

City SG - December 2 & 3, 2017

Bible Story: Any Given Son . . . Day (God gave us Jesus) • *1 John 4:9-11*

Bottom Line: Because God gave, I can 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*

1. What’s That?

What You Need: “What’s That?” Activity Pages (1 per child), markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid an Activity Page.
- Instruct kids to look at the pictures of wrapped packages and imagine what might be inside each one.
- In the boxes below the picture, kids can draw a picture of the gift they think is wrapped up in the picture.
- Encourage them to get creative and silly with their drawings! The things they draw don't have to actually exist in reality.

What You Say:

“You guys were very creative with what you imagined was in those boxes. *[Transition]* Today in Large Group, we are going to hear about a gift God gave us that wasn't what the people expected but was even better.”

2. Pass It This Way

What You Need: “Pass It This Way” Activity Page (1 per group); small gift box with candy (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Have a copy of the Activity Page ready.
- Arrange kids in a circle on the floor, and give the box to one of the kids.
- Read the Activity Page, and ask kids to follow the instructions by passing the gift to the right when the story says “right” or left when the story says “left.”
- When the final kid has the present, let him open the box, and then let each kid choose one piece of candy as their prize.

What You Say:

“That game was pretty fun, huh? Especially because everyone ended up with a gift in the end. The most important thing about the Christmas season is to remember that God gave the gift of His Son to everyone. He came so that everyone who would ever live on earth could know Him. God gave us the biggest gift of all, and *[Bottom Line]* because God Gave, I can give. We don't have to give presents to everyone we know, but we can tell everyone about the best gift anyone ever got: Jesus.” *[Make It Personal]* (Tell kids about how you keep Jesus at the front of your mind among all the gift giving around Christmas time.)

3. Just for Me

What You Need: Pretend Gifts (Mini Gift Bags)

What You Do:

- Pair kids up or let them choose a partner.
- Instruct each pair to talk to their partner about what they like to do and play.
- Meanwhile, leader can grab as many pretend gift bags as they need for each child in their group - and put them in the middle of the group
- After a couple minutes, **tell kids that they will be giving each other pretend gifts in this game. The gifts are not to open or take home.**
- **Remind them there is nothing really in there, don't open.**
- Then ask kids to think about the gift they would choose for their partner based on what they learned by their discussion with the partner (without saying it out loud)
- After each kid has thought about the gift they would like to give their partner, gather all the kids back together in a group.
- Let each kid have a turn picking up a gift bag and giving their partner the gift, telling the group what they would choose to give their partner.
- Ask kids to say why they chose what they did for their partner.
- If you have a lot of kids who are hesitant to "present" something in front of the group, you could let kids describe their gifts to their partner and see if the partner can guess what the gift is. Then partners could share with each other why they chose the gift they did.
- **Don't forget - keep the bags for the next service**

What You Say:

"When we give a gift, we should not think about what we would want to get, but rather what the other person would like to get. Sometimes, we might think something is really cool—like a box the size of a refrigerator—but other people might think a big empty box isn't very fun at all. God gave everyone on earth the best gift of all, and **[Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give.** God gave us His Son to show us how much He loves us. He wants us to also give people gifts that show them how much we love them and care about them."

4. Rich with Verses

What You Need: Bibles, toy coins

What You Do:

- Find the 1 Timothy 6:18 together and read it as a group.

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find 1 Timothy in the list under "New Testament." When the kids find 1 Timothy, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 1 Timothy. Help the kids find the page. When they find 1 Timothy, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 6. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 18 in chapter 6.

- Then divide kids into 2-4 groups.
- Give each group a few coins to use as props (*optional*).
- Assign each group a sentence of the verse and have them work together to come up with actions to represent that part.

- After a few minutes, bring all the groups together.
- Instruct groups to sit in order of the verse based on which sentence they were working on.
- Let each group take a turn (in verse order) teaching the other groups the actions they came up with.
- Practice as a group saying the verse with the actions the kids invented.

What You Say:

“Sometimes it seems like God gives some people lots of things like money and nice houses and better cars or toys than He gives to other people, but He tells us that the people He has given more to should be the ones who share more of what they have been given with others. God equally gave everyone the most wonderful gift of all, His Son, and so **[Bottom Line] because God Gave, I can give.** God’s example shows us that whether we have a lot or a little, we should give some of what we have to help others.”

Pray and Dismiss

- Ask kids what the word “generosity” means to them.
- Tell them that generosity is “making someone’s day by giving something away.”
- Ask your group to think about someone they know who is very generous.
- Let kids hold their hands out like they are offering something to someone as you pray.

What You Say:

“God, thank You for giving us the most amazing gift anyone could give—Your Son. Thank you that He came to show us how to live and then died for us on the cross. Please help us to remember this week when we see Christmas presents all around us that **[Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give.** We ask that You would help us to think more about what we are giving than about what we are getting this year. Amen.”

Give each child a GodTime card as they leave. If they complete it and return it the following weekend, they’ll receive a prize.