



DECEMBER THEME

THE BIG GIVE

Think Outside the Box

BIBLE STORY

1 John 4:9-11

Any Given Son...Day | God Gave Us Jesus

BOTTOM LINE

Because God gave, I can 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 can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

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

Key Question: What do you have to give? Kids don’t immediately know what they have to offer. They don’t have a lot of money, and may not have a lot of stuff either. Thankfully, generosity isn’t just about money and stuff. Kids will discover the heart of generosity and realize that they have more to give than they might have thought.

We start our look at generosity in **1 John 4:9-11** where we discover that generosity starts with God. Because God loved us so much, God sent Jesus to be our Savior and make it possible for us to be with God forever.

Bottom Line: Because God gave, I can give. John goes on in this passage and writes, “Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another” (NirV). As kids respond to God’s generosity in their own life, we pray they will be generous with their family, friends, and neighbors.

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. Pray that during a season typically focused on the consumerism of presents and stuff, your few would see the importance of living a life of generosity. Thank God for giving us Jesus and instilling in us a spirit of generosity.

•• JUST FOR FUN

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do: Call out a name from the list below. Your group should work together to name as many good gifts that could be given to that person as they can in one minute. Repeat with other names.

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

•• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of



drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “What’s That?” activity pages, pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “What’s That?” page and a pen.
- 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 CM Worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about a gift God gave us that wasn’t what the people expected but was even better.**”
[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.

●● **TAKE A SNAPSHOT** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Blank “Gift Cards,” completed “Gift Cards,” pens, masking tape

What You Do:

- Give each kid a pen and a blank gift card.
- Ask them to write on the tag one thing they’re really hoping to receive for Christmas.
- As kids work, make a line down the center of your small group table with masking tape.
— Write the word “EASY” on the left side of the tape and the word “HARD” on the right.
- Collect the cards that kids filled out and then mix them in with the pre-printed “Gift Cards.”
- Place the stack of “Gift Cards” face down on the table.
- Let the kids 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 kids there are no right or wrong answers; we all can feel differently about different things.
- When all the cards have been arranged, discuss:
—Why are some things harder to be generous with than others?
—Point to one of the Gift Cards. Who do you know (*not yourself!*) who would benefit from 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?

What You Say: “True generosity is always a choice. It’s about turning loose of your stuff and deciding that you’ll GIVE so that someone else can HAVE. That’s not always an easy choice. God has given us the perfect example of generosity—God gave us Jesus. No one out-gives God because no one loves more than God.”

●● **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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



What You Need: “Pass It This Way” activity page; wrapped box of candy

What You Do:

- Have a copy of the “Pass It This Way” page ready.
- Give the wrapped box to one of the kids in your group.
- 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 a 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 Jesus to everyone. Jesus came so that everyone who would ever live on earth could know God. 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.)**

•• **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask some of the following 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? Share your thoughts.
- 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?

•• **VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible, completed “Gift Cards” from “Take a Snapshot,” pens

What You Do:

- Ask someone to read aloud 1 Timothy 6:18.
- Let a couple kids share something that stands out to them in this verse.
- Hand out the “Gift Cards” from the “Take a Snapshot” activity. Make sure each kid gets their original card back. *(If you did not do the “Take a Snapshot” activity earlier, hand out the blank cards now and ask kids to write one thing they’re really hoping to receive for Christmas.)*
- Then ask kids to exchange their cards three times with three different kids.
—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 kids 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 them to do good...”
 - What good things could your gift be used for?
- “...to be rich in good deeds...”
 - If you had the gift written on the card, what are some ways you could use it for good without giving it away?



—“...and to be generous and 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?

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Ornament cards, pens, tape

What You Do:

- Encourage acts of generosity during the month of December by creating a “Giving Wall” in your group’s meeting space.
—Each week, kids will add an ornament that focuses on one way they will demonstrate generosity in the coming week.
- Ask: Why is generosity so important? Why should we focus on it?
—Challenge your group to plan one thing they can do this week to help them take a step toward becoming more generous.
- Give each group member an ornament and pen.
- Instruct them to write a brief description of something generous they want to do this week.
—When finished, kids can write their name on the back.
- Before hanging the ornaments on a wall in your small group space, let kids exchange them with someone else in the group.
- Give the group a few minutes to pray silently for the person whose ornament they’re holding. Then close, asking for God’s help to live in a generous way this week.
- As kids leave, let them tape their ornament on the wall.
- Close with a prayer...

Dear God, thank you for sending your Son to us as the ultimate example 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.”

What You Do: Give each child a **GodTime** card. As adults arrive to pick up, encourage them to ask their son/daughter about the way they plan to be generous this week. Challenge adults to think of a way that they, too, can be generous in the coming week.