



### Faith in action at Home

The scientist Michael Faraday (1791 - 1867) could have made himself rich from patenting his discoveries in the field of electricity and gases, but he chose simply to share his findings with as many people as possible, because as far as he was concerned, they didn't belong to him: they were given by the Creator for the good of everybody. Faraday was famous for his science lectures at The Royal Society building, where he demonstrated the power of electricity. People came to his lectures from far and wide to see the greatest wonders of the age. Every day, they queued round the block to get in. For one particular lecture that he gave on electricity, Mr Faraday created a massive wooden cage

covered in wires. He sat in the middle and sent massive surges of electrical current through the wires, causing showers of sparks - but he emerged unharmed, because he knew how electrical insulators work and wanted others to see too. So Mr Faraday was a bit of a showman.

These lectures happened in the evenings. In the afternoons, he worked in his laboratory, running experiments and making new discoveries. Sometimes he did work for the army. But early in the morning, he came out from his house carrying a covered basket, walked down the street, returning at lunchtime from a different direction.

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This was Michael Faraday's normal pattern of life, from Monday to Friday. So what was going on in the mornings?

It's simple. Every day, Monday to Friday, Faraday was out visiting local people who were elderly, frail, or sick. In his basket, he had some bread, cheese, fruit, cakes and other goodies to give as presents. In addition, he did it without making a fuss. It was all done in his spare time.

Another thing - other scientists, when they make a discovery, claim it for themselves and register a patent, saying, 'It's my idea, and if you want to use it, you'll have to pay me.' Faraday didn't do that. He was happy for others to use his discoveries to create new inventions.

What a generous heart he had. **How can we be like that in our everyday lives?**  
What acts of kind generosity, however small can you and your family make?

Faraday was right. Nothing he owned, no talent or gift he had was because of his greatness but because of God's greatness so he held on to his 'stuff' and his talents lightly, blessing others, blessing us.

Can you think of just one generous thing you could commit to do regularly as your response to our loving God who has blessed you, has blessed us all so much?