



O P E N - H A N D E D N E S S

Open-Handedness - Family One-Sheet

Open-handedness is the habit of stewarding our time, talents, and treasures as channels through which God's abundance flows to others. We want to live with open hands instead of closed fists. Instead of holding onto the good gifts from God for ourselves, we freely share those things with others.

When we think about being open-handed with our time, we consider ways that we can use part of our day to help, listen, encourage, or spend time with others. To be open-handed with our talents means we use our skills and gifts—singing, building, drawing, cooking—to bless other people. We can be open-handed with our treasures by finding ways to offer the things that are most valuable to us—money, toys, favorite foods—to others who need them.

Keep in mind...

- Open-handedness isn't only about relinquishing things; we also posture ourselves to receive new things from God and/or others.
- Saying "yes" to an invitation from God often requires saying "no" somewhere else - even to good things.
- Open-handedness isn't just about serving the church - it's about offering our time, talents, and treasures to our neighbors, schools, and cities, as well.

Ideas for Practice

Kids

- Bring one of your favorite snacks that you typically wouldn't want to share and put together a snack buffet for others to share and enjoy
- Create a "giving jar" that you fill with coins, stickers, toys, candy, etc to then give away at the end of the week
- Role play a "sharing challenge," inviting everyone to pair up and practice sharing things you wouldn't usually think to share

Students

- Identify something you have but don't really need that someone else might value greatly (i.e. hoodie, toy, book, shoes, game, secret recipes, etc.)
- Find opportunities to "give up your spot" in social circumstances (waiting lines, traffic, conversations)
- Start a gratitude/generosity journal for that month

- Try giving up/abstaining from one thing for a week (like coffee, screen time, or a treat) and find ways use that time/money to bless someone else
- Organize a mini swap/share where people can exchange or share things like books, board games, movies, favorite snacks and foods

Families

- Start a “gratitude/open-handedness journal” and as a family take note of moments in each of your days when you experienced gratitude and where you could practice open-handedness
- Organize a mini swap/share with certain categories in mind where families can exchange or share things like books, board games, movies, favorite snacks and foods
- Practice a “give-something-away” night: each family member chooses one item they own to give to another person who might enjoy or need it.
- Have a family conversation about control: What feels easy to let go of? What feels harder? What might it look like to trust God with those things?
- Do a “family open-handedness experiment” - set aside a set amount of money or time as a family, and decide together how to give it away (i.e. buy groceries for someone, surprise a neighbor with dinner, donate to a cause).
- Create a personal “open-handedness action plan.” Questions could include: Where in my life do I tend to hold tight to things (time, possessions, reputation, control)? What might it look like to release those to God? Who around me could I serve or bless this week?
- Incorporate a weekly rhythm of open-handed prayer at dinner: name one thing each person wants to release to God and trust Him with