



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.

**•• 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:**

- Talk to kids about how good it feels to give a gift someone really loves.
- Ask kids what gifts they would give if they could give anything.
  - What’s something really special you would buy for someone?
  - If you could make something really cool, what would you make?
  - What’s something you would DO as a gift for someone if you could?

**•• WHAT’S THAT?**

*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 at 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.]*

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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.

●● **PASS IT THIS WAY** [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.)**

●● **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 like 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.**”

●● **RICH WITH VERSES** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:**

- Find 1 Timothy 6:18 together and read it as a group.

**Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find 1 Timothy in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find 1 Timothy, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 1 Timothy. Help the kids find the page. When they find 1 Timothy, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 6. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 18 in chapter 6.

- Then divide kids into three groups.
- Assign each group a section of the verse and have them work together to come up with actions to represent that part.
- After a few minutes, bring all the groups together.
- Instruct groups to sit in order of the verse based on which section they were working on.
- Let each group take a turn (in verse order) teaching the other groups the actions they came up with.
- Practice as a group saying the verse with the actions the kids invented.

**What You Say:** “Sometimes it seems like God gives some people lots of things like money and nice houses and better cars or toys than God gives to other people, but God tells us that the people God has given more to should be the ones who share more of what they have been given with others. God equally gave everyone the most wonderful gift of all, Jesus, and so **[Bottom Line] because God Gave, I can give.** God’s example shows us that whether we have a lot or a little, we should give some of what we have to help others.”



**PRINCE  
OF PEACE**  
Called to Connect

DECEMBER

06

2017

**GRADE 2-3**

**SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE**

## 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 Do:**

- Ask kids what the word “generosity” means to them.
- Tell them that one way define generosity is “making someone’s day by giving something away.”
- Ask your group to think about someone they know who is very generous.
- Invite kids to hold their hands out like they are offering something to someone as you pray.

**What You Say:** “God, thank you for giving us the most amazing gift anyone could give—your Son. Thank you that Jesus came to show us how to live. Please help us to remember this week when we see Christmas presents all around us that **[Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give.** We ask that you would help us to think more about what we are giving than about what we are getting this year. Amen.”

**What You Do:** Give each child a **GodTime** card. As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids about the best gift anyone ever gave them.