



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” (NIV). 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.

•• **EARLY ARRIVER IDEA**

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

What You Need: “Gift” color sheet, crayons

What You Do:

- As kids color, ask:
 - If you could give a gift to ANYONE in the world, who would you give a gift to?
 - What would you give them? Why?
- Encourage each child to share, but don’t force any child who’s reluctant.
- If you have extra time, invite kids to draw a picture of the gift that they would like to give on the back of their color sheet.

•• **IF...**

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



What You Need: “If You Take a Mouse to the Movies” activity page, “Sequence Circle” activity page

What You Do:

- Hand a “Sequence Circle” activity page to each kid in your group. Encourage kids to follow along on their sequence circle while you read the story, “If You Take a Mouse to the Movies.”
- Using the provided script, read the story to them, asking comprehension questions along the way.
- While reading the story, you might ask:
 - What do you think the mouse is going to want next?
 - How do you think the boy feels?
- After reading the story, you might ask:
 - What’s your favorite part of the story?
 - What did the boy give to the mouse?
 - Why do you think the boy kept giving to the mouse?

What You Say: “What does it mean to be generous? (*to give to others; to give a lot*) Was the boy generous to the mouse? What were some things the boy gave the mouse? Who are some people who give to you? What do they give you? **[Transition] At CM Worship/WOW family worship, we’ll hear/we heard about someone who is perfectly generous toward us and gave us the best gift ever!**”

[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.

●● **BECAUSE GOD GAVE** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “I Can Give” cards

What You Do:

- Help kids to get into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a set of “I Can Give” cards. You can adjust the number of picture pairs you give each group based on their skill level. Younger kids might be able to master six pairs while older kids might master eight.
- Lead kids to set the cards face down in a grid. Don’t worry if the grid isn’t straight. The fact that the kids arranged the cards themselves means that a lot of brain cells were firing!
- Guide kids to take turns flipping over two cards at a time, Concentration™-style, to find a match.
 - Decrease competition by allowing kids to take only one turn at a time, regardless of whether or not they make a match.
 - When all the teams are finished, unpack the scenarios and invite the kids to name ways they can be generous with others.

What You Say: “Who did God give us? (*Pause.*) Yes! God gave us Jesus. Why did God give us Jesus? (*Pause.*) Yes! God gave us Jesus because God loves us SO much and a because God knew that we needed a Savior! God was SO generous when God gave us Jesus. And **[Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give, too.**

“What are some ways you can be generous and give to others? (*If kids are stuck, guide them to the scenarios on the “I Can Give” cards: ‘Can you share your toys? Can you share your cookie? Can you give a hug to someone who is sad? Can you give a coat to someone*



who is cold?') [Make It Personal] (Tell kids a way you will choose to be generous this week.) So this week, remember: [Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give."

●● **BIG HEARTS AND BOWS** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Gift-wrap bows

What You Do:

- Guide each child to find a partner.
- Tell kids they're going to play a "race the clock" game to practice generosity.
- Give each child 5 bows and guide the kids to take the paper backing off the sticky part of the bow and stick the bows to themselves on their arms, legs, and backs. (*Avoid sensitive areas such as the face/top of the head.*)
- Encourage kids to help each other as needed.
- Lead the kids to race to take bows OFF themselves and stick them ONTO their partners. It will be a zany, giggly dash as the kids strive to out-give each other!
- Time ends when you say "STOP!"
- Congratulate the kids for working hard to be generous!

What You Say: "What does it mean to be generous? (*to give to others, to give a lot, to give to others because God gives to us*) You guys worked hard to be generous and try to give more bows to your partners. Way to go! What are some other things you can give to others? (*Kids may name concrete things like presents, clothes, food, pictures, etc. Encourage them to also consider non-concrete things like friendship, hugs, smiles, or kind words.*)

"You can be generous and give to others because God made you to be like God, and God is very, very, VERY generous. How is God generous to you? (*gives me a family, a home, food, and clothes; takes care of me; gave me Jesus.*) Why do you think God is so generous? (*God loves me.*) Yes! God is generous because God loves you. God's love for you is bigger than this world! God's love for you is bigger than you can imagine! Everyone give yourself a hug because God loves you so much! (*Pause.*)

"So remember, because God loves you, and **[Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give."**

●● **TRUE RICHES** [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: "Verse Ornaments" activity page, scissors, butcher paper, crayons, tape

What You Do:

- Read this month's memory verse to your group, then, invite them to repeat each section as listed below until they get comfortable with the 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
- "Command them (*Command them*) to do good (*to do good*), to be rich in good deeds (*to be rich in good deeds*), and to be generous (*and to be generous*) and willing to share (*and willing to share*)" 1 Timothy 6:18 (*1 Timothy 6:18*)
- Draw a large Christmas tree on a piece of butcher paper.
- Cut out and distribute the "Verse Ornaments." Read each one aloud.
- Help kids put a piece of rolled up tape on the back of the ornaments.
- Invite the kid with the ornament labeled "1" to hang it on the top part of the Christmas tree.
- Continue until every ornament is on the tree. Provide assistance as needed to ensure that the ornaments stay in the correct order.
- End by saying the completed verse together.



What You Say: “1 Timothy 6:18 says: Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” What do you think it means to be ‘rich in good deeds’? (*Kids may be stuck for answers. That’s okay. Give them a few seconds to ponder and get their brains going, and then continue.*) Do you think being ‘rich in doing good things’ means that God wants you to always be ready to do good things for others?

“What are some good things that you can do for others this week? (*I can share with my sister; I can help others when they need help; I can be kind; I can give hugs; I can play with my brother.*) You guys are so generous! So this week, remember: **[Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give.**”

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Bows from “Big Hearts and Bows” activity

What You Do:

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Place a bow on each child. (*You can place them on their shoulders, on their backs, on their tummies, or even on their noses!*)
- As you do, say the Bottom Line and insert each child’s name. (*“Because God gave, Eli can give. Because God gave, Janelle can give.”*)
- Use the conversation below to lead kids into prayer...

What You Say: “The Bible tells us that God loved us SO much that God sent Jesus to give his life for us. Since God loves us THAT much, we should love others, too. And that’s what being generous is all about. It’s sharing God’s love with others because God loves us and gave us Jesus. So remember: **[Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give.** Let’s pray...

“Dear God, thank you that you love (*name each child*) SO much that you sent your son, Jesus. Since you were so generous to us, help us be generous to others, too. Because you gave, help us give. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.”

What You Do: Give each child a **GodTime** card. As parents arrive and notice the bows, encourage kids to tell their parents today’s Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give.**