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
Ultimate Christmas Tree
• 2 rolls of green crepe paper streamers
• Timer
• Christmas tree decorations

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
Wrapped Up!
• 2 objects that are difficult to gift wrap
• Several squares cut from wrapping paper; enough to wrap the 2 items
• Tape

10:15
Rich with Verses
• Bibles

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)
• Large square of wrapping paper
• Markers
• Sticky-backed bow

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)
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: 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
The Ultimate Christmas Tree
Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Several rolls of green crepe paper streamers, tinsel (optional), garland (optional), Christmas lights (optional), ornaments with hangers (optional), timer

What You Do:
• Divide the group into two teams, and ask each team to select someone to volunteer to become a “tree.”
  o Note: A Small Group Leader can be the tree.
• Then give each team a roll of the green crepe paper streamers and any of the decorating supplies.
• Teams must compete to finish decorating their “Ultimate Christmas Tree” by wrapping the tree person in streamers and then adorning them with any other decorations.
• Set 30 seconds on the timer.
• The first team with a completed tree or has the most completed tree at the end of 30 seconds wins.

What You Say:
“This sure gets us in the Christmas spirit, and we’ll be celebrating all month long. [Transition] Let’s go hear about what really matters most this month.”

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:
- Talk to kids about how good it feels to give a gift someone really loves.
- Ask kids what gifts they would give if they could give anything.
  - What’s something really special you would buy for someone?
  - If you could make something really cool, what would you make?
  - What’s something you would DO as a gift for someone if you could?

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.
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.

**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
   - Bible

3. **Worship**
   **What You Need:**
   - Power Praise Team

*Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*
   - “Hosanna Rock”
   - “Go Tell It”
   - “Down to Earth”
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.

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

"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: “December is a great month for us to discover more about generosity, which is—say this with me . . .

CG: Generosity Slide

HISTORYTELLER and KIDS: “Making someone’s day by giving something away.”

HISTORYTELLER: “Thanks! At this time of year, everyone seems to talk about their Christmas list—what they’re giving to other people and maybe what they hope to get themselves.

“Well, the Bible has a lot to say about generosity and showing love to others, like one of the verses we’re looking at today. 1 John 4:11 says: We should also love one another (NIRV). Showing love to others is a way to show generosity. But what does that look like in real life, especially for kids? You may be thinking, ‘What can I give away?’ Well, sometimes you have to think outside the box. You may not have a ton of money to give away or even a lot of things to share, but we all have things to offer that can make someone’s day. I have a few examples for you.”
GENEROUS LOCKS
HISTORYTELLER: “To start us off, let me tell you about a family I heard of this week, the Kannisto brothers.

CG: Kannisto Family Picture

“You see, these six brothers decided to grow out their hair so they could cut if off and give it away! In fact, growing their hair out that long took two years! And when their barber cut off their hair, the hair together was 17 feet long! Wow, right?!

“You may be thinking, ‘Why would anyone want someone else’s hair?’ Well, there are a few different organizations that collect hair donations in order to make wigs for people who have lost their hair due to medical conditions or treatments. This family chose an organization that focuses on helping children in particular. Can you imagine how great the day was for the children that received wigs thanks to the donation these boys and their mother made? Talk about generosity: giving your own hair away!”

LUCAS AND THE FOOD TRUCK
HISTORYTELLER: “Next, meet a boy I want to tell you about is named Lucas.

CG: Chef Lucas Picture

“Lucas was diagnosed with cancer a couple of years ago. When he was really sick, friends and family members really came through and served Lucas in his family in so many ways, including bringing food for his family. Lucas felt really loved by the way others served his family, so he decided he wanted to do the same for others.

“He was granted a wish by the Make-A-Wish® Foundation, and instead of using it to go on a fun trip or get something for himself—which, by the way, would have been great and completely understandable—Lucas chose to use his wish to give something away instead. His wish was for a food truck so he could give food away to others, including his local police department. Wow! I can’t imagine anything more generous than using your one wish to bring happiness to other people; especially when you’re battling a serious illness. But believe it or not, I have one more, true story that tops both of these amazing stories.

GOD GAVE
HISTORYTELLER: “This next true story is about someone who gave the most valuable thing He had—the thing He loved above everything else in the world—and that’s saying something, because He literally owns everything in the world. You might have guessed it by now, but yes, I’m talking about God, our heavenly Father. He gave us His only Son. He sent His Son Jesus to this earth as a baby to live just like us. And then that baby grew up and one day He gave His life for us when He on a cross for our sin.

“You see, you and I do wrong things, and those things separate us from God, who is perfect. Since God sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin, it’s now possible for us to be a part of God’s family forever. None of that would be possible if God hadn’t given us Jesus. There’s no greater example of generosity in the entire world.”
WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Do you remember earlier when I read you the last part of 1 John 4:11, which says: We should also love one another (NIrV)? Well, there’s a lot more to that passage, so I want to go back now and read it all.

“This is 1 John 4:9-11 (open your Bible and read from it). Here is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only Son into the world. He sent him so we could receive life through him. Here is what love is. It is not that we loved God. It is that he loved us and sent his Son to give his life to pay for our sins. Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another (NIrV).

