



DECEMBER THEME

THE BIG GIVE

Think Outside the Box

BIBLE STORY

Luke 12:13-21

The Money Pit | Parable of the Rich Man

BOTTOM LINE

Don't miss your chance to give

MEMORY VERSE

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share"

1 Timothy 6:18, NIV

LIFE APP

Generosity | Making someone's day by giving something away

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated...and with Jesus' help, I can!

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **GENEROSITY** and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

Key Question: Why is it important to give to others? Kids have been told since they were very young that they should share and give to others. As they grow into adolescence, it's important for them to understand why that's true. We'll give kids a chance to answer that question for themselves, and discover that generosity changes your entire perspective on the world God made. Life isn't about me. It's about what God is doing through me to show God's love to the world.

In **Luke 12:13-21**, we find Jesus sharing a parable about a rich young man. This rich man experienced such a harvest that he ended up with more than he needed. Instead of seeing how he could use the extra to help others, he stores it up for himself. He loses his life and doesn't get to enjoy it anyway.

Bottom Line: Don't miss your chance to give. When it comes to what we have, we need to think about others and focus on relationships more than getting more stuff. Being generous is difficult when we're consumed with wanting more. We want kids and their families to understand that when we focus on others, we're more likely to see the needs around us and be generous in how we help meet those needs.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to show kids where they have opportunities to be generous. Pray that kids would recognize these opportunities and act on them before they miss their chance.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: "Sharing" coloring sheet, crayons

What You Do:

- While kids color, ask the following questions, encouraging (*but not forcing!*) each child to participate:

- Is it easy or hard for you to share with others?

- What's something that's easy for you to share?

- What's something that's hard for you to share?

- [**Make It Personal**] (*Tell kids about things that are either easy or hard for you to*



share, too.)

•• **SHOULD I?**

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Should I Share My Ice Cream?” activity page, “Ice Cream Cone” color sheet, crayons

What You Do:

- Hand out “Ice Cream Cone” color sheets and crayons.
- As kids color read the story aloud to your group.
- As you go, ask comprehension questions such as:
 - What will Elephant decide?
 - What is happening to the ice cream?
 - What do you think is going to happen?
 - What was your favorite part of the book? Why?

What You Say: “Poor Elephant. He missed his chance to give some of his ice cream to Piggy. [Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll hear/we heard about someone else who lost his chance to give.

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• **GIVE!** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Gift-wrap bows; masking tape

What You Do:

- Use masking tape to divide your small group table in half.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Lead teams to sit on opposite sides of your small group table.
- Scatter the bows near the line.
- Give your group 30-45 seconds to move the bows across the dividing line and onto the other team’s side.
- The catch: They may only move the bows by flicking them with their fingers!
- The winning team is the one with the fewest bows on its side when time expires.
- Play multiple rounds as time remains. End the game when interest is still high.

What You Say: “Our verse this month says: “Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share” —1 Timothy 6:18, NIV. You guys did a great job giving freely by trying to give away more bows than you kept.

“In our game, giving was fun and easy. But is it always easy to give and share with others? When is it easy to give and share? When is it hard? [Make It Personal] *(Tell kids about times when it’s easy and hard for you to share, too.)*



“God wants us to give freely and be willing to share because when we do, we show others that we love them and that they’re more important than our stuff. So this week, look for ways you can be generous. **[Bottom Line] Don’t miss your chance to give.**”

●● **DON’T MISS YOUR CHANCE** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Gift bag with candy canes inside

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a madcap “Hot Potato” / “Duck, Duck, Gray Duck” mashup game.
- Have kids sit around your small group table.
- Give one child the gift bag and lead him to start passing it around the circle while you say the Bottom Line in “Duck, Duck, Gray Duck” fashion, leaving out the word “give”: “Don’t miss your chance to; Don’t miss your chance to . . .”
- When you say, “GIVE,” the child holding the gift jumps up, runs around the table, gives the present to another child, and then runs back to her seat.
- Immediately resume play.
- Be sure to vary your pace, timing, and voice to keep interest high.
- You can also keep interest high by guiding the kids to move in different ways. They might walk like snowmen, waddle like penguins, march like toy soldiers, or glide like ice skaters.
- After the last round, the person holding the gift bag should open it and share its contents.

What You Say: “You guys are so generous! You made someone’s day by giving something away. Was the man in today’s Bible story generous? (No!) Why not? (He kept all of his stuff for himself; He didn’t give to others.) Was God happy that the man kept everything for himself? (No!) Why not? (God wants us to know the joy we receive when we share; God wants us to show others that we love them by sharing with them.)”

“God wants us to learn to give and be willing to share because when we’re generous, we show others that we love them and that they’re more important than our stuff. You also show them that God loves them and cares for them. So this week, look for ways you can be generous. **[Bottom Line] Don’t miss your chance to give.**”

●● **LOTS OF CHANCES TO GIVE** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: “I Spy” cards, tape

What You Do:

- Guide kids to stand in a line, shoulder to shoulder.
- Tape an “I Spy” card to the back of each child.
- Guide the kids to mingle around your small group area.
- As they move, call out a riddle describing one way they can give (see below).
- Guide kids to find the picture that matches the clues and stay by that child.
- Continue until the kids solve every riddle.
- Riddles:
 - When you give this way, you’re helping others. You might do this as school, at church, or at home. You might do this after a meal or snack. You’ll need a clean cloth to give this way. (*wiping a table*)
 - When you give this way, you’re spending time with others. You might do this when someone is sad or sick; you might do it with a younger brother or sister. Many people do this when they’re sitting down. You’ll need a book to give this way. (*reading to others*)
 - When you give this way, you’re using your talents for others. You might do this for someone at Christmas. You’ll need a pencil,



markers, crayons, or paint to give this way. (*drawing or painting a picture*)

—When you give this way, you’re helping others. You might do this for a neighbor or for your mom and dad. You do this in the winter. You’ll need a shovel to give this way. (*shoveling snow*)

—When you give this way, you’re spending time with others. You might do this with your brother or sister even though you’d rather be doing something else. To give this way you’ll need a game or toy. (*playing with a sibling*)

—When you give this way, you’re using your talents for others. You might do this at Christmas for your family, or you might do it for others. This is something you practice. To give this way you’ll need an instrument. (*playing an instrument*)

—When you give this way, you’re helping others. You might do this at home. Many people don’t enjoy doing this. You’ll need a trash bag to give this way. (*emptying the trash*)

—When you give this way, you’re spending time with others. You might do this with a grandparent. You might do this every day, or you might do this only every once in a while. To give this way you’ll need a phone. (*video calling grandparents*)

What You Say: “You can give by helping others, you can give by spending time with others, and you can give by using your talents for others. God has given you SO many ways you can give. What is one way you can give to others this week? (*Pause.*) **[Make It Personal]** (*Share one way you’ll give to others this week.*) So remember: **[Bottom Line] Don’t miss your chance to give.**” Because when you give to others, you show them how much God loves them, and that’s a GREAT thing!”

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say: “Why do you think God wants us to be generous and be willing to share? (*When we give, we show others that we love them; when we share, we show people that they’re more important than our stuff.*) So this week, look for ways you can be generous. Don’t be like the man in Jesus’ story. **[Bottom Line] Don’t miss your chance to give.**”

“Let’s pray...

Gracious God, thank you for loving us and for being so generous! Help us to be more generous. Open our eyes for opportunities to be generous and share what we have so others will come to know your love. Help us to not miss our chance to give. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

What You Do: Give each child a **GodTime** card. Sunday Leaders: Pass out **Parent Cue** cards as adults arrive to pick up.