

Total Cents Podcast Lesson 9

Inspire Them to be Charitable

Topic Overview

This lesson helps your child understand the importance of charitable giving. Your child can donate their time, their money, or both to a charity of their choosing. Both kinds of donations are valuable. The simple five-step process detailed in this lesson explains what charitable giving is and the kinds of ways children can give.



Your Intro Discussion

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. 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 through 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

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?

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.

Step 4

Bring it into today

How can we choose a charity for you or our family?

- Do you have a charity that you like? Or what should be OUR family charity? (think about what kinds of things are you most interested in helping with - hunger, education, animals, etc.)
- Let's research the charity before we donate
- Places to get information
 - » Website of the organization
 - » CharityNavigator.org
 - » GuideStar.org
 - » CharityWatch.org
- Questions to ask before

Donating:

- What is their central purpose or goal in helping others?
- What type of donation could they benefit from? Money, time, talent?

Step 5

Fun things you can do as a family

Allocate FAMILY money for them to donate

1. Put together a list of charities or non-profit organizations you'd like to help in some way. You should be prepared to share some of your own ideas, as well as a few supporting reasons. Pick a charity to support and if possible, visit the charity.
2. It's important, matching charitable gifts or just provide the money. Let your child choose a charity.

Conversation Wrap Up

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.