



WEEK ONE – NOVEMBER 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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, small envelopes, 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: “If you could have any delivery at all sent to your home, what delivery would you like to receive?”
- When enough kids have arrived, give each kid a notecard.
- Set out the crayons or markers.
- Instruct the kids to create a thank you card for someone at church (a staff member, a Small Group Leader or other leader, or a friend).
 - First-timers can create thank you cards for a friend.
 - Write the word “Thank You” on each card or help kids write it.
- Encourage kids to decorate and/or write encouraging words on the notecard with crayons or markers.
 - Assist any kids who need help writing a person’s name or an encouraging comment.
- Give each kid an envelope.
- Model how to put a card in the envelope.
- Instruct the kids to write the recipient’s name on the envelope.
 - Be ready to assist as needed.
- Encourage the kids to decorate the outside of the envelope as time and interest allow.
- Invite kids to share who they created their card for.
- Encourage the kids to give their cards to Small Group Leaders, staff members, or friends who are present.
- Collect the remaining cards for Small Group Leaders and staff who aren’t present to deliver later.

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

Special Delivery to You, from God

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Three prepared mailing envelopes

What You Do:

- Display the prepared envelopes
- Point out who the envelopes are addressed to.
- One at a time, instruct a kid to open each envelope and show the rest of the group what’s inside.
- As a kid opens each envelope, remind the kids what God has given us using the words in the envelopes.
 - “LIFE”: God has given us lungs to breathe and a heart that beats and pumps blood throughout our body. God has also given us people who love us and take care of us.
 - “WORLD”: God has provided the beautiful green grass and the trees. God created the food we have to eat.

- “JESUS”: God gave us Jesus! Jesus loves us and cares for us. Because of Jesus, we can have a relationship with God that lasts forever!
- Place the three pieces of paper with the three words (LIFE, WORLD, JESUS) in different areas of your group space.
- Instruct kids to travel to one of the three designated areas as you name things God has given us. For example:
 - Pine trees (WORLD)
 - Brain (LIFE)
 - Love (JESUS)

What You Say:

“God has provided some amazing things for us. [Bottom Line] God gives us good things. We don’t have to open them from a box—they’re always around us! The more we open our eyes and see all that God has given us, we can be generous and share those same things with other people!”

[Make It Personal] (Share with the kids about an age-appropriate time you were filled with joy about something God gave you. It could be a breath-taking sunset, a friend, or a kind gesture from a stranger. Explain why it was such a special gift God gave you.)

God’s Special Delivery

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Bibles, “God’s Special Delivery” Activity Page, markers or crayons, clear or fun washi tape

What You Do:

- Make sure each kid has a Bible.

- Together, look up this month’s Memory Verse, James 1:17a, using the Bible Navigation Tips below.
 - ***Finding verses with kindergartners:*** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word *James* at the top of the page as you say “James” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 1 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 1 for the little 17; this is the verse number. Last, explain that the “a” at the end means that we’re only memorizing the first part of the verse. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.
 - ***Finding verses with 1st 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.” You can help by telling them that James starts with the letters J-A. 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. And show them how the part of the verse that we’re memorizing this month is only the first part of the verse. That’s why the letter “a” is in the verse reference.
- Read James 1:17a together.
- Ask the following questions:
 - What are some good gifts?
 - Who is the best gift God has given us? (*Jesus*)
- Give each kid a “God’s Special Delivery” Activity Page.
- Invite kids to point to each word as you read the verse to them, or invite any kids who would like to read the verse to do so.
- Set out the markers or crayons.

- Direct kids to color in the letters of the verse and decorate the inside box of their paper however they'd like!
- Demonstrate how to fold the flaps of the “God’s Special Delivery” Activity Page on the solid lines (in order) to cover the words to make an envelope.
- Give each kid a piece of fun washi tape.
- Encourage them to seal their envelope.
- Write each kid’s name somewhere on their paper.
- Close out your small group with a simple prayer

What You Say:

“When I receive mail it makes me feel loved and special! Have you ever received something in the mail? How do you feel when you receive mail? (Invite responses.)”

*“The wonderful things God has given us are never-ending special deliveries. When we remind ourselves that every good and perfect gift comes from God, it helps us see all the gifts around us. Let’s keep this note close! When we’re feeling like we don’t have much, or other people around us have more than we do, we can remind ourselves **[Bottom Line] God gives us good things.**”*

“Dear God, thank You for all of the wonderful things You have given us. Help us to see all of the good and perfect gifts You give. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, give each kid their “God’s Special Delivery” Activity Page letter, and invite kids to share what good gifts they’re thankful for.