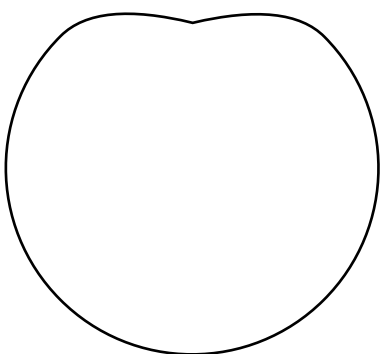
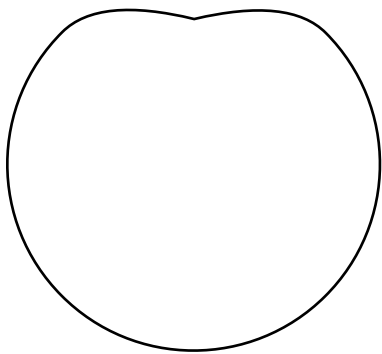
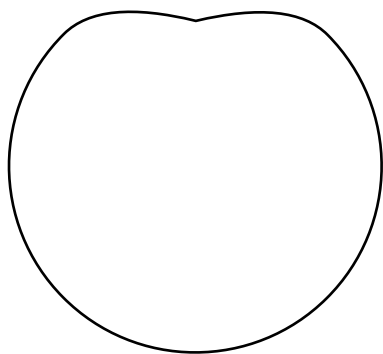
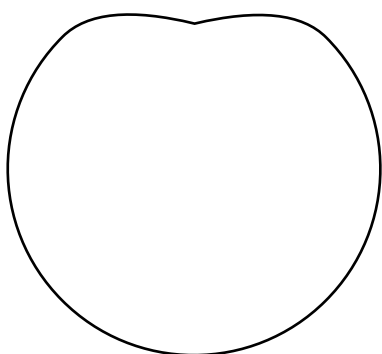
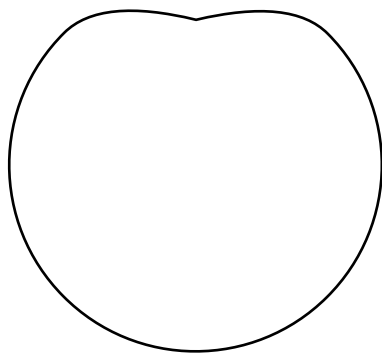
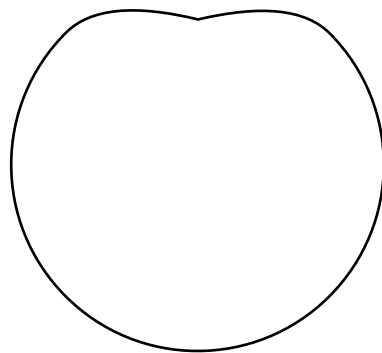
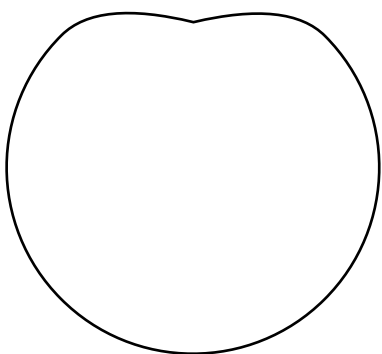
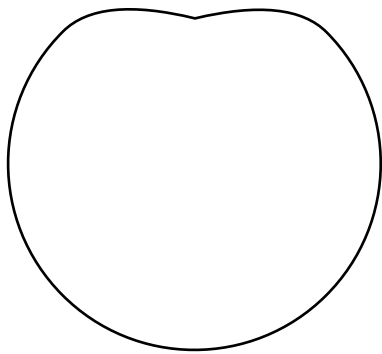
to labour and not seek reward....

