Any Given Son . . . Day

**Bible:** Any Given Son . . . Day (God gave us Jesus) • 1 John 4:9-11
**Bottom Line:** Because God gave, I can give.
**Memory Verse:** “Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” 1 Timothy 6:18, NIV
**Life App:** Generosity—Making someone’s day by giving something away
**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

**Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience** *(9:00, 10:15, 11:30)*
**9:00 & 11:30**
**What’s That?**
- “What’s That?” Activity Page; 1 for each kid
- Markers

**10:15**
**Early Arriver**
- No supplies needed

**Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways** *(9:15, 10:30, 11:45)*
- Bible Presentation in Large Group

**Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect** *(9:40, 10:55, 12:10)*
**9:00 & 11:30**
**Gift or Re-gift**
- “Gift or Re-gift Images” paddles; 1 set for each kid

**10:15**
**Pass It This Way**
- “Pass It This Way” Activity Page; 1 for each small group
- Box with lid
- Wrapping paper
- Tape
- Small toys or candy to give away
- Place enough treats or small toys in the box for each kid to have one, and wrap the box prior to Groups.

**Prayer** *(9:50, 11:05, 12:20)*
- No supplies needed

**Dismiss** *(10:00, 11:15, 12:30)*
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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)
Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s Bible Truth.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray that during a season typically focused on the consumerism of presents and stuff, your few would see the importance of living a life of generosity. Thank God for giving us His Son and instilling in us a spirit of generosity.

9:00 & 11:30
What’s That?
Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “What’s That?” Activity Pages, markers

What You Do:
- Give each kid an Activity Page.
- Instruct kids to look at the pictures of wrapped packages and imagine what might be inside each one.
- In the boxes below the picture, kids can draw a picture of the gift they think is wrapped up in the picture.
- Encourage them to get creative and silly with their drawings! The things they draw don’t have to actually exist in reality.

What You Say:
“You guys were very creative with what you imagined was in those boxes. [Transition] Today in Large Group, we are going to hear about a gift God gave us that wasn’t what the people expected but was even better.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.
10:15
Early Arriver Idea
Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:
- Greet kids as they arrive
- Play “Would You Rather” with the group.
- Ask them the following questions, and for each one, indicate that one corner or side of your small group area is for the first answer, and a different part of your area is for the second.
  - Would you rather give your best friend a bike helmet or a book?
  - Give your mom a scarf or a mug?
  - Give your teacher candy or markers?
  - Give your neighbor a baseball or a hula-hoop?
  - Give your little cousin a coloring book or bubbles?
  - Give your dad a hammer or a frying pan?
  - Give your coach a shiny new whistle or a giant bottle of Gatorade®?
- Talk with the kids about giving and why we decide to give what we do.
- Mention that this time of year is often called “the season of giving.”
- If there’s time, discuss how thinking of what you can GIVE rather than what you’ll GET changes Christmas for yourself and others.

What You Say:
“You guys have some pretty strong opinions of what you would rather. I am very impressed about the things you hope to give this season. [Transition] Today in Large Group, we are going to hear about a gift God gave us that wasn’t what the people expected but was even better.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.
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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer
What You Need:
- Host
- Over-the-top Christmas outfit for Host
- 3 oversized boxes
- 3 different colors of Christmas wrapping paper
- 45+ loose paper “snow” balls
- 1-Minute Countdown

2. Bible Truth
What You Need:
- Historyteller
- 252 Story

3. Worship
What You Need:
- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):
- “Hosanna Rock”
- “Go Tell It”
- “Down to Earth”
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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)
Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: Play high-energy Christmas music as kids enter.
CG: Theme Slide

Host enters. He’s enthusiastically singing “It’s the Most Wonderful Time of the Year.” He forgets some of the lyrics and audibly mumbles them or hums at times. He should be extra loud when he sings actual words.

Opener
HOST: “December is FINALLY here. It feels like I’ve been waiting all year for this. And it’s not just the chestnuts by the fire or the boughs of holly, which—come to think of it—I don’t even know what that stuff is. But it doesn’t matter, because I LOVE December! All month long we get to celebrate the greatest gift ever given! You know that I’m talking about s’mores, right? (Beat.) No, of course not! I’m talking about JESUS! And when I think about this gift, it makes me want to give too. A big word for that is generosity, and it’s what we’re talking about all month long.

