

City SG - October 21 & 22, 2017

Bible Story: Cheer Factor (God loves a cheerful giver) • 2 *Corinthians* 9:6-7

Bottom Line: Use your money wisely.

Memory Verse: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much." *Luke 16:10a, NIV*

1. Just for Fun

Invite the kids to do some fun faces in response to the following scenarios:

- Show me the look you'd have on your face if you just found out that you were given a lot of money—like a MILLION dollars.
- Show me the look you'd have if you found out that you had to give all the money away.
- Tell me whom you'd give the money to.
- Would it be hard to give the money away? Why or why not?
- What's something you would like to buy for someone else if you had a lot of money?

2. Open Hands

What You Need: Paper, crayons (12 per bin), coins (12 per bin)

What You Do:

- Show the kids a coin. Then place it in the palm of your hand and grip it tightly.
- Give each of the kids five seconds to try and pry it from your hand.
- Repeat, but this time, place a coin in your open palm.
- Give each child a chance to come up and take a coin without any resistance on your part.
- Remind everyone that a cheerful giver is not greedy or stingy.
 - Instead of being unwilling to share what we have, we should open our hands and be willing to give.
 - Explain that it's okay to enjoy the things they have. But it's not okay to be stingy or unwilling to let go of your stuff to help someone else.
- Hand out a sheet of paper and a crayon to each kid and ask them to trace their left and right hands side by side onto the paper.
 - If younger kids can't trace their own hands, give help as needed and let kids trace each other's hands if possible.
- Demonstrate how to place a coin under their papers and position it in the palm area on the outline of their hand.
- Show them how to rub the side of the crayon over the coin to create a relief of the image beneath the paper.
- When finished, their drawings will look like open palms holding coins.
- Instruct kids to write their names on the back of their papers.
- If time allows, collect papers and let kids guess which hand belongs to which kid.

What You Say:

"Cheerful givers are willing to share. They have open hands, not tight fists. When you're generous and willing to share, you show God that you love Him and want to please Him."

3. Guess the Giver

What You Need: Bibles, hula-hoop, coin (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Look up and read 2 Corinthians 9:7 aloud then invite the kids to repeat it after you.
- Hold up a coin and remind kids that money—like their time, talents, and all the stuff they have at home—belongs to God. Whether they have a lot of money or only a little, God wants them to be wise in the way they use it.
- Practice saying the memory verse (*“God loves a cheerful giver”*) by playing a game called “Guess the Giver.”
 - Form a circle and choose someone to stand in the middle.
 - Give that kid the hula-hoop and ask him to close his eyes tightly and say the memory verse. (Give help as needed.)
 - Quietly hand another child the coin.
 - Instruct ALL the kids to pretend they’re holding the coin.
 - Tell the child in the middle to open his eyes and guess who has the coin.
 - He can ask for help before guessing. If he does so, give him two clues as to who the coin holder is.
 - When he’s ready to guess, he should place the hoop over the kid he thinks has the coin.
 - The kid with the coin (whether chosen or not) leads the group in saying the verse and then gives the coin back to you.
 - Repeat the game as time allows or until all the kids have had a turn guessing.

What You Say:

“Great job guessing the giver. And great job learning Luke 16:10a. Don’t forget what our memory verse tells us. Every time you do the right thing—when you do what you know pleases God—you show that you can be trusted with even bigger things.”

4. God Time Sheets

What You Need: “God Time” Sheets (one per child), pens (one per child)

NOTE: The God Time sheets are intended to be a closing time activity each week in The City. Children will begin working on their sheets, as well as be encouraged to bring their sheets back the following week for a prize. Children cannot turn in their sheets the same week for a prize. The goal is to keep the lesson on their minds and in front of them throughout the following week.

Pray and Dismiss

“Jesus, please help us to be cheerful givers who open our hands and share what we have with others. We know that everything belongs to You. Thank You for giving us so many good things. Amen.”