Any Given Son . . . Day

Bible Truth: Any Given Son . . . Day (God Gave Us Jesus) • 1 John 4:9-11
Bottom Line: Because God gave, I can give.
Key Question: What do you have to 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 (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)
Just For Fun
• No supplies needed

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (9:10, 10:25, 11:40)
• Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)
9:00 & 11:30
Take a Snapshot
• “Gift Cards”; 2 for each student to have one card to write on
• Pens
• 5 feet of wide ribbon
• Tape
• Permanent marker

12:15
Discussion Questions
• No supplies needed

Prayer: Making it Personal (9:55, 11:10, 12:25)
• Flat ornaments

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

*Before the kids arrive, take some time to lift your small group time up to God today. As you get closer and closer to Christmas, their excitement and distraction level will start to increase, so pray that God will give you wisdom for how to best take advantage of this small group time early on in the month. Pray that your students would understand the concept of Jesus as a gift and how that can inspire us to give to those around us.*

**Just For Fun**
*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:**
- **Sit** together in a circle.
- **Ask** students to each choose a vegetable that begins with the first letter in their name. Choose one for yourself as well. The vegetables will now be everyone’s new name, so make sure there are no duplicates.
- **Play** the “Veggie Name Game”:
  - Say your veggie name twice then say the veggie name of another player twice. For example, “Zucchini, Zucchini; Broccoli, Broccoli.”
  - “Broccoli” continues by saying his or her name twice then choosing someone else. For example: “Broccoli, Broccoli”; “Potato, Potato.”
- **Before you begin,** tell the students that no one can show his or her teeth at any time.
  - They must completely hide their teeth with their lips.
  - If they spot someone’s teeth showing they can shout out, “Teeth, Teeth” and that person’s veggie name.

Depending on how you want to play, you can do an elimination process or points lost when teeth are shown.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.
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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer
What You Need:
- Host
- Christmas Sweater for Host
- Wall o’ Presents
- Two piles of empty wrapped Christmas presents
- Folding table

2. Bible Truth
What You Need:
- Communicator
- Bible
- Six wrapped gift boxes of various sizes
- Ribbon to attach the gift tags
- Several small wrapped boxes (jewelry-size, etc.) to put in the sixth box

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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Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)
Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: Play high-energy music as kids enter.
CG: 10-second countdown
CG: The Big Give Theme Slide

Host enters.

Welcome

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to The Base. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening (The Last Jedi – December 15), a viral video on YouTube, etc. (NOTE: As this is December, Christmas break is on the kids’ minds. Talk about anticipating the holiday break) Host tells them how excited he or she is that they’re there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what’s happening.

HOST: “Happy Christmas month, everybody! I love, love this time of the year! Everyone seems a little happier. Everything seems a little brighter, and the music is so peppy. Hey, why don’t you help me welcome the Power Praise team in this morning for some Praise and Worship, Christmas Style!”

WORSHIP
SFX: “Hosanna Rock”
SFX: “Go Tell It”
SFX: “Down to Earth”

Power Praise team exits as Host retakes the stage. Host transitions to the opening game.
Opener

HOST: “As we get started this morning, I need two teams of two right away to get a game started!

Host chooses two teams of two. Host introduces the kids to the rest of the audience.

“Alright, guys. So here’s how this will go down. I’m sure you’ve noticed the two piles of wrapped presents. Across the room, you’ll find a table. Your team must run the presents, one at a time, across the room and stack them on the table. Once you have stacked all of the presents as a team, you must carry the stack carefully back to the starting point. If the presents drop, you have take the presents back to the table and restack them on the table before trying to carry the stack again. Make sense? Any questions? Good! Ready, set, GO!

SFX: High-energy Christmas music

HOST: (After game) What a battle. But we have a winner! (To winners) You get to choose a prize from our Wall o’ Presents!

Host gives prize and then exits. Communicator enters.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, hey, everybody! Great to see you today. Can you believe it is December? Crazy! Alright, let’s be honest about something right out of the gate. How many of you made a Christmas list this year? Come on . . . be honest! (Look at hands.) Yep, there we go! I see those hands! You know what? Even I made a Christmas list this year!”

“But let’s find out . . . what is something on your Christmas list? Turn and tell the person next to you . . . NOW!”

Give kids a moment to share.

“I heard a lot of good things . . . I’m coming to your house for Christmas! So how about another question: have you ever had to get a gift for someone and you didn’t . . . dare to say . . . WANT to? Like a time where you HAD to get someone a gift?”