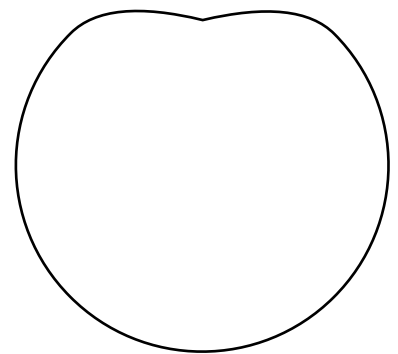
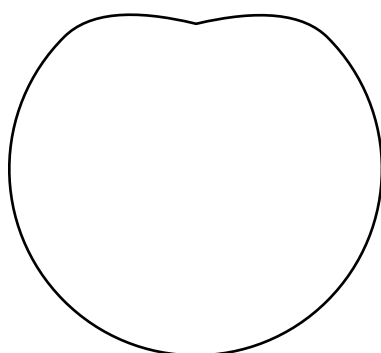
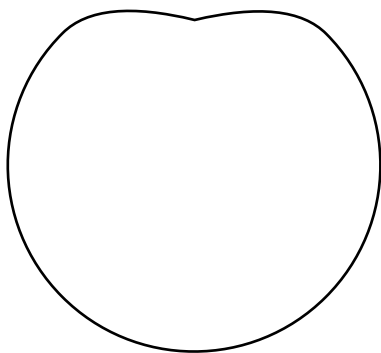
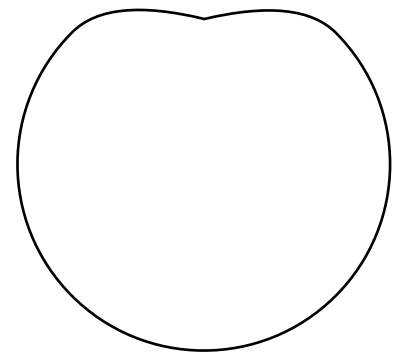
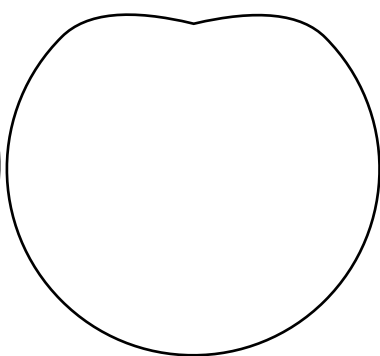
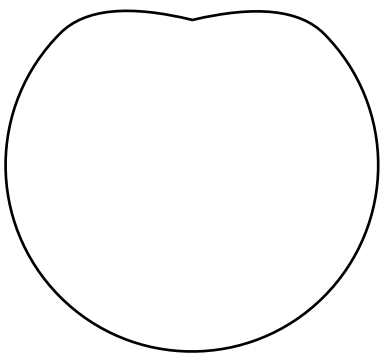
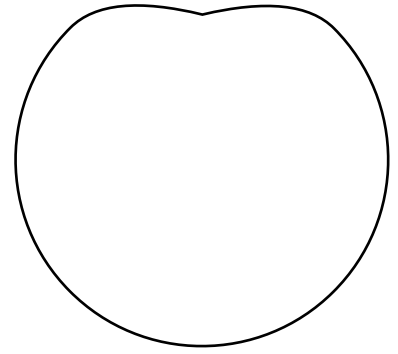
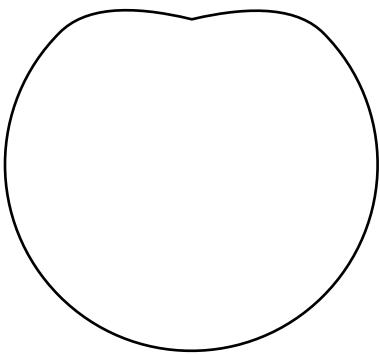
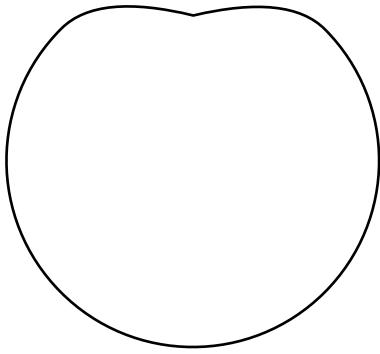
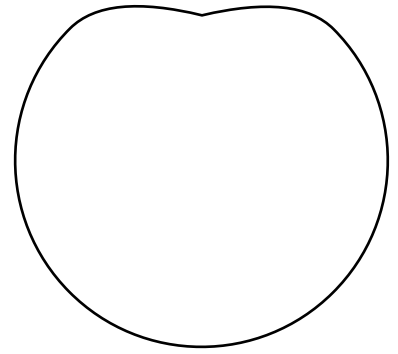
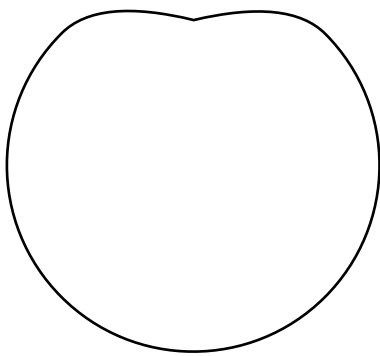
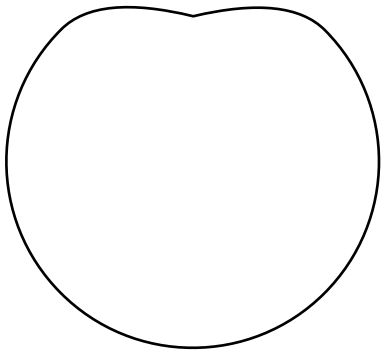
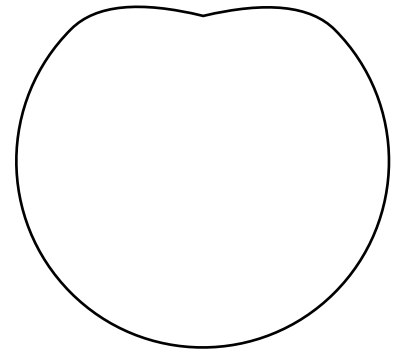
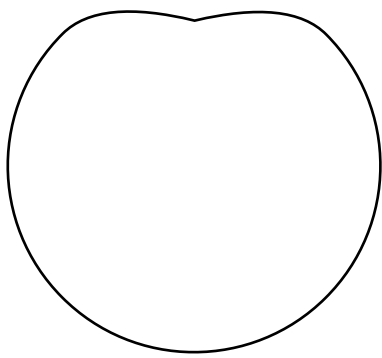
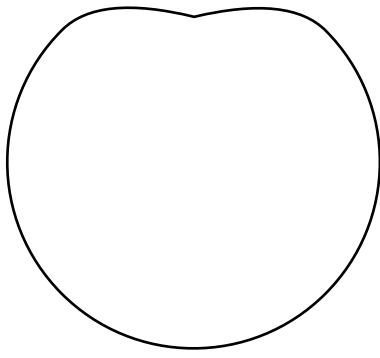
except that of knowing that I do your will.

