

# Candy from the Sky: A History Lesson in Generosity

*Using Great Picture Books and Hands-on Activities  
to Instill Values in our Children (and ourselves)*



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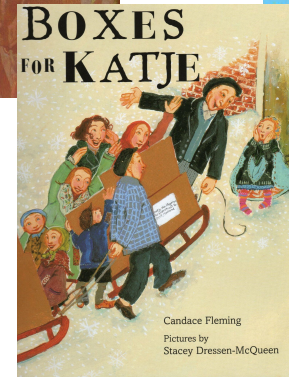
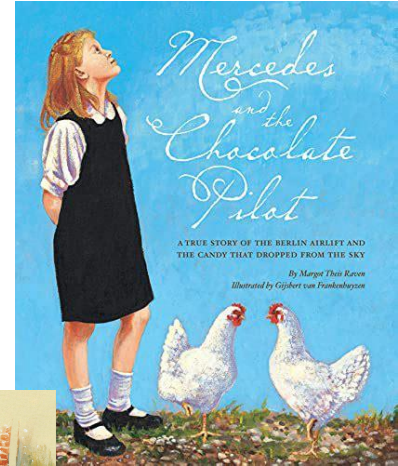
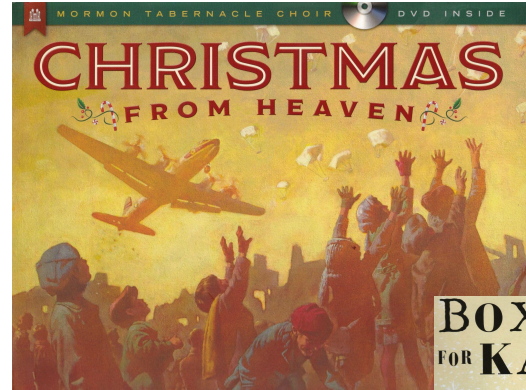
# History and hands-on fun to teach gratitude and generosity!

## Hands-on activity supplies:

- square sheet of tissue paper
- string or yarn
- tape
- scissors
- payload (small candy or toy)



## Great Picture Books:





# The Two Gs: Gratitude and Generosity

## Gratitude:

- Helps us live happier lives
- Gives us an appreciation and value for what we have
- You can't be grateful for something you take for granted



*Boxes for Katje*

*"Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."*

- 1 Thessalonians 5:18



# The Two Gs: Gratitude and Generosity

## Generosity:

- Cultivate compassion and a generous spirit
- Teaches us to not hold on too tightly to what we have
- Helps us appreciate what we have by sharing it with others
- Often blesses us more than we expect



*Boxes for Katje*

*"... remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "*

*- Acts 20:35b*



# How do we teach our children (and ourselves) to be grateful and generous?

- Stories are engaging and memorable
- Hands-on activities make it tangible
- Living it out provides practice and experience



*Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot*



# True Story from History



*Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot*

- Going back almost 80 years (not 400)
- Less common story for Thanksgiving (or Christmas)
  - but highlights the Two Gs!
- Combine story + fun activities that bring values to life
- Great to do with friends and family this holiday season



# Germany after WWII

- Allies split Germany (and Berlin) into four parts
- Russia/Soviet Union wanted the Americans, French, and British out of Berlin
- Land Blockade
- Berlin Airlift began in May 1948

