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
If…
• If You Take a Mouse to the Movies by Laura Numeroff

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
Big Hearts and Bows
• Gift-wrap bows with sticky back; about 10 for every child
• Upbeat Christmas music and a way to play it
• Note: Save the bows for use during Week 2 Groups Activity #1: Give!

10:15
True Riches
• Bibles marked at 1 Timothy 6:18
• Prestrung “Verse Ornaments” Activity Pages; 1 set for each small group
• “Christmas Tree” taped to the wall
• Blindfold
• Instrumental Christmas music
• Beaded garland or similar
• Tape

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)
• Gift-wrap bows; 1 for each kid

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
If . . .
Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: If You Take a Mouse to the Movies book

What You Do:
- Gather the kids around you and read the book to them, asking comprehension questions along the way.
- While reading the book, you might ask:
  - What do you think the mouse is going to want next?
  - How do you think the boy feels?
- After reading the book, you might ask:
  - What’s your favorite part of the book?
  - What did the boy give to the mouse?
  - Why do you think the boy kept giving to the mouse?

What You Say:
“What(7,12),(984,987) does it mean to be generous? (to give to others; to give a lot) Was the boy generous to the mouse? What were some things the boy gave the mouse? Who are some people who give to you? What do they give you? In our Bible Truth today, we’ll hear about someone who is SO generous toward us that He gave us the best gift ever! Let’s go to Large Group and learn more.”

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:**
- Invite kids to sit with you.
- Ask:
  - If you could give a gift to ANYONE in the world, who would you give a gift to?
  - What would you give them? Why?
- Encourage each child to share, but don’t force any child who’s reluctant.

**What You Say:**
“What does it mean to be generous? *(to give to others; to give a lot)* Who are some people who give to you? What do they give you? In our Bible Truth today, we’ll hear about someone who is SO generous toward us that He gave us the best gift ever! Let’s go to Large Group and learn more.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.
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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
• Painter’s tape
• 25-30 inflated red and green balloons in several large garbage bags

2. Bible Truth
What You Need:
• Historyteller
• Bible
• Volunteer/reader
• Magnetic whiteboard
• Easel
• Black dry erase marker
• Adhesive round magnets
• Red (cardstock) hearts

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, 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 wearing Christmas clothing.

Opener
HOST: “What’s going on, friends?! How we doing? Welcome, welcome to The Treehouse. My name is [Host's name] and today is a super, fantastic, amazing day. I can think of at least two reasons why today is a super, fantastic, amazing day. Do you want to know two reasons today is a super, fantastic, amazing day? (Put your hand to your ear.) Well, I'm gonna tell you, either way. Today is a super, fantastic, amazing day because ONE, it's DECEMBER—the best month of the entire year—and TWO, our praise and worship time takes on a bit of a Christmas flair. Help me welcome the Power Praise team in for our Christmas edition of Praise and Worship.

Power Praise team enters as Host joins the audience.

Worship
SFX: "Hosanna Rock"
SFX: "Go Tell It"
SFX: "Down to Earth"

Power Praise team exits as Host retakes the stage.

HOST: “Whew! Love Christmas time. Hey, I thought of a third reason today is super fantastic. The THIRD reason is…we start a whole new Life App today. And it's a good one. Let's check it out!

CG: Generosity Slide

“Generosity is making someone’s day by giving something away. Raise your hand if you’ve ever heard the word generosity. Awesome! That’s a lot of us. Generosity happens when someone gives away
something like their time or money or even toys in order to make the other person feel great! Let’s read that definition together!”

HOST and KIDS: “Generosity is making someone’s day by giving something away.”

HOST: “That’s it! You can show generosity all sorts of ways. You can gather up some of those toys you don’t play with anymore and give them away. You can let your little brother have the biggest slice of pie. You can even use your own money to buy a gift for someone who might not get many gifts this Christmas. Generosity is actually something that God showed to us through Jesus! Let’s read that definition one more time!”

HOST and KIDS: “Generosity is making someone’s day by giving something away.”

SFX: Upbeat Christmas game music

HOST: “Heeeey! Do you guys hear that? That music means it’s time to play a game. And today’s game is called ‘The Generous Neighbor.’ In just a second, when I tell you to, you will stand up where you are. The room is divided into two sections by this (indicate tape) strip of tape. If you’re standing on this side, (indicate one side of the room), you’re the red balloon team. And you’ll face the other side (indicate the other side of the room), which is the green balloon team, and they will face you.

“On my count, we’re going to release a bunch of red and green balloons. As the generous neighbors that I know you are, your goal is to send as many of YOUR color of balloons to the other side as possible. When the buzzer stops, time is up!

“Everybody stand up.

