

Total Cents Podcast Lesson 9

Inspire Them to be Charitable

Topic Overview

Helping your child understand the importance of charitable giving has two parts: 1) giving away their money and 2) their time, in the form of service. Both kinds of donations are valuable. They can be combined, or one can be chosen as more fitting to a particular circumstance. There are some adults who are more inclined to write a check whereas kids may feel they have more time than money to devote to a cause. But again, both are important.



Your Intro Discussion With Them

Thomas Jefferson said, "I deem it the duty of every man to devote a certain portion of his income for charitable purposes; and that it is his further duty to see it so applied and to do the most good for which it is capable." As a family, we feel fortunate for everything we have and because of that gratitude we try to give back. But we have to keep in mind that donating money is still an outflow of cash and we keep track of it as you would other expenses like: groceries, car payments, and entertainment purchases.

Step 1

Understand the Lingo

Have you ever heard of the word "philanthropy?"

- **Philanthropy:** the desire to improve the well-being of humankind, as by charitable help or donations.

Step 2

Let them discover why they should care

Why do you think philanthropy is important for you, our family, and others?"

- **we receive:** good will, makes you feel good
- **others receive:** a helping hand, hope, smile

Step 3

Make it real world

What are the ways that we can give?

- **Money:** Am I able to donate money? How much money could I donate?
- **Time:** What are ways in which I could use my time to help a cause?
- Tell Your Story & let them tell theirs
- Example- McDonald's Gift Certificates
- Build the picture in their head

Ask your kids, Did you ever have a time when you were charitable?

- Who did you help?
- How?
- When?
- What was going on in your head?
- And most importantly, why did you choose to give?

Step 4

Bring it into today

Do you have a charity that you like?

Who is your charity? Or who should be OUR charity?

Remember Thomas Jefferson's quote

- Jefferson not only advocated financial donations, with no strings attached, but he also encouraged people to make sure that money is being spent wisely.

Should we research the charity before we donate? What questions should we get answered?

- What is their central purpose or goal in helping others?

Websites

- CharityNavigator.org
- GuideStar.org
- CharityWatch.org

What type of donation could they benefit from? Money, time, talent?

- How do we research them?

Step 5

Fun things you can do as a family

1. Allocate FAMILY money for them to donate

Put together a list of charities or non-profit organizations you'd like to help in some way. You have to be prepared to share some of your own ideas and also give a few supporting reasons. Then pick a charity you all agree on. Maybe even go visit the charity.

2. Matching charitable gifts or just provide the money. Let your child choose a charity. Then they present their choice at a future dinner followed up by making a donation.

Conversation Wrap Up

Yes, it's important that we show gratitude for all the opportunities that we've been given in life. You can practice philanthropy whether it's through money OR time. The irony about being charitable is that the person who gets more out of it is actually the giver and not the receiver. Why? Because the way it makes us feel about ourselves and who we are is the ultimate gift.