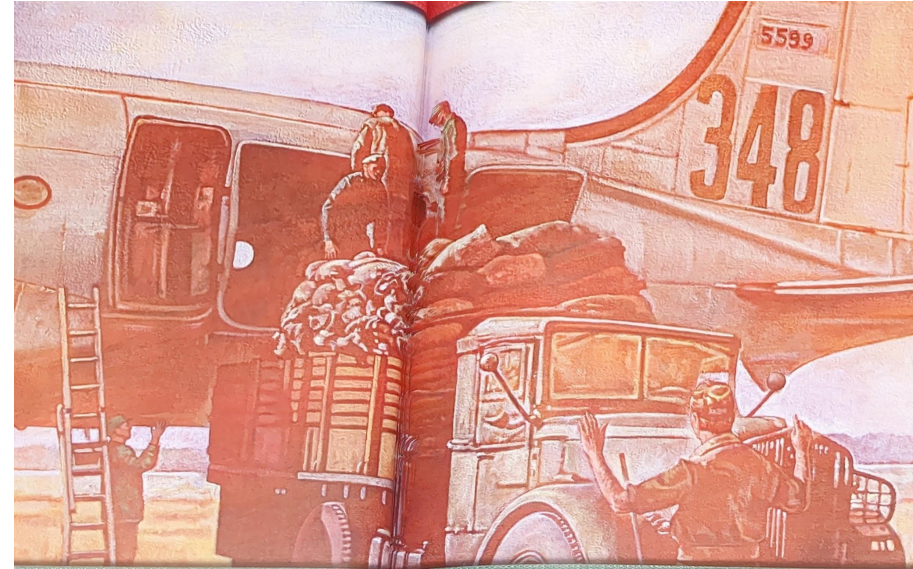


*Christmas from Heaven*



# Berlin Airlift: Operation Vittles

- Planes landing every three minutes (every minute if you count all three airports used) 24 hours a day
- Lasted 16 months
- Teamwork of France, Britain, America, West Berliners



*Christmas from Heaven*



# Berlin Candy Bomber



- American pilot impressed by West Berlin children's gratitude and fortitude
- Offers them two sticks of gum and promises to drop more from the skies
- Drops candy rations from the sky using handkerchiefs as parachutes



# Operation Little Vittles

- More than 15 tons of candy
- About 400 pounds every day
- Thousands of parachutes



*Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot*



# Berlin Airlift, Candy Bombing and the Two Gs

## Gratitude:

- West Berlin children were grateful
- First for the flour (and freedom)
- Second for the candy

## Generosity:

- Candy Bomber and his companions
- Americans back home
- Generous to former enemies (building relationships and healing wounds and prejudices)

*“They were interested in freedom more than flour. ... These young kids began giving me the most meaningful lesson in freedom I ever had. ... I was learning about something I obviously took too much for granted.”*

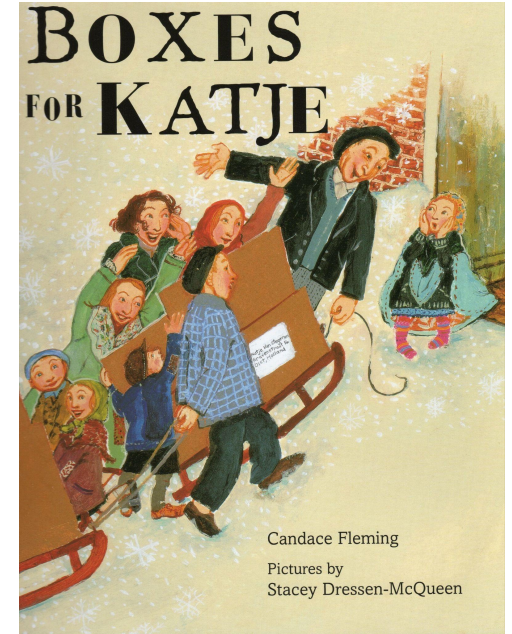
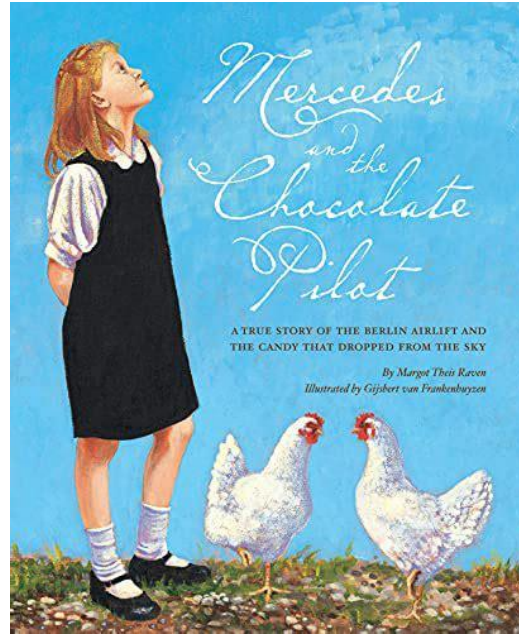
- Gail Halvorsen (The Candy Bomber)