“Maybe you’ve got a friend and you’re thinking to yourself, ‘I know we are friends, but are we gift-giving kind of friends?’ And so you go to the store and wander around trying to take a guess at what your friend might like.”

“Or maybe you do a gift exchange in your family and you drew your third cousin’s boyfriend’s sister’s roommate’s uncle’s brother who you have NEVER met before. What are you supposed to buy for THAT guy?!”

Optional: This could be a great place to share a quick, appropriate personal story about a time when you had to give a gift to someone but didn’t really feel like it.
“Gift giving—man, it can be tough!”

TENSION COMMUNICATOR: “OK, so one more question as we get started this morning, and I know that this question might sound crazy, but just listen. Is it possible to give a gift in a way that you are actually the one getting something? (Beat) You are looking at me like I’m out of my mind. Let me show you what I mean. I need a volunteer.”

Calls a volunteer Small Group Leader up on stage.

TRUTH COMMUNICATOR: “Alright, this is my good pal, [Name], but for the next few moments let’s pretend that he/she is not a very good friend of mine. I kind of know who he/she is, but I don’t really know him/her at all. [Name] here has invited me to his/her birthday party, and I really have no interest in going, except I heard it is going to be at this amazing new trampoline place called Jump World. And I really want to go to Jump World! So I said I’d go. I even went to the store to get a gift—I can’t show up empty-handed after all. I wandered up and down the aisles before grabbing this . . .”

Picks up gift #1 from the Wall o’ Presents, which has a long string attached.

(To volunteer, unexcited) “Here. I got this for you.”

Hands gift #1 to volunteer.

“Now, you’ll notice there is something attached to the gift. Have you ever heard the phrase ‘with strings attached?’ What does it mean?”

Call on volunteer in the audience.

“Exactly, it means that when you are giving something, you are only doing it because of what you are hoping to get out of it. (To volunteer on stage) What string is attached to that gift I just gave you?”

Volunteer pulls the string until they get to the end, reading the tag.

(To audience) “So tell me, what kind of string was attached to that gift? (Pause for answers.) Yeah, it was less about what I gave to them and more about what I would get out of it: a sweet party at Jump World!”

“That’s what you might call giving when you are actually getting.”

Have volunteer return to his or her seat.

“How about another example? You’re on the basketball team, and it is almost the end of season one, but you will be playing two seasons for this team. Season one didn’t go so well; you thought you would have more playing time, but most of your time in games has been spent on the bench. At the end of the season, you talk your mom into buying a nice gift for your coach. You even take time to write a very
nice card to go with it."

Picking up gift #2.

“Well, you don’t say . . . another string.”

The Communicator pulls in the string and reads the tag.

(To audience) “So tell me, what kind of string was attached to that gift? (Pause for answers.) Nailed it—the gift was part of a guilt-trip for the coach. You only gave the gift to get more playtime next season.”

“Again, this would be giving when you are actually getting.”

“There are so many ways we can fall into this giving-when-you’re-getting trap.”

Communicator quickly picks up the gift, pulls in the string and reads the tags. Then moves on to the next.

Communicator picks up gift #3

“It could be a gift for a popular kid at school . . . (pull in string and read tag) ‘I gave you this gift so that the other people at this party will see what a good gift-giver I am and invite me to their future parties.’"

Communicator picks up gift #4

“It could be a gift for a teacher . . . (pull in string and read tag) ‘This gift should cause you to seriously consider when you are deciding between a B and an A on that next project.’”

Communicator picks up gift #5

“It could be a gift for a parent . . . (pull in string and read tag) ‘Let this gift expose a soft spot in your heart for when I ask that really huge favor next week.’”

“These are all examples of giving when you are actually getting.”

“But what about God? How does He give? I want to check out a few verses for today’s truth. These verses come from the New Testament in a letter called 1 John. It was written by John, as in the John who was a close follower of Jesus for over three years. Check this out.”

“(Read directly from 1 John 4:9-10, NIrV) 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.”

“Whoa! Did you catch that? What we celebrate this month at Christmas is the gift God gave. And what did God give? His very own Son: Jesus! Why? So we could have life and be WITH God!”

Communicator picks up the last gift and takes off the lid but don’t reveal inside the box.
“See, Jesus is God’s gift to us.”

Communicator turns lid to audience and reveals the word ‘JESUS.’

And what do you notice about this gift? (Holding it up.) Yeah, you’re right! This gift has no strings attached. This is not giving when you are actually getting. This is true giving. God’s motive . . . right there at the top of the verse . . . is His LOVE for us. God’s gift was a true gift of love. Love for us. Now, THAT is awesome.”