“Did you catch that last part? Since God loved us this much, we should also love one another. To put it another way:

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Because God gave, I can give.”

“You may be thinking, ‘I don’t know how to give or what to give or if I even have anything to give,’ and we’re going to get into all of that throughout this month. But the most important thing for you to know when it comes to generosity is that you CAN give because God gave. Let’s talk to God right now.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for giving us Jesus. You didn’t have to. After all, You’re in charge of everything. But You chose to give away the most important thing You had. Thank You for sending us Jesus, and help us to remember how much You gave when we think we can’t give. We can give because You gave. In Jesus’ name we pray, 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: “Great singing, everyone! You can have a seat. Let’s think about something: why do we give?

“Well, we shouldn’t give because we’re trying to out-give someone else. And we shouldn’t give because we feel like we have to or because it’s just what people do this time of year. We give because God loves us so much and we want to share His love with others.”
“There are lots of ways to give too. It’s like what our memory verse says this month.

**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).

“Being generous is more than giving money. Being generous can mean so much more. God proved that with His most generous act of sending Jesus. And like our Bottom Line says:

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

[**Bottom Line**] “Because God gave, I can give. Say that with me.”

HOST and KIDS: [**Bottom Line**] “Because God gave, I can give.”

HOST: “We can do good things and share what we DO have because God gave to us.

“And the cool thing about that kind of generosity is you don’t have to wait until a major holiday to show it. You can share God’s love on Christmas Eve if you want, or the day after Christmas, or two weeks before, or this Tuesday at 3:27 in the afternoon. There is no bad time to be generous.

“I can’t wait to see how you guys give big this Christmas season. You’ll talk more about all of this in Small Group too. Have a great time together, and we’ll see you next time!”

*Dismiss children to their Small Groups.*
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.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)
9:00 & 11:30
Wrapped Up!
[Live for God | Application Activity: Class-wide]
Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: 4 objects that are difficult to gift wrap, several squares cut from wrapping paper, tape

What You Do:
- Divide the class into four teams and set the “gifts” across the room from them.
- Place the squares of wrapping paper and the tape next to the gifts.
- Each player will run to the wrapping station, pick up a single piece of wrapping paper, and use that paper to wrap part of the gift, sticking down the ends of the paper with tape. Then the player will run back to the team and tag the next person in line.
- Once the gift is fully wrapped and no part of it is showing anywhere, the team must all run to the gift, sit down around it, and sing the first verse of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas.” The first team to the end of the song wins.
- If you have mostly younger kids, choose smaller and softer “gifts.”
  - Start the wrapping yourself, almost covering the gift, and then let kids add a layer on their turn.
  - You could also let kids run down to the gifts in pairs and work together.
  - The first team to run out of wrapping paper squares is the winner.

What You Say:
“These were some big wrapping jobs! You really had to take them one piece at a time. That’s kind of like our Bible Truth today, too. The examples we heard of people who gave to others—and especially how God gave Jesus to all of us—were really huge! It would be easy for us to say that we can’t do anything that big or important. But what matters most isn’t just what we give but HOW we give. Did any of those people give to others because of how rich or strong or great they were? No, they gave because they loved. And certainly God didn’t give us Jesus so that we’d feel like we owe Him forever or to remind us of how tiny we are compared to Him. God gave out of love.

“What are some things you can give out of love? (Take responses like: my time playing with my younger siblings, toys I don’t need but that are still in good shape, doing my chores without being asked, etc.) While you can’t give anyone as great a gift as Jesus is, you can give to others out of love and generosity. When God gave us Jesus, He gave us the ability to love other people and to give unselfishly, just like He did. That’s one reason why [Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give.”
10:15
Rich with Verses
What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:
- Find the 1 Timothy 6:18 together and read it as a group.
- Then divide kids into four groups.
- Assign each group a sentence of the verse and have them work together to come up with actions to represent that part.
- After a few minutes, bring all the groups together.
- Instruct groups to sit in order of the verse based on which sentence they were working on.
- Let each group take a turn (in verse order) teaching the other groups the actions they came up with.
- Practice as a group saying the verse with the actions the kids invented.

What You Say:
“Sometimes it seems like God gives some people lots of things like money and nice houses and better cars or toys than He gives to other people, but He tells us that the people He has given more to should be the ones who share more of what they have been given with others. God equally gave everyone the most wonderful gift of all, His Son, and so [Bottom Line] because God Gave, I can give. God’s example shows us that whether we have a lot or a little, we should give some of what we have to help others.”

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: Square of wrapping paper, markers, sticky-backed bow

What You Do:
- Gather the group and set the square of wrapping paper in the middle, blank side up.
- Encourage kids to write something they’re thankful that God has given them and how they can give generously to someone specific this week.
- Fold the paper up and seal it with the bow; encourage the group to think of it as God’s gift of love that enables us to love and give to others.

What You Say:
“Dear God, thank You for giving us life and love and especially Your Son, Jesus. Thank You that You are always generous and good to us and have given us the things we’ve written down here. Please help us this week to look for ways to give as we remember that [Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, hand out Parent Cues and God Time Cards. Guide the kids to tell their parents the big job they have this month: to give generously like God gave generously to us.