*Mercedes  
and the  
Chocolate  
Pilot*



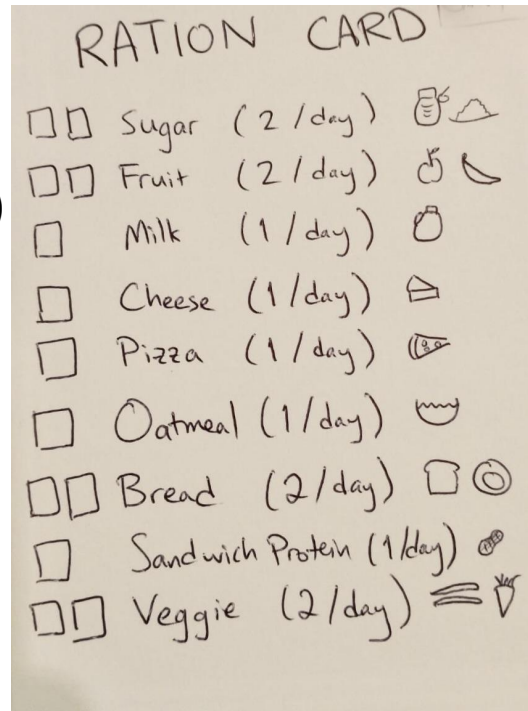
# Stories to share these values





# Activities to make the story tangible

- Ration Cards
- Airlift calculations (math)
- East and West Germany (geography)
- Scripture
- Making caramels (cooking)





# Activities to make the story tangible

- Candy Wrapper Story (art)
- Service project
- Make your own parachute (science)
- Candy bombing (re-enactment)

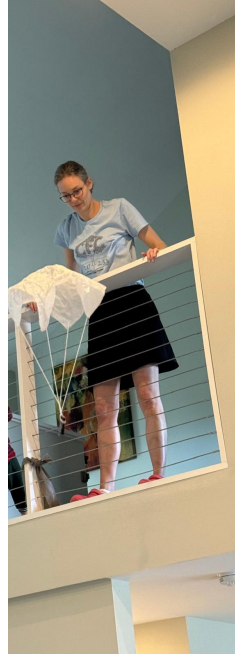




# Making a parachute (aka candy bomb)

## Supplies:

- square sheet of tissue paper
- string or yarn
- tape
- scissors
- payload (small candy or toy)





# Parachute construction

## Directions:

1. If necessary, trim tissue paper to form a square.
2. Cut two pieces of string (each about the length of two sides of the tissue paper square.)
3. Tape one string end to one corner and the other string end to the diagonal corner of the tissue paper. Repeat on opposite corners with other string.
4. Tie payload onto bottom of string.
5. Find a high place to carefully launch your parachute.





# Candy Bombing Science

- Compare speed of fall of identical candies dropped with and without a parachute
- Consider different parachute materials, sizes, etc. to see how that impacts the drop
- Air resistance





# Putting it all together: Historical Re-enactment

- Ration cards
- Sniffing gum wrappers
- Making Candy
- Making Parachutes
- Candy Bombs
- Discussion





## Reinforce the TwoGs

- Gratitude for our material blessings
- Gratitude for our immaterial blessings
- Generosity with what we have



*Mercedes and the Chocolate Pilot*



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