



**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:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Ask kids to share about a time they gave a gift to someone who needed it. Ask:
  - Did you donate toys to a shelter?
  - Did you give a snack to a homeless person?
  - Did you pick up a stuffed animal for a baby who was crying?
  - Did you give an extra cookie to a friend?
  - Did you share your lunch with someone who forgot theirs?
  - How does it feel when you give a gift to someone in need?



●● **RHYME TIME**

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

**What You Need:** “Rhyme Time” activity pages, pens

**What You Do:**

- Hand out a “Rhyme Time” activity page to each kid.
- Explain to kids that these are short little poems with a rhyming word missing. They will try to guess what the missing word is and fill it in.
- Give kids a few minutes to try to fill in the missing words.
- Encourage them to try on their own and not to tell others the answers when they figure it out.
- As kids finish, ask them to try to write their own poem about giving.
- Let kids share their poems with the group.

**What You Say:** “These poems are a little silly, but they are still good reminders that we have many chances every day to give generously. [Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about a man who had a chance to give but didn’t.”

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

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## 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.

●● **HERE, TAKE MINE** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Bowl, strips of paper, pen, dice, coins

**What You Do:**

- Write down all kids’ names on strips of paper. Then fold them in half and put them into the bowl. Set aside.
- Tell kids that they will have a chance to roll the dice to get coins.
- Give each kid a turn to roll the dice.
- Whatever number they get, give them that number of coins.
- Continue until you run out of coins.
- Let kids count up their coins and see who has the most.
- Then tell kids it’s time to draw a name out of the bowl, but don’t tell them why.
- Randomly draw a name out of the bowl. Instruct that kid to give some of their coins to someone else.
- Replace the name and draw again. Instruct that kid to give some of their coins to someone else.
- Repeat the process 8-10 times.
- If a kid’s name is drawn and they don’t have any coins, draw someone else.
- When you are finished drawing names, instruct kids to count up their coins again.
- Then dramatically declare that the winners are NOT the people who have the most coins, but rather the people who have the least coins.



**What You Say:** “When we first started that game, it seemed like the goal was to get the most coins, but in the end it turned out that the real winners were the ones who gave their coins away. In our story today, we heard about a man who didn’t want to give up any of what he had. But having all that stuff didn’t bring him happiness. Jesus tells us through his parable: **[Bottom Line] Don’t miss your chance to give.** We have chances to give things to others every day. **[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time you gave something away and experienced joy because you did.)** We could give a smile to someone who is having a bad day or give a nice note to a teacher or coach who helps us or give a hug to our brother or sister who is upset.”

•• **BUSY** [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:** Copy paper, pen

**What You Do:**

- Draw a vertical line dividing the copy paper into two sides.
- Tell kids that they will be answering your questions with actions instead of words.
- Take suggestions from kids about things they like to do at Christmas time (*i.e. decorate the tree, hang stockings, shop for Christmas presents, etc.*), except instead of telling you, they have to act them out and let the group guess.
- When the group guesses the activity, write it on the left side of the paper.
- After the ideas slow down, switch to the right side of the paper.
- Ask kids to act out all the things they have to do in a normal day in addition to all of the Christmas stuff (*i.e. sports, school, homework, etc.*).
- As the group guesses the suggestions, write them on the right side of the paper.
- When the ideas slow down, talk about how your kids spend their days.

**What You Say:** “When you look at all those things on this paper, you can see that this is a very busy time of year. When we get really busy doing lots of things, it can be easy to forget to be generous. We shouldn’t neglect giving to other people and caring about them just because we have a lot going on. We give people gifts at Christmastime because God first gave us the gift of Jesus. God gave us Jesus to show us that God loves us and giving gifts to other people is one way we show others that we love them. That’s one reason why it’s important that you **[Bottom Line] Don’t miss your chance to give.**”

•• **MERRY VERSEMAS** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

**Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing**

**What You Need:** “Merry Versemas” activity pages, markers, scissors

**What You Do:**

- Hand out a “Merry Versemas” activity page to each kid.
- Ask kids if they have handed out any Christmas cards yet. Have they gotten any?
- Tell them that today they will be making Christmas cards for family members: parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles/cousins, whoever they will see in the next couple weeks.
- Show kids where to cut apart the top and bottom cards and guide them to fill in the missing words on the cards.
- Then instruct kids to write “Merry Christmas” on the front and encourage them to decorate the cards to make them look nice.
- Each kid should take home both cards: one to keep and one to give away.

**What You Say:** “This verse tells us that it is more important to DO good things than to HAVE good things. God’s Word says: **[Bottom Line] Don’t miss your chance to give.** These cards are a great way to share with others what we have learned here today. Take one of the cards home this week and put it in your room so you will remember the verse all week. Then you can give away the other card to someone in your family so they can learn the verse too.”



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect

DECEMBER

10/13

2017

**GRADE 2-3**

**SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE**

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## PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Coins from “Here...Take Mine” activity

**What You Do:**

- Ask kids what things they have that they are thankful for.
- Go around the circle and have each kid say one thing they are grateful to God for giving them.
- Give each kid a coin and have them hold it as you pray.
- Optional: Let kids keep the coins to remind them of the prayer this week.

**What You Say:** “God, thank you for giving us the things we need, like food and water and places to live. Please help us to be grateful for what we have and remember not to miss our chance to give. We ask that you would help us to focus on what we have and what we can give, not how much we can get. Remind us this week that coins like these and the things they buy are not what really matters. Your Son Jesus and his example of love are what truly matter. Amen.”

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