Amen



Apples to write in, colour and cut out for the generosity tree.





Word Searches

S	U	N	S	E	L	F	I	S	H
O	M	G	G	I	V	E	N	O	C
L	S	Z	V	S	J	Z	Z	L	X
C	H	A	R	I	T	A	B	L	E
W	I	D	O	W	Y	Y	X	J	N
P	M	U	X	L	N	F	Q	Z	I
G	E	N	E	R	O	U	S	Y	O
N	U	E	G	R	B	B	M	F	C
L	R	Q	V	R	E	P	P	O	C
F	H	P	J	P	V	S	T	C	A

GENEROUS
FREELY
WIDOW

UNSELFISH
GIVEN
COPPER

ACTS
CHARITABLE
COIN

F	Q	H	L	Q	A	C	G	E	N	E	R	O	U	S	A	V	A	J	D
H	H	Z	M	J	M	M	F	I	F	S	B	R	R	Q	O	W	H	A	R
H	H	Y	P	V	K	L	T	K	B	Q	K	O	Y	O	L	Z	U	E	F
J	Z	G	M	W	L	U	F	T	H	G	U	O	H	T	T	S	P	U	N
A	C	T	S	J	Y	R	N	S	V	H	H	P	C	R	N	P	K	O	N
F	B	V	S	C	E	R	F	T	V	V	S	F	O	U	O	Y	M	Q	A
Z	J	H	D	E	K	V	N	N	T	I	I	F	N	C	H	H	C	T	J
W	P	F	L	K	S	E	M	E	I	F	F	Q	T	V	F	U	J	O	E
W	D	Y	K	T	V	X	O	L	B	E	L	C	X	W	F	Y	B	C	B
X	T	E	E	I	H	E	S	A	V	C	E	R	I	I	M	V	S	L	C
A	X	V	G	A	M	O	I	T	H	D	S	I	S	D	S	P	F	D	M
K	T	S	A	E	T	H	U	A	E	X	N	L	V	O	L	T	Z	Q	I
V	T	Q	V	I	H	D	R	G	W	Z	U	Q	U	W	L	I	Z	M	C
H	I	H	Y	I	P	I	Z	V	H	O	A	V	U	F	I	M	T	O	C
P	A	J	X	L	T	U	C	E	D	T	Z	T	D	L	K	E	I	N	R
J	G	H	T	A	G	G	W	Y	O	Q	F	R	J	N	S	N	O	A	R
N	H	E	B	L	P	S	N	A	N	J	Y	U	W	V	F	D	A	P	A
B	J	L	D	G	V	Q	H	E	L	P	F	U	L	Z	A	J	H	H	F
X	E	B	L	B	N	F	C	Z	U	R	F	K	B	R	U	Z	I	O	T
J	Q	W	M	R	P	Y	D	O	E	F	X	M	B	D	A	D	I	Y	K

GENEROUS
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THOUGHTFUL
 FREELY
 SKILLS
 EFFORT
 WIDOW
 THANKFUL

God Loves a Cheerful Giver Verse Coloring Page

God loves
a cheerful
giver.



2 Corinthians 9:7c HCSB