CG: Generosity Slide

“Generosity is making someone’s day by giving something away. I love to give gifts! And this morning, I think we should have a giving competition. I need six volunteers.

Choose six volunteers from the audience and bring them onstage. Split the volunteers into three teams and have them stand behind the starting line. As you give instructions, demonstrate what you want the volunteers to do.

“Starting behind this line, one person from each team will run down to your box and pick up ONE snowball—not three, not eight, but ONE snowball—and throw it into one of the other teams’ boxes. Then run back to your starting line and tag your teammate. Then they’ll run down to your box, remove a snowball, and try to throw it in another team’s box.
'You only get one chance to get the snowball into another box. If you miss, you have to leave the snowball where it is and run back to tag another teammate. The object of the game is to be generous and out-give the other teams. Whoever has the fewest snowballs in their box at the end of one minute wins.

“Got it? Audience, let’s count them down. Three, two, one, GO!

Optional CG: 1-Minute Countdown

Commentate as the teams play, getting the crowd to cheer for the different teams.

“Time is up! Everyone FREEZE! Let's see which team gave the most away.

Show the audience the contents of each box. The team in the center will most likely have the most items in their box. Thank them for playing and dismiss the team that clearly didn’t win.

With the two teams left, get an adult volunteer onstage to help count. With Host at one box and adult volunteer at the other, simultaneously pull an item out of each box, counting out loud. Whichever team has fewer items in their box is the winner. In the event of a tie, declare both teams as extraordinary givers. Dismiss the teams from the stage.

“See, giving is so much fun, and I can’t wait to hear what the Bible says about giving generously! Here to share that with us today is [Historyteller’s Name]."

Host exits as Historyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “I love to hear everyone singing praises to God. What a great way to start the morning. December is a fun month of the year, isn’t it? It’s also a perfect month to discover more about generosity.

CG: Generosity Slide

“Like [Host’s name] said earlier, generosity is making someone’s day by giving something away. And all month long, we see people being generous with the gifts they give to others. We make lists and go shopping for all sorts of presents we can give our brothers and sisters, moms or dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and our friends.

“Many of us make our own Christmas lists and put a lot of time into thinking about the gifts we want to get on Christmas, don’t we? On the count of three, everyone shout the one thing at the top of your Christmas list. One, two, three! (Pause.) Whoa! Those are great gifts.

“We can’t help but think about gifts and giving and generosity at Christmastime. Why is that?
(Pause.) Of course! Jesus! The month of December is a chance for us to take time out to celebrate God's love for us. It's what Christmas is all about! God showed us how much He loves us by sending Jesus! Jesus was His gift to us. We didn't do anything to earn it or deserve this gift; God just gave it.”

“I have a video for us today to tell us more about what the Bible says on the subject of Jesus as God's gift. Let's check it out.”

**CG: 252 Story**

**WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “I don’t know about you, but when I think about what God did for me when He sent Jesus, I want to figure out ways that I can live generously too! Check out today’s Bottom Line.”

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** “Because God gave, I can give.** God gave first. When we didn’t love or even care about God, God chose to love us! And we can love others and give just to make their day. But let’s be honest; this can be hard sometimes. Lots of times when we give to others, help them, or lend them something, we expect that they’ll do something similar for us. But God can help us give to others like He gave to us. Let’s pray and ask God to help us right now.”

**Prayer**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “God, thank You for showing us what it means to be generous by sending Your Son, Jesus. We did nothing to deserve the gift of forgiveness and grace, but You gave it freely. Help us to give to others with right motives, and may they see Your generous spirit within us. Thank You for first loving us. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, raise your hand and we will bring the bucket over to you.”

“Now, up on your feet and give some mad respect to our Power Praise team!”

*Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.*

**Worship**

**SFX: “Hosanna Rock”**

**SFX: “Go Tell It”**

**SFX: “Down to Earth”**

*Historyteller exits as Host enters.*

**Closer**

**HOST:** “I don’t know about you, but I learned a lot about giving for the right reasons today. But how do you think this might look in your life? Well, think about this, Paul a pastor that was alive at the same time Jesus was, wrote:
CG: Memory Verse Slide

“Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 1 Timothy 6:18, NIV.”