APPLICATION
COMMUNICATOR: “So what do we do with this? I mean, it is pretty amazing to understand how much God loves us, but is there anything we can do BECAUSE of this? I’m so glad you asked. Check out what John says in the very next verse.”

Communicator reads directly from 1 John 4:11

“Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another. (NIRV)”

“This is huge! God’s gift of love for us . . . Jesus . . . with no strings attached, should then cause us . . .

Opens the Jesus box and carefully dumps it out, revealing several smaller wrapped gifts.

“. . . to show that same kind of love to one another! God gave us love through Jesus; now we get to love one another.”

“Now, back to those gifts earlier. Maybe when we are invited to our ‘not quite a friend’s’ party, we should give a gift to them simply to celebrate them and to show love through our thoughtfulness. Or maybe we can give a gift to the coach without trying to earn playing time but to thank them for the time they’ve given to coach the team and to show them how much you appreciate him or her!

LANDING
COMMUNICATOR: “We are definitely in the season where we are thinking a lot about giving and getting gifts. Like we found out earlier, many of us have made Christmas lists with the things we want to get, but I want you to think about something different. God has been so generous in giving us Jesus, and He has asks us to give to others. So what do you have to give?”

CG: Key Question Slide

“What do you have to give? I have a feeling that if you take a few minutes to think about this, you'll think of all sorts of ways you can give to others. And if you’re having trouble, that's ok, too. You'll have a chance to talk more about all of it in Small Group. Right now is the time for you bring up any offering or tithe that you might have to give today.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.
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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 (Small Groups, 15 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
Take a Snapshot
[Live for God | Application Activity]
Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: “Gift Cards” Activity Page, pens, wide ribbon, tape, permanent marker

What You Do:
- Give each of the students a pen and a gift card.
- Ask them to write on the tag one thing they’re really hoping to receive for Christmas.
- As kids work, tape the ends of a 5-foot length of wide ribbon to the floor to create a line.
  - On one end of the ribbon, write the word “EASY,” and on the other end write the word “HARD.”
- Collect the cards that kids filled out and then mix them in with the pre-printed “Gift Cards.”
- Place all the “Gift Cards” face down near the line of ribbon.
- Let the students take turns picking up a Gift Card from the top of the pile, reading it, and then placing it on the line according to how easy or hard it would be for them to give away that item.
- Remind students there are no right or wrong answers; we all can feel differently about different things.
- When all the cards have been arranged, discuss with students:
  - Why are some things harder to be generous with than others?
  - Point to one of the Gift Cards. Who do you know (not yourself!) that would benefit by receiving this gift?
  - Out of all the things on the Gift Cards, what would you say is the hardest thing for you to share? What’s the easiest? Why?

Wrap Up and Say:
“True generosity is always a choice. It’s about turning loose of your stuff and deciding that you'll give so that someone else can have. That’s not always an easy choice. God has given us the perfect example of generosity—He gave us Jesus. No one out-gives God because no one loves more than God.”
10:15
Discussion Questions
[Talk about God | Bible Review]
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:
Ask:
- Who is the most generous person you know? Why does that person stand out in your mind?
- If it’s easy to give something away, is it an act of generosity or are you simply getting rid of stuff you don’t want?
- If someone asked you what the secret to generosity is, what would you tell that person?
- What is the most fun part about giving to others?
- Why is generosity such a big deal? Why is it important?

What’s one thing you can do this week to take a step toward being generous the way Jesus is?

All Service Times
Pray and Dismiss (5 minutes)
[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]
Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

Make it Personal with Prayer
[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]
Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Flat ornaments, Christmas tree

What You Do:
- **Encourage** acts of generosity during the month of December.
  - Each week, students will add an ornament, to the classroom “Giving Tree,” that focuses on one way they will demonstrate generosity in the coming week.
- **Ask:** Why is generosity so important? Why should we focus on it?
  - **Challenge** your group to plan one thing they can do this week to help them take a step toward becoming more generous.
- **Give** each student an ornament and scratching tool.
- **Instruct** them to write a brief description of something generous they want to do this week.
  - When finished, kids can write their name on the back.
- Before hanging the ornaments, let students **exchange** them with someone else in the group. Then ask everyone to sit down together.
- **Give** the students a few minutes to pray silently for the person whose ornament they’re holding then close, asking for God’s help to live in a generous way this week.
- As kids leave, **let** them put their ornament on the tree.
- **Hang** ornaments:
- Close with a prayer. Suggested prayer below:
Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son to us as the ultimate act of generosity. We want to be generous with others because You were first generous with us. You love us first and always. Help us this week to give because you gave and love because You have loved us. In your name we pray, Amen."