Instruct Small Group Leaders from each side of the room to take the garbage bags and release the balloons at the same time.

“Let’s see how generous you can be to your neighbors! Ready, set, go!

Cheer on each side. If a balloon goes behind the kids, SGLs should throw it back into the center of the room.

SFX: Stop music after a minute
SFX: Buzzer

“Okay, okay! No more hitting balloons. Let’s do a count! I need some Small Group Leaders to count how many of the other team’s balloons are on each side.

Small Group Leaders count the balloons and let Host know the number.

“And the most generous neighbor award goes to the [color] team! You gave the MOST balloons to your neighbors. As we pass those balloons to the leaders on the sides, let’s give everyone a round of applause and head back to our seats.”
Cheer and clap as the kids come back to their seats. SGLs should quickly collect the balloons, stuff them into the bags, and remove them from the room.

“All right, everybody! Great job celebrating everyone’s generosity! Now, keep that excitement up as we welcome [Historyteller’s Name].”

Historyteller enters as Host exits. Historyteller can set up the easel and whiteboard while setting up the Bible Truth.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH
HISTORYTELLER: “Hey, everybody! My name is [Historyteller’s name], and I’m so glad you’re hanging out with us today in [your environment’s name]. Now, I know you guys have already heard that we’re starting a brand new Life App today. Anyone remember what it is? (Hold hand to ear.) That’s right! It’s generosity. Let’s read that definition together.”

CG: Generosity Slide

HISTORYTELLER and KIDS: “Generosity is making someone’s day by giving something away.”

HISTORYTELLER: “Let’s practice generosity right now by giving your neighbors a quick high-five and telling them you’re happy to see them. (Pause.) There you go. Generosity can be a lot of fun!

“I want to share a Bible Truth with you today—one about generosity. It’s actually a few verses in the Bible. And I’d like to generously give someone in the room the opportunity to read those verses for us today. Would anyone like to come up and read for us?

Bring up a third grade student who you know will be comfortable reading aloud. Introduce them to the rest of the kids and hand them the Bible.

(To volunteer) “While you read from the Bible, we’re going to follow along on the screen.”

SCRIPTURE READING
CG: 1 John 4:9-11

VOLUNTEER: “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 (1 John 4:9-11 NIrV).”

HISTORYTELLER: “Good job! Everyone give our reader a hand while he sits back down. (To volunteer) Thanks for your generosity! (To audience) When you read this passage, you might wonder what it has to do with generosity.

“Well, check it out. These verses from the book of 1 John started out as a letter from John, one of
Jesus' first disciples, to people who were starting the first churches ever. John wanted them to remember a few things about God’s love for us and how we can show that love to others. And that love has EVERYTHING to do with generosity. Let’s find out why together.”

**GOD LOVED, SO GOD GAVE**

Using large letters, write the word “US” on the whiteboard.

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Can you guys read this word right here? What does it say? (Pause for response.) That’s right: us. This board represents us.

*Draw a stick figure person.*

“And there are a lot of ‘us-es’ in this room. But this us means all of us: everyone in this room and everyone outside of this room.

“Let’s take another look at the first two verses for today and check out what John says that God wanted US to know.

**CG: 1 John 4:9-10 Slide**

(Open Bible and read 1 John 4:9-10.) “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 (NIrV).

“God wanted all of US (point to the word on the board) to know that He really, really, REALLY loves us. So much so that God made it possible for us to have a relationship with Him.

*Begin placing magnet hearts all over the board (covering up the word) as you go through this next section.*

“We do things that are wrong sometimes. God is perfect, and the wrong things we do make us not perfect, which keep us from having a relationship with God. But the amazing thing is that God wanted the entire world to know something. God made it clear that He still loves us and still wants a relationship with us. With that love in mind, God did something extreme. He did something amazing. He did something generous. In order to show us how much He loves us, God sent His one and only Son into the world to die on the cross and be raised back to life. When we believe that, we get to spend now and forever with God. To put it simply, God loved, so God gave. Say that with me.”

**HISTORYTELLER and KIDS:** “God loved, so God gave.”

**HISTORYTELLER:** “That’s right. God sent His only Son to show us how much He loved us.

*The board should be filled with red hearts. Face the audience, but reference the board.*

“That's a LOT of love.”

**IF WE LOVE, WE GIVE**
HISTORYTELLER: “But John didn’t stop there, did he? He had something else to say. Let’s take a look at that final verse again.

CG: 1 John 4:11 Slide

(Open Bible and read 1 John 4:11) “Dear friends, since God loved us this much, we should also love one another (NIrV).

