



A Cheerful Giver

Bible Story: A Cheerful Giver – 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-15

Bottom Line: God is generous to us, so we can be generous to others.

Memory Verse: ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Christ Connection: *God has been merciful and generous to us. He gave us the greatest gift—His own Son. Jesus showed us what generosity looks like when He gave up His life to save us from sin. Because of Jesus, we can be merciful and generous to others.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

DROP DEAD DICE GAME

Objective: to score as many points as possible. At the start of the game players determine either 1) the target score; or 2) how many rounds they will play.

What you need:

- **5 six-sided dice.** Preferably 5 dice per player.
- **Pen and paper** for keeping score.
- **2 or more enthusiastic players**
- *Optional: throwing cups.* We made our own from cardboard tubes and paper cups.

Rules:

Roll one die to see who goes first. The player with the highest roll starts.

Player one throws all five dice. If his roll contains a 5 or a 2 he scores no points, removes any dice showing a 5 or 2 and re-rolls the remaining dice. If the roll does not contain a 5 or a 2, he adds up the total, records it on the score card and rolls all five dice again. He continues in this way until all the dice are removed from play. Play continues with the next player.

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

GAME, SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

Pizza Delivery with a Drink- Minute to Win It

What You Need: empty pizza boxes, 15 cups per team, countdown timer

What You Do:

- Select at least 2 players per team.
- One player is in charge of holding the pizza box.
- The other player will stack all the cups in a pyramid on top of the box the first player is holding.
- The first team to stack all their cups without dropping any, wins.

What You Say: Good job teams! Today we will be looking at ways that we can be generous with all that we have or want. Before we listen to the Bible today, let's sing together.

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

Today's Passage

⁶Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. ⁹As it is written:

"They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor;
their righteousness endures forever."^a

¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. ¹³Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. ¹⁴And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Context

Paul wrote a letter to the believers in Corinth. He told them about the believers in Macedonia because those believers set a good example about how to give. Even though the churches in Macedonia were poor, they joyfully gave as much as they could to help others.



That is not easy to do! Maybe you have money from doing extra chores or jobs. Are you willing to give it away to people who need it? Why or why not? Think about that.

Giving is one way we can show we love God. It is one way we can show that we trust God to take care of us. Paul reminded the Corinthians about how God took care of His people in the wilderness. God sent manna for the Israelites to eat. The people gathered just what they needed.

Paul made an important point about giving. He said that how much a person gives is not as important as that person's attitude about giving. He said God loves a cheerful giver. He wants His people to trust Him with everything—including their money.

Today's Takeaways

- When God changes us, He changes our hearts so that we become like Him.
- The Corinthian church was poor, but they were generous. They gave to help others.
- They gave to help others because God gave them Jesus.
- **BL:** God is generous to us, so we can be generous to others.
- We all have something to give and God wants us all to be cheerful givers.

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit and follow Jesus.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- God doesn't need our money. Why do you think He wants us to give?
- What attitude should we have about giving? Why?
- What does it mean to be a cheerful giver? How can you be excited about giving?
- How does giving to God help others and us at the same time?

Activity: Group giveaway

What You Need: clothespins (3 per kid), large dice (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to stand in a circle.
- Guide them to clip each of their clothespins to their sleeves where they are easily visible.
- Choose one kid to begin by tossing a numbered cube.
- If the number it lands on is odd, play passes to the next kid.
- If the number is even, he should say today's main point: God is generous to us, so we can be generous to others.
- Then he should take one of his clothespins and pin it to another player's sleeve.
- The next kid in the circle will roll the numbered cube and respond accordingly.
- Continue around the circle as time allows.
- Explain that the goal of the game is to give away all of their clothespins.
- Kids may strategize to pin their clothespins to players who have only one remaining.
- If a player gives away all of her clothespins, she is the winner.

What You Say "That was fun. Giving away clothespins might be easy because they aren't of much value to you, but think about things that do mean a lot to you—like your time or your money.

If your heart wants to hold on to these things, remember that God has been merciful and generous to us. He gave us the greatest gift: His own Son. Jesus showed us what generosity looks like when He gave up His life to save us from sin. Because of Jesus, we can be merciful and generous to others.

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: "Key Passage Poster", white board, Markers, eraser

What You Do:

- On a dry erase board or chalkboard, write out the key passage.
- Invite a volunteer to read the verse for the class and then erase one word.
- Invite another kid to do the same, erasing a second word.
- Continue in this way until kids have erased all the words and are saying the verse from memory.

What You Say "Great job with that key passage. There is still time to memorize it, so keep working on it. This verse is from 2 Corinthians, one of the books of the Bible written by the apostle Paul. Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that the sin in their lives was against God's will for them and showed that they didn't fully understand the gospel. When we trust in Jesus, we are new creations, changed inside and out. **Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.**"



All Star Kids

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3rd-5th grade

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say:

"God, apart from You, we have nothing. Because of Your love, we have everything we need in Jesus. Give us wisdom to use our time, talents, and money for Your glory. Help us give cheerfully and generously because You gave generously to us. Help us to trust You instead of trusting in ourselves or in money. Amen.

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to share what they learned about how we can be a joyful giver. Remind families that we can start praying and collecting for Operation Christmas Child, to bless another family with things they need so they can hear about Jesus.