



WEEK ONE – NOVEMBER 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Every Good + Perfect Gift | James 1:17a*

Bottom Line: *God gives us good things*

Memory Verse: *“Every good + perfect gift is from God.” – James 1:17a (NirV)*

Virtue: *Generosity – Making someone’s day by giving something away*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what*

Series Overview: Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35, NirV) However, sometimes generosity doesn’t come naturally to us. We want the newest and best things, or we want everyone to notice what we have. When we really enjoy the things we have, sometimes that makes it harder for us to be willing to share with others. However, with the help of God’s Spirit, we can learn that HOW we give is more important than even WHAT we give. It’s about our hearts. God showed us the ultimate example of generosity by sending Jesus. This month, we’ll take a look at how we can respond by being generous to others.

Bottom Line: **God gives us good things.** Some of the best gifts in life don’t come with wrapping paper. Sometimes the best gifts in life are free because they were thought out and made especially for us. We have all received good things because of God’s generosity. From the air we breathe to the things we enjoy in our everyday lives, everything good comes from God.

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY

Opening Small Group Activity

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: 3.5” x 5” notecards, crayons or markers

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the FATW bag.
- Ask: “Have you ever seen a postcard or received one in the mail?”
- Give each kid a blank index card.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Instruct the kids to turn the index card into a postcard.
- Invite the kids to draw a picture on one side of the index card.
- Encourage the kids to think of someone they’d like to give their postcard to.
- Instruct them to write that person’s name and a message for them on the other side of the index card.
- Invite kids to share their drawings with the group, and their notes—if they’d like to!
- Encourage the kids to deliver their postcards to the recipients, if possible, in the next few weeks.
 - *Optional: As kids make postcards, write a quick note to each kid (please place first/last name) in your group, give it to your coach or staff so we can mail them this week!*

9:20 - 9:50 | 11:20 – 11:50 | LARGE GROUP

Large Group Overview: We start the month with an insight from James 1:17a: “Every good and perfect gift is from God.” (NIRV) Every good thing in our lives

comes from God, starting with the gift of Jesus. When we take the time to reflect on all that God has given us, we can respond by being generous to others.

9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 | SMALL GROUP

Where's the Good Gift?

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Bible (marked at James 1:17a), “Good Gifts” Activity Page, pencils or coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Invite a kid to read James 1:17a from the marked Bible.
- Ask: “What are some good gifts you’ve experienced in your life?”
- Give each kid a “Good Gifts” Activity Page.
- Set out the pencils or coloring supplies.
- Instruct the kids to find the images of “good gifts” and circle/color them in.
- Once the kids have finished, invite the kids to share, compare, and discuss what they’ve found.
 - Point out how some things may not appear to be good gifts, but actually are! (For example: rain, sleep, etc.)

What You Say:

“Wow, look at all the good gifts you found! Is there anything that doesn’t look like a good gift, but actually is a good gift? (Invite responses.) Sometimes, we might see a rainy day as something not very good. But rain cleans everything around us, provides water for animals and insects to drink, helps flowers and plants to grow, and so much more!”

*“Whatever is good in your life—big and small—comes from God. It can be easy to look at someone else and feel like they have more than you. But the truth is, you’re always going to have less than some people and more than others. The most important thing is to remember that **[Bottom Line]** God gives us good things, and each of those good things is a reminder of God’s generosity! The biggest good gift of all time is JESUS. No matter where you are, who you are, or what you’ve done, Jesus loves you and is HERE for you! Our friendship with Jesus will last forever!”*

[Make It Personal] (Describe a few good gifts that God has given you in your life. Share age-appropriate examples of big and small gifts! Some things might include your family, your pet, where you live, your favorite snack, sunshine, the breath in your lungs, etc.)

Memory Verse Motions

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.
- Together, look up James 1:17a using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
 - ***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 James in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find James, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find James. Help the kids find the page. When they find James, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 1. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 17 in

chapter 1. Explain that the little “a” means we’re memorizing the first part of the verse.

- After reading the verse a few times, invite kids to come up with motions for the verse.
- Challenge each kid to complete one of the following:
 - Recite the verse while the rest of the group does the motions.
 - Lead the motions while the rest of the group recites the verse.
 - Recite the verse and lead the motions while the rest of the group watches.

What You Say:

*“Our Memory Verse is one that we can come back to again and again. It’s true! Every good and perfect gift is from God (James 1:17a, NIrV). **[Bottom Line]** God gives us good things, and the greatest gift of all time is the gift of God’s very own Son, Jesus!*

“It doesn’t matter who you are, where you live, or what you’ve done—Jesus loves you and is for you! Our relationship with Jesus will last forever!

“And like this verse says, every good gift in our life is from God. And God’s generosity will go on forever because of Jesus. God is going to make everything right in the end.”

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to show the motions from the Memory Verse activity.