



WEEK THREE – NOVEMBER 2024 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *God Loves A Cheerful Giver* | 2 Corinthians 9:7

Key Question: *How do you feel when you give?*

Memory Verse: *“Every good and 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.

Key Question: How do you feel when you give? Have you ever noticed how excited some people get when they watch others open gifts? The gift isn’t even for them, and yet they can’t wait to see someone they care about receive something they’ll enjoy! Our hope for this question is that preteens will stop and think not only about why being generous is important, but also how important our attitude can be when we give.

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

Opening Small Group Activity

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

What You Need: “Cheerful Challenge” Activity Page, paper plates, markers

What You Do:

- Welcome kids as they arrive and invite them to place their offering in the FATW bag.
- Explain that kids will take turns in a drawing challenge.
- Choose two kids to go first and direct them to sit, facing the group.
- Explain to the two kids that you will show them a card with a word of something they will draw. Tell them not to repeat the word out loud.
- Give both kids a paper plate and a marker.
- Direct them to place their paper plates on top of their heads, and explain they are to use one hand to hold the plate in place and the other to draw on the plate.
- Show both kids the same card from the “Cheerful Challenge” Activity Page and instruct them to begin drawing.
- When both are finished, invite them to hold their plates up for the rest of the group to see.
- Give the rest of the group an opportunity to guess what they were trying to draw.
- Once the correct answer is guessed (or shared if taking too long), allow the group to vote on which plate was a more accurate drawing of the item.
- Choose two more kids to take a turn.
- Continue playing until everyone has had a turn to draw or as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“Great job drawing and guessing! If you were drawing, it was challenging, and if you were guessing, it was also challenging. Things in our lives can be challenging, too, like giving something away when we don’t feel like it. [Transition] Today we are going to discover how we can be generous with a good attitude!”

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

Large Group Overview: In week 3, we take a look at Paul’s words in 2 Corinthians 9:7. Paul was writing to the church in Corinth, encouraging them to give. When we give, it pleases God—not just because of what we give, but because of the way we give it. When we give with a good attitude, we can help others see what God is like.

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

Bible Story Extension

[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 2 Corinthians 9:7), “Letter Conversations” Activity Page, prepared envelopes, prepared sticky notes

What You Do:

- Seat the kids in a circle.
- Ask the following questions to review the story:
 - Who wrote letters to the believers in the church at Corinth? (*Paul*)
 - Why did Paul write this letter? (*Paul wanted the Corinthian believers to be ready to give with the right attitude. Paul wanted to teach the believers how to use their money.*)

- Ask for a kid who would like to read out loud to the group.
- Give that kid the marked Bible to turn to 2 Corinthians 9:7 and read it out loud for the group.
- Divide kids into three groups by going around the circle and giving each kid a sticky note labeled 1, 2, or 3 – it's okay if the groups are a bit uneven.
- Ask all the kids to close their eyes and put their hands behind their backs.
- Walk around the outside of the circle and carefully slip envelope 1 underneath one of the kids' hands from team 1.
- Do the same for teams 2 and 3 with envelopes 2 and 3, ensuring kids have their eyes closed and hands behind their backs the entire time.
- Direct the kids to keep their hands behind their backs (all kids) and open their eyes.
- Inform each team to take turns guessing who from their team has a letter for their team.
- Once a team guesses correctly, all the kids on that team can move to another part of the group space to open their envelope.
- Let teams continue taking turns until they discover who has their team's envelope.
- Tell each group to have one kid open the letter and read it out loud.
- Encourage the groups to spend time discussing the question together.
- After some time, ask each group to put their letters back in the envelopes, and rotate them to another group. They will repeat the process, discussing the question in the next letter.
 - Repeat the process one more time, so that each group has an opportunity to respond to all three letters.
- If time allows, bring the group back together to review some of their responses to each question.

Make It Personal With Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Sticky notes, pens or pencils

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle.
- Ask the following question and invite discussion:
 - How can our attitudes make a difference in how we give?
- Share that one way we can continue to maintain a cheerful attitude is by asking God to help us.
- Hand each kid 10-15 sticky notes and a pen or pencil.
- Explain that they can take a few minutes to write positive messages and reminders to pray.
- Instruct kids to take them home and stick them around their bedrooms, inside their school binders, or any other place they might see them.
- Whenever they see a sticky note, it can be a reminder to ask God to help them be cheerful when they give.
- Say a prayer for the group.