



## WEEK FOUR – NOVEMBER 2024 – SECOND/THIRD

**Bible Story:** *Love in Action* | 1 John 3:16-18

**Bottom Line:** *Jesus showed us how to give*

**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 should treat others the way I want to be treated.*

**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:** **Jesus showed us how to give.** Giving can be difficult sometimes. Maybe we want to give the very best gift . . . or maybe we feel like we don’t have the right resources to be able to give. But, when we look to Jesus, we can learn what generosity is all about. Because of Jesus’ example, we can learn how to give and invite others to experience the love of Jesus for themselves.

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

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**Opening Small Group Activity**

*Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** Clipboards, paper, coloring supplies, and a timer

**What You Do:**

- Greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the FATW bag.
- Give each kid a clipboard and a piece of paper.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Inform the kids they're seated in a "sharing circle."
- Encourage the kids to think of something good they've been given.
  - If the kids need prompting, share some examples, like: a present, a toy, a snack, friendship, etc.
- Set the timer for one minute.
- Instruct the kids to illustrate the gift they've been given on their paper.
  - Inform the kids not to take up the entire paper with their first drawing.
- When the timer goes off, direct the kids to pass their clipboard with the drawing to the kid sitting next to them in the circle.
- Encourage the kids to think of something good they've given someone else.
  - If the kids need prompting, share some examples, like: a present, a toy, a snack, time, a smile, encouragement, etc.
- Set the timer for one minute.
- Direct the kids to illustrate the gift they've shared on their paper.
- When the timer goes off, direct the kids to pass the clipboard again.
- Continue alternating between drawing something good the kids have been given and something good the kids have given someone else, passing the clipboard each time, until kids end up with their original clipboard and paper.

- Instruct the kids to look at all the pictures that have been added and share some of the gifts they see!

**What You Say:**

*“I love seeing all of the pictures you’ve drawn. It looks like you know a lot about giving and receiving good gifts! [Transition] Today we’ll discover the very best example of how to give. Let’s go!”*

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

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**Large Group Overview:** We close out the month in 1 John 3:16-18. John was writing to a group of believers to encourage them and remind them about Jesus’ love for them. John described how Jesus gave the greatest example of love when He gave His life for us. To love IS to give. Whether we give our time, our talent, or our things, we can show the love of Jesus when we give to those in need.

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

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**Love In Action**

**[Live for God | Application Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Love in Action” Activity Page, and small container

**What You Do:**

- Set out the container.
- Place the strips of paper from the “Love in Action” Activity Page inside the container.
- Choose a kid to pull a strip of paper from the container.

- Invite the kid to read the scenario on the strip of paper to the group. (Be prepared to help if needed.)
- Instruct the kid who read the scenario to choose a few kids to act out what could be done to put love into action by helping in that scenario.
  - Re-read the scenario as needed.
  - Encourage the kids chosen to jump right in—improv style.
  - Provide ideas or get them started with dialogue as needed.
- Continue with different kids reading a scenario and choosing a few kids to act out the response to the scenario as time and interest allow.

### **What You Say:**

*“Amazing job! There are so many ways we can love like Jesus and give to others. [Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to give. Jesus gave up His life for us in a big way. Giving your life to show God’s love doesn’t have to be dramatic. In fact, most of the time, giving your life is a lot of small, ordinary moments. It starts with paying attention to the people around you. We know that the small things can have a BIG impact when we ask God to help us become more like Jesus.*

*“God has put people in your life who need your help. When you keep your eyes open, God can show you ways to give. [Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to give. It all starts with looking to Jesus, and asking God for help.”*

### **Letter Together**

#### **[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

*Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** Bibles, dry-erase board, dry-erase marker

### **What You Do:**

- I Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Make sure each kid has a Bible.

- Together, look up James 1:17a, this month’s Memory Verse, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
  - ***Finding verses with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Explain that the “a” means that we’re only learning the first part of the verse. Help them find verse 17a in chapter 1.
- Invite a kid to read James 1:17a to the group.
- If kids were present to come up with motions for the Memory Verse during Week 1, invite them to review the motions with the group. Otherwise, invite kids to come up with some hand motions as they recite the verse.
- Write the first letter of each word from the Memory Verse on a dry-erase board or poster board.
- Instruct the kids to close their Bibles.
- Invite kids to take turns recalling one word from the Memory Verse one word at a time by looking at the first letter of each word.
  - Go around the circle, prompting each kid to recite a word.
  - Repeat the verse several times to review it.

**What You Say:**

*“When we memorize Scripture, it can remind us of how God wants us to love! The Word of God is a great gift that has been given to us, and we can remember what’s true whenever we need it—including the fact that every good and perfect gift is from God!”*

*“Remember, [Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to give, and because we’ve experienced the love of Jesus, we can share that love with others—in both big and small ways.”*

*As adults arrive to pick up, invite the kids to share all the ways that they can give to others.*