

DECEMBER 1 TO DECEMBER 7

Generosity

Who gave me something of themselves this year?

Generosity is giving something that's yours to someone else, and real generosity costs the giver something.

December is for giving back. Generosity is the widest layer of the Giving Tree, because the rest of the month is built on top of it.

The week in one breath

December 1 to 3, you receive. Each day ends with an ornament: gold or yellow for each other person at home, red for someone outside it, white for what came from beyond anyone's grip.

December 4, you celebrate. You hear the story of Nicholas, the first candle is lit, and everyone reads the gold ornaments with their own name on them.

December 5 to 7, you give: time, then resources, then words.

Three pages this week: the ornaments you write, the celebration and your Plan, and what you gave.

Ornaments I Wrote

Write each ornament on paper first, the way the Guide shows, then jot it here in a few words. The gold ones hang on the tree, writing to the wall, until the Opening on December 4. After that, they belong to the people they name.

December 1 • Core • gold or yellow

Who in this house gave something of themselves to me this year?

To _____ I thanked them for _____

To _____ I thanked them for _____

To _____ I thanked them for _____

To _____ I thanked them for _____

Kids said ("Who in our house gave up something this year so you could have something?")

December 2 • Community • red

Who outside this house gave me something good this year?

To _____ I thanked them for _____

To _____ I thanked them for _____

People who could use a gift this month _____

Kids said ("Has anyone ever done something nice for you, and you never found out who? How did it feel?")

December 3 • Cosmos • white

What good came to me this year from beyond anyone's grip?

To _____ I thanked it for _____

To _____ I thanked it for _____

Kids said ("What's something good you got this year that nobody could buy at a store?")

Getting ready for December 4

- ☐ Set out the first candle (or a tin or battery candle) and a long-neck lighter.
 - ☐ Put a little money aside for each person's shoes, where the kids won't find it. Tomorrow evening, everyone's shoes go by the front door.
 - ☐ Find paper, a pen, and the list of names you started on December 2.
 - ☐ Read the story of Nicholas in the Guide's Day 4 (page 134) once ahead of time.
- If something isn't ready, the night still works.

For the kids (Book 2): December 1: *The Candle That Got Smaller*, storybook page 10, activity book page 8; December 2: *Sammy's Forgotten Acorns*, storybook page 26, activity book page 14; December 3: *The Eagle Who Came Down*, storybook page 41, activity book page 20