“Giving is not always about money or to hope that somehow you get something back in return. You can give a gift to a teacher hoping he will give you a better grade, OR you can give a teacher a gift just because you think he’s pretty great!

“You can help your mom with the dishes because you hope she’ll let you stay up late to watch a movie, OR you can do it because your mom is the best person ever and helping her do the dishes is just a tiny way you can help out around the house.

“Or how about your friends? You can invite a friend over because he has the newest video game you want to play and hope he brings it with him, OR you can invite him because you think he’s pretty great and would love to hang out with him—video games or not.

“When you give just to make someone’s day and show them you care, you are giving like God gave to us. Let’s look at that Bottom Line one more time.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Because God gave, I can give. This week, look for ways you can give. These don’t have to be amazingly awesome gifts. Even the simplest gifts and be a big gift in someone’s life. You’ll talk more about it in your small groups. Have fun, everyone! See you next week!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide
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Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)
Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

9:00 & 11:30
Gift or Re-gift
[Talk about God | Bible Review | Application Activity]
Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Gift or Re-gift” paddles; one set per child

What You Do:
- Gather the group in a circle and make sure they all have their voting plates.
- Then name some things that could be considered gifts. Ask kids to vote to either keep the gift (by showing the side of the sign with the pretty wrapped gift) or to re-gift the gift (by showing the sign with the old boot falling out).
- Some ideas: a new bike, a bike with old and bent tires, a tube of toothpaste, a 12-pack of socks, a scratchy wool sweater, a video game, a stuffed animal, 2 leftover slices of pizza, etc.

What You Say:
“For some people we know, it’s easy to choose to be generous and give them a good gift, like a video game or a gift card for ice cream. For others, it sure feels like they deserve to be re-gifted a stinky old boot. That’s why we need to give not just out of warm feelings or obligation for the holidays but to say, [Bottom Line] ‘Because God gave, I can give.’ For someone who’s not all that nice to you at school, what kind of gift do you want to give that person? (Take responses like: the old boot, the leftover pizza, etc.) But we aren’t generous with people just because we like them or they’ve been generous with us. We give because we are so thankful that God gave us Jesus, and we give to others so we can be more like God.

“You don’t have to buy a really nice gift for someone you’re not friends with, but you do have to be kind to them and help when they need help. Not because they’re your favorite person, but because God is generous to you. When we’re motivated by generosity, there are all kinds of ways to give. [Make It Personal] (Share about an age-appropriate time when you gave either a gift, time, or energy to someone with no expectation of something in return, or when you gave to someone who was actually a stranger or someone you didn’t get along with.) That’s when I really learned that [Bottom Line] because “God gave, I can give.”
10:15
Pass It This Way
[Talk about God | Bible Review | Application Activity]
Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: “Pass It This Way” Activity Page; wrapped box of small toys or candy

What You Do:
- Have a copy of the Activity Page ready.
- Arrange kids in a circle on the floor, and give the box to one of the kids.
- Read the Activity Page, and ask kids to follow the instructions by passing the gift to the right when the story says “right” or left when the story says “left.”
- When the final kid has the present, let him open the box, and then let each kid choose a toy or candy as their prize.

What You Say:
“That game was pretty fun, huh? Especially because everyone ended up with a gift in the end. The most important thing about the Christmas season is to remember that God gave the gift of His Son to everyone. He came so that everyone who would ever live on earth could know Him. God gave us the biggest gift of all, and [Bottom Line] because God Gave, I can give. We don’t have to give presents to everyone we know, but we can tell everyone about the best gift anyone ever got: Jesus.” [Make It Personal] (Tell kids about how you keep Jesus at the front of your mind among all the gift giving around Christmas time.)

All Service Times
Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)
[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]
Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:
- Ask kids what the word “generosity” means to them.
- Tell them that generosity is “making someone’s day by giving something away.”
- Ask your group to think about someone they know who is very generous.
- Let kids hold their hands out like they are offering something to someone as you pray.

What You Say:
“God, thank You for giving us the most amazing gift anyone could give—Your Son. Thank you that He came to show us how to live and then died for us on the cross. Please help us to remember this week when we see Christmas presents all around us that [Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give. We ask that You would help us to think more about what we are giving than about what we are getting this year. Amen.”

Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent Cue cards as adults arrive to pick up. As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids about the best gift anyone ever gave them.