

CITY SG – November 16 - 17, 2024

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

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

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

Monthly Virtue: Generosity—Making someone's day by giving something away

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Greet kids by name as they arrive.
- Welcome kids with a high five!
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Instruct the kids to sit at the table or stand in the middle of your group space (depending on campus).
- Explain that you will be playing a game of "This or That," and when kids hear the two choices, instruct them to think about which they would be willing to give away or do for someone else.
- Point out that each side of the group space represents a different choice.
- Read the first set of items from the list below and designate a side of the group space for each choice.
- Remind kids to think about which one they would rather give away (or do to help) and direct the kids either to point to or move to make their choice (depending on if you are at a table or a rug).
- After the kids have made a choice, instruct the kids to return to the middle of the group space.
- Pause after a few of the choices and ask the kids to explain why they chose this or that.
- Repeat for all of the items listed below—feel free to add your own!
 - Give away a video game controller or give away a smile
 - Hold the door for someone or give away your favorite hat
 - Give away your last cookie at lunch or give a friendly hello
 - Help your sibling clean their room or forgive your friend
 - Say, "Nice job!" or give away your favorite toy
 - Give away the game ball you received after your team's game or give a wave
 - Pray for a friend or give away your favorite treat
 - Give away your favorite plush animal or share a get well note with a sick friend
 - Tie a friend's shoe or give away your favorite candy
 - Let a sibling choose the movie-night movie or tell someone "Great job!"
 - Help a grown-up organize a closet or give away an encouraging word for your friend
- At the end of the game say, "**Today, in large group we're going to discover *HOW* we should give no matter what it is!**"

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Giving Relay

Application Activity

Set-Up Needed before each service – be sure you have enough bracelets inside the box for your group.

Re-tie the ribbon to seal the box.

What You Need: Prepared gift box with small gift inside for each kid (one box per group)

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Hold the wrapped gift box for everyone to see.
- Explain that you will start by saying: "I'm passing the gift to someone who . . . *(add kind words about the kid sitting next to you and pass them the box)*."
- Instruct each kid to continue passing the gift around by adding kind words about the next kid they're passing the gift to.
 - Offer the following prompts, if needed:
 - "I'm passing the gift to someone who I'm so happy is here today!"
 - "I'm passing the gift to someone who is a great listener."
 - "I'm passing the gift to someone who is loved."
 - "I'm passing the gift to someone who is strong."
 - "I'm passing the gift to someone who is wearing my favorite color."
 - "I'm passing the gift to someone who says kind words."
 - "I'm passing the gift to someone I hope has a great day!"
 - "I'm passing the gift to someone who is great at sharing."
 - "I'm passing the gift to someone who enjoys playing with others."
 - "I'm passing the gift to someone who loves to draw."
 - "I'm passing the gift to someone who is a great friend."
 - "I'm passing the gift to someone who has a great smile."
- Continue to play until every kid gets a chance to say something kind.
- Open the gift box and share the surprise gifts with the kids in your group.
- Ask, "How did it make you feel to hear someone say kind words about you?" *(Invite responses.)*
- Say, "Remember, when we give, God can use it to do amazing things! God can help us to become more and more like Jesus, who was generous to everyone." These bracelets can help you remember that!

2. Act It Out!

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible marked at 2 Corinthians 9:7

What You Do:

- Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 from the Bible.
- Review the Bible Story using the following points:
 - Giving cheerfully is when you make up your mind to give because you WANT to do it.
 - You don't need lots of stuff to be a cheerful giver.
 - You can be a cheerful giver because God can do BIG things with a small gift!
 - You can be a cheerful giver because it helps others see God.
- Divide the groups into three teams.
- Invite the teams to sit together.
- Explain that each team will model giving cheerfully while acting out a scenario.
- Assign each team a scenario from below.
- Give the teams a few moments to work with each other to come up with how they want to act out the scenario.
- Scenarios:
 - A sibling asks you to read him or her a book.
 - You and a friend want to play on the iPad, but only one of you can go at a time. Your teacher asks you to let your friend go first.
 - You see a new kid who just moved playing basketball alone in their driveway, and a grown-up asks you to say hello.

- Invite each team up to the front of your space to share their scenario, and how they would cheerfully act it out, with the group.
- Say, “Great job working with your team! In today’s Bible Story we discovered that God loves a cheerful giver. Jesus showed us what it looks like to be generous, and we can remember that it feels good to give like Him!”

3. Balloon Bop

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles and a balloon (a couple per service)

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse from a Bible aloud to your group.
 - *Every good and perfect gift is from God. James 1:17a*
- Read the first part of the verse several times out loud together.
- Invite the kids to spread out for a game of “Keep It Up!”
- The leader will blow up and tie one balloon.
- Direct the kids to say the next word in the Memory Verse as they tap the balloon and keep it from hitting the ground.
- Select a kid to start the game by giving them the inflated balloon.
- Instruct the kid with the balloon to tap the balloon into the air and say only the first word of the Memory Verse.
 - Remind the kid to let someone else have a turn after they have tapped the balloon.
- Continue to play until every kid has had a turn to tap the balloon, or as time and interest allow.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)
- Take some time to pray for these things as a group, then finish with the prayer below...

 “Dear God, thank You for all the good things You give us. Please help us to see all those good things—big and small. Help us to share them with others, and with a good attitude! We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guides to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home and bring it back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show the bracelets they received with the memory verse on it.