

Alley SG - December 2 & 3, 2017

Bible Truth: Any Given Son . . . Day (God Gave Us Jesus) • 1 John 4:9-11

Bottom Line: Because God gave, I can give.

Key Question: What do you have to give?

Memory Verse: "Command the rich to do what is good. Tell them to be rich in doing good things. They must give freely. They must be willing to share." *1 Timothy 6:18, NIV*

BEFORE SMALL GROUP LEADER PREP... Tape 3 Pool Noodles together to make pipeline for each bin

CONNECT TIME: Cane Hole (To be played at the beginning of Service)

ITEMS NEEDED:

Candy canes and a Christmas stocking

INSTRUCTIONS: Hang up a Christmas stocking. Choose 2-4 players from each team (4-8 total players) for this game. Each player will toss 5 candy canes at the stocking. A player gets three points for any candy cane that go into the stocking and one point for any candy cane that hooks onto the outside of the stocking, similar to cornhole. The player with the most points wins.

VARIATION: Make it simple - only give points for candy canes that go into the stocking.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Candy canes and stockings make Christmas a lot of fun, but Jesus is the greatest gift of Christmas.

SMALL GROUP TIME:

Just For Fun

What You Do:

- **Sit** together in a circle.
- **Ask** students to each choose a vegetable that begins with the first letter in their name. Choose one for yourself as well. The vegetables will now be everyone's new name, so make sure there are no duplicates.
- **Play** the "Veggie Name Game":
 - Say your veggie name twice then say the veggie name of another player twice. For example, "Zucchini, Zucchini; Broccoli, Broccoli."
 - "Broccoli" continues by saying his or her name twice then choosing someone else. For example: "Broccoli, Broccoli"; "Potato, Potato."
- **Before you begin**, tell the students that no one can show his or her teeth at any time.
 - They must completely hide their teeth with their lips.

- If they spot someone's teeth showing they can shout out, "Teeth, Teeth" and that person's veggie name.
- Depending on how you want to play, you can do an elimination process or points lost when teeth are shown.

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: "Gift Cards" Activity Page, pens, wide ribbon, tape

What You Do:

- **Give** each of the students a pen and a gift card.
- **Ask** them to write on the tag one thing they're really hoping to receive for Christmas.
- As kids work, **tape** the ends of a 5-foot length of wide ribbon to the floor to create a line.
- **Collect** the cards that kids filled out and then mix them in with the pre-printed "Gift Cards."
- **Place** all the "Gift Cards" face down near the line of ribbon.
- **Let** the students take turns picking up a Gift Card from the top of the pile, reading it, and then placing it on the line according to how easy or hard it would be for them to be give away that item.
- **Remind** students there are no right or wrong answers; we all can feel differently about different things.
- When all the cards have been arranged, **discuss** with students:
 - Why are some things harder to be generous with than others?
 - Point to one of the Gift Cards. Who do you know (not yourself!) that would benefit by receiving this gift?
 - Out of all the things on the Gift Cards, what would you say is the hardest thing for you to share? What's the easiest? Why?

Be sure students get back their hand written card for Activity 3, and printed cards go back in bin for next service.

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, pool noodle pipeline (3 pool noodles taped together), marbles, candy prize for the winner (2 pieces per bin per service)

What You Do:

- **Remind** your students that every good thing we have is a gift from God.
- **Choose** someone to read James 1:17.
- **Direct** everyone to hold the pool noodles to form a long, continuous "pipeline."
 - The chute will need to be angled enough to allow a marble to slide from one end to the other.
 - Test the angle by dropping the marble into the tube at the highest end then adjust the angle as needed.
 - The marble should slide easily but not so quickly that the game becomes impossible.
- **Explain** that you will drop the marble into the "pipeline" as you call out a category (see list below).

- Before the marble comes out of the last tube, the student at the beginning of the line must name as many things as he can related to that category.
- Second student in line proceeds with next topic, and so on

Possible categories:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ○ Things that rhyme with “red” | ○ Stuff you wear on your head |
| ○ Fun things to do | ○ Things in your room |
| ○ Stuff you wear on your arms | ○ Books of the Bible |
| ○ Friends | ○ Snacks |
| ○ Food | ○ Stuff you wear on your feet |
| ○ Electronics | ○ Candy |
- **Let** everyone take at least one turn
 - **Award** the candy to the person who names the most items. Use the extra candy in the event of a tie.
 - **Remind** everyone that God’s generosity has a purpose. He gives to us and wants His love to flow through us to others.
 - **Choose** someone to **read** 1 John 4:9-11.
 - **Discuss:**
 - Think about the activity we did with the tubes and marble. Can you think of ways those objects could be used to illustrate a truth found in 1 John 4: 9-11? *(Let them demonstrate their ideas. This may be difficult for them to articulate, but the clearest analogy would be that of God’s love flowing through us to others the way the marble goes from one end of the tube to the other.)*
 - God has been so generous in giving us Jesus, and He has asked us to give to others now. *(Ask about the following categories individually and allow time for a couple responses for each.)* So what are you giving, doing, making, planning, and/or buying for others this Christmas?
 - **If time allows**, line up the tubes once again. Call out a name from the list below as you drop the marble down the chute. The student at the beginning of the line must name gifts that could be given to that person.

○ Mom	○ Neighbor
○ Teacher	○ Grandparent
○ Coach	○ Missionary
○ Dad	○ Pastor
○ Friend	○ Postal worker

3. Discussion Questions

- Who is the most generous person you know? Why does that person stand out in your mind?
- If it’s easy to give something away, is it an act of generosity or are you simply getting rid of stuff you don’t want?
- If someone asked you what the secret to generosity is, what would you tell that person?
- What is the most fun part about giving to others?
- Why is generosity such a big deal? Why is it important?
- What’s one thing you can do this week to take a step toward being generous the way Jesus is?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bible, lunch bags (10 per bin) completed "Gift Cards" from "Take a Snapshot," pens

What You Do:

- **Ask** someone to read aloud 1 Timothy 6:18.
- **Let** a couple students share something that stands out to them in this verse.
- **Hand out** the "Gift Cards" from the previous activity.
 - If students have thought of something different they'd like to receive for Christmas, they can flip their cards over and write the new thing on the back.
- **Instruct** students to place their card inside a lunch bag and fold the top down.
- Then **ask** kids to exchange bags three times with three different kids. As they trade bags, tell them to keep the bags closed.
 - After all kids have traded 3 times, gather the group back together and let them open their "gifts."
- **Re-read** 1 Timothy 6:18 and challenge students to think of their gifts (if they were real instead of written on a card) in terms of God's direction in this verse.
 - "Command the rich to do what is good."
 - What good things could your gift be used for?
 - "Tell them to be rich in doing good things."
 - If you had the gift written on the card, what are some ways you could use it for good without giving it away?
 - "They must give freely. They must be willing to share."
 - If you *were* to give it away, whom would you give your gift to?
 - Would it be easy or hard to part with it?

Keep bags for next service

5. "God Time" Take Home 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 Alley. Children will begin working on their sheets, as well as be encouraged to bring their sheets back the following week for **\$3 in Alley Cash**. Children cannot turn in their sheets the same week. The goal is to keep the lesson on their minds and in front of them throughout the following week.*

Close with a prayer. Suggested prayer below:

- *Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son to us as the ultimate act of generosity. We want to be generous with others because You were first generous with us. You love us first and always. Help us this week to give because you gave and love because You have loved us. In your name we pray, Amen."*