

ALLEY Rundown November 16 - 17, 2024

Today's Bible Story: Willingly (God Loves a Cheerful Giver) • 2 Corinthians 9:7

Today's Key Question: How do you feel when you give?

Today's Bottom Line: Give with a good attitude.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Every good and perfect gift is from God.* James 1:17a (NIV)

SUPPLIES: set of emoji signs (4 per campus)

SLIDE: Theme

Hey, friends! It's so great to be together again. A couple of questions for you as we get started: Are you . . . (holds up happy emoji) happy? Or are you feeling . . . (sad emoji) sad? How about . . . (holds up nervous emoji) nervous?

Okay, okay . . . so you don't have to answer that out loud, but I do have an actual point to these big emojis. I'm curious how you or someone like you might feel when you face certain situations. But instead of just saying it . . . how about you show me! Let's divide into 4 groups. Then I need one person from each group to come grab a set of emojis!

One volunteer from each group takes a set of emojis back to their group. Groups should huddle up for this activity.

Alright, now I'll throw out a scenario where you might GIVE something to someone. Think about it and discuss it as a group. Take a vote on which emotion you might feel. The emoji with the most votes wins. Hold up the winning emoji that represents how your group might feel. Does it make you happy? Sad? Nervous? Cool? Angry? Sick? You decide. Here we go!

How do you feel when you . . . 'Give a birthday present to a friend.' Take a moment or two to discuss and vote with your group.

After a minute or so, bring the focus back to the front.

All right, let's see what emoji you all chose.

Have kids hold up their emojis if they haven't put them up already. Comment on them as you have time. Then go through the following scenarios and have kids discuss, vote, and show their emojis. Use as many of the options as you have time.

*Give water to a marathon runner
Give blood
Give a solid high five
Give a hug to your sibling
Give time in detention for being late to class
Give away your childhood stuffed animal
Give a hand to help with chores at home
Give a listening ear to a friend who has a problem*

Thanks so much for participating in that activity. It's interesting, isn't it? Sometimes when we choose to be generous, we're excited and happy to do it. Other times, we might feel . . . let's just say, *less than excited* about it. In fact, if we're being honest, we might even say that we don't *FEEL* like being generous.

Maybe we don't get along with the person. Maybe we're having a bad day and want to be by ourselves. Or maybe we simply do not have much to give. What happens then? Should we ignore our feelings? Not give or be generous? Or give and be grumpy about it?

It's hard to know the answers to questions like these. But guess what? People have been asking questions like this for thousands of years—even some of the people who God inspired to write the truth we find in the Bible. The Bible is like a library of writings filled with wisdom written down by people who had personal experiences with God, and they wrote about their experiences so we could learn from them and understand how we can trust God no matter what we face!

VIDEO: The So and So Show (17:29)

Now listen, you don't need a lot of stuff to be a cheerful giver. Paul wrote about examples of people who had suffered a great deal and still gave a lot even when they didn't have too much themselves. We all have SOMETHING to give, but it's not about the WHAT. It's about the WAY we give—the attitude we have while we give.

Also, remember that when we're cheerful givers, God can do big things with our small gifts. You never know how far a kind word, a helpful gesture, a cup of cold water, or the smallest amount of money can be transformed into a powerful way of showing love. But we first need to cheerfully be generous and give.

One of the really cool things that can happen, too, is that our gifts can help people SEE God. What I mean by this is if we remember that every good gift comes from God like we talked about earlier this month, we can show what God is like by being the cheerful giver of those gifts. It's like we're partnering with God. How cool is that!?

So, once you've decided to give and to give with a good attitude—whether it's time, money, or stuff—don't focus on what you're losing. Focus on what your giving is doing in others!

As you go to your groups today, think about this:

SLIDE: Key Question

How do you feel when you give? Think about a specific time you can remember giving. What was your attitude like? How might you learn from Paul and have a cheerful attitude next time? If you have trouble thinking through a specific moment in your life, that's okay! You'll have a chance to chat with your group all about this and hear from them. That's one of the great things about Small Group—you all get to learn what it means to follow Jesus together! Before you go, let's pray and ask God to help us give to others with cheerful hearts!

SLIDE: Theme Background

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard.

CHECK THE TIME:

There should be 20-25 minutes for small group. If LG is running late, skip the next part and just have kids bring up their money.

OFFERING:

Do you guys remember where our offering is going to? Hope Mobility! They provide wheelchairs to people in Africa who need them. We are raising money for pediatric wheelchairs. Getting a wheelchair can change a child's life! It means they can become mobile and do things they could never have done before, like go to school. Here is a video that some kids from Kenya made after being given wheelchairs from Hope Mobility.

VIDEO: Psalm 139

Our focus will be raising money for wheelchairs for kids. Each pediatric wheelchair costs \$275 and we will see how many wheelchairs we can purchase to help kids in Africa!

SLIDE: Theme