



WEEK FOUR – NOVEMBER 2024 – KINDER/FIRST

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.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: Balls; heart stickers

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name as they arrive.
- Invite kids who brought an offering to place it in the FATW bag.
- Instruct the kids to form two lines, facing each other, and sit down.
- Give some kids in each line a ball.
- Share that the kids holding a ball are going to take turns naming someone across from them who doesn't have a ball and roll their ball to them.
 - Before the first kid rolls the ball, direct them to compliment the kid they're rolling the ball to. Share suggestions like:
 - "I love how you listen to directions."
 - "I loved how you came in smiling this morning."
 - "You're really good at games.", etc.
 - *NOTE: If you have kids in the group who don't know each other very well, encourage them to say something kind instead; like:*
 - "I hope you have a great day!"
 - "God loves you so much."
 - "Have fun in Small Group today.", etc.
- Instruct one kid holding a ball to start the game by calling out someone's name, complimenting them, and rolling the ball to them.
- Direct the kid who received the ball to hold on to it.
- Give a heart sticker to the kid who received a compliment.
- Instruct the rest of the kids who are holding balls to take turns rolling their balls to kids who don't have a ball and heart sticker.
- Give heart stickers to the kids who received compliments.

- Direct the kids who are now holding balls to take turns doing the same. (Rolling their ball to someone without a heart sticker.)
- Repeat until all kids have received a compliment and a heart sticker.

What You Say:

“Great job sharing, friends! You never know how you can make someone’s day by giving some kind words away. What are some other things you could give away to help others? (Invite responses.) [Transition] Today we’ll find out more about how we can know what to give.”

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

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.

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

If You Help A Kid See Jesus...

[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 1 John 3:16-18); heart-shaped pillow (or large, red construction paper heart)

What You Do:

- Encourage the kids to sit in a circle.

- Join the circle yourself, holding the Bible, the book, and the heart-shaped pillow (or construction paper heart).
- Open the marked Bible to 1 John 3:16-18 and read it out loud to the group.
- Ask: “What are some ways we can show God’s love to others by giving to them or helping them?”
- Hold up the book: *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*
- Ask: “Has anyone read this book?”
 - *Optional: If a lot of kids aren’t familiar with the book, read parts of the book to explain how the book is set up.*
- Hold the heart pillow (or construction paper) out in front of you, and in the style of *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* say: “You can help a kid see Jesus, by tying their shoes when their arms are full of books.”
- Pass the heart to the kid on your right.
- Encourage the kid to add an idea of what could happen next to show how helping that kid could lead to them to help others.
 - Repeat the opening phrase: “You can help a kid see Jesus, by tying their shoes when their arms are full of books.”
 - Then, for example, the kid with the heart might say: “Then the kid who’s holding books might go read one of the books to a younger kid.”
- Direct the second kid in the circle to pass the heart to the kid to their right.
- Repeat the opening phrase, instruct the second kid to repeat what they added, then prompt the third kid to add something to continue the chain of giving/helping. For example, the dialog could go like:
 - Leader: “You can help a kid see Jesus, by tying their shoes when their arms are full of books.”
 - Second kid: “Then the kid who’s holding books might go read one of the books to a younger kid.”
 - Third kid: “Then the little kid who got to hear a book could go share a new fun fact with his older brother.”
- Keep the story going in this way.
 - *NOTE: If the story gets too complicated to add to, feel free to start a new one after a few additions.*

- Sum the story up when the heart comes back to you by going through what everyone added and noting all the ways we heard about people being generous and helping others along the way.

What You Say:

“Jesus showed us how to give. Jesus’ life is full of examples of how we can give our time, words, energy, and actions to show God’s love to others. Jesus even washed the disciples’ feet to help them see what it looks like to serve others. When we pay attention to what people around us need, we can make a difference in their lives and share Jesus’ love with them!”

Just Like Jesus!

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Bible, cross bookmark, and heart stickers

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to sit in a circle.
- Choose a kid to open the Bible to the marked place of James 1:17a.
- Read the Memory Verse to the group.
- Invite kids to recite the Memory Verse, or repeat it after you.
- As you hold up the bookmark, ask kids how the cross reminds us of Jesus’ love. *(Guide kids to the response that Jesus gave up His life on the cross so anyone can have a close relationship with God.)*
- Place the cross bookmark back in the Bible at James 1:17a.
- Give each child a heart sticker to put on themselves.
- Pass the Bible to the kid on your left.
- Instruct that kid to open it to the bookmarked page, take the heart sticker off of themselves, place it on the cross bookmark, close the Bible, and pass it to the next kid in the circle.
- Repeat until everyone has had the chance to transfer their sticker.

- When the Bible comes back around to you in the circle, read the Memory Verse again to the group.
- Hold up the cross bookmark and show the group all of the love represented on the cross.
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

“Our Memory Verse reminds us of the many good things God has given us—especially Jesus! What other good things has God given you? (Invite responses.)”

*“We can spread Jesus’ love to others by giving generously. When we see someone in need, we can help them. **[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to give.** Jesus gave everything for us! Jesus gave up His life for us on the cross so we could begin a relationship with God that lasts forever.”*

*Let’s pray: “Dear God, thank You that **[Bottom Line] Jesus showed us how to give.** Help us to give up our lives in small ways to help others so they can see how much You love them. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”*