“It’s not, ‘God loved us, so the end! Live your life however you want!’ No, John is telling us something really, really important. God loved us FIRST. Because of that great love, God says that WE should be generous with how we love others, too.

Remove a handful of the hearts from the magnetic board.

“God says we should love other people . . .

Start handing out heart magnets to random people in the audience.

“. . . not because they do nice things for us, not because they love us first, not because they’re easy to love. God tells us we should love other people because He loved us first and loves us no matter what. That’s the most generous kind of love—a love that’s free forever. That’s generosity!”

Hand out the last heart.

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH
HISTORYTELLER: “I don’t know about you, but sometimes I can’t believe how much God loves us. He loves us so much—loved us before He even knew us—and He loves us even when we mess up. And because of His great and generous love for us, we can love other people, too. It’s like our Bottom Line for today:

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Because God gave, we can give. Let’s say it together.”

HISTORYTELLER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Because God gave, we can give.”

HISTORYTELLER: “We can be generous to others because God has been so generous to us. That sounds like our memory verse. Let’s read that together.”

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.”

HISTORYTELLER: “When we show others generosity, we show them love. This isn’t always easy. How about we pray and ask God to help us all be generous?”
Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “God, You proved your generosity and love for us when You sent us Your Son, Jesus. You loved us before we even knew You. And You continue to love us, even when we mess up. God, help us to be like You. Help us to love others no matter what. Help us to be generous to them and to give without expecting anything in return. Help us give to others because You gave to us. We pray this in Jesus’ name, amen.”

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

Historyteller exits as Host enters.

Closer

HOST: “Hey, everyone! How cool is God’s love for us? He went above and beyond. His love is the most generous love around. Because of God’s generous love to us, we can be generous with how we show love to the people around us. But how do we do that? Well, it’s Christmastime, so right there we have an opportunity to send Christmas cards or make Christmas presents for our friends and family.

“But we can be generous no matter what time of year it is. Let’s take a look at the Bottom Line one more time.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

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

“We can be generous and give with our words. We can tell our teachers how much we appreciate all they do for us without anyone asking us to. We can tell our friends how amazing they are.

“We can be generous and give with our choices. We can let our friend decide which movie we watch when we hang out or what game to play at recess.

“We can even be generous and give with our time. Instead of playing a video game, we can help our parents make dinner or clean the living room. We can help a brother or sister clean up after playing a board game. There are so many ways to be generous. And when we think about how generous God has been with us, it’s not hard to do.

“You’re about to go to Small Group, where you’ll talk about all sorts of ways you can show generosity to people in your life. Have fun together, and we’ll see you next week!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide
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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 (10 minutes)
9:00 & 11:30
Big Hearts and Bows
[Talk about God | Bible Review | Application Activity]
Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Gift-wrap bows, upbeat music

What You Do:
- Guide each child to find a partner.
- Tell kids they’re going to play a “race the clock” game to practice generosity.
- Give each child about 10 bows and guide the kids to take the paper backing off the sticky part of the bow and stick the bows to themselves on their arms, legs, and backs. (Avoid sensitive areas and the face/top of the head.)
- Encourage kids to help each other as needed.
- When you play the music, lead the kids to race to take bows OFF themselves and stick them ONTO their partners. It will be a zany, giggly dash as the kids strive to out-give each other!
- Time ends when you stop the music.
- Congratulate the kids for working hard to be generous!
- Collect the bows by asking the kids to stick them onto you or another leader.
- Note: Save the bows for use during Week 2.

What You Say:
“What does it mean to be generous? (to give to others, to give a lot, to give to others because God gives to us) You guys worked hard to be generous and try to give more bows to your partners. Way to go! What are some other things you can give to others? (Kids may name concrete things like presents, clothes, food, pictures, etc. Encourage them to also consider non-concrete things like friendship, hugs, smiles, or kind words.)

“You can be generous and give to others because God made you to be like Him, and He is very, very, VERY generous. How is God generous to you? (He gives me a family, a home, food, and clothes; He takes care of me; He gave me Jesus.) Why do you think God so generous? (He loves me.) Yes! God is generous because He loves you. His love for you is bigger than this world! His love for you is bigger than you can imagine! Everyone give yourself a hug because God loves you so much! (Pause.)

“So remember, because God loves you, and [Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give.”
10:15
True Riches
[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, “Verse Ornaments” Activity Pages, “Christmas Tree”, blindfold, instrumental Christmas music, tape, beaded garland or similar

What You Do:
• Give each child a Bible. Help kids look up and “read” the verse using the tips below.

  Finding verses with kindergartners: Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word 1 Timothy at the top of the page as you say “1 Timothy” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 6 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 6 for the little 18; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

  Finding verses with 1st graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find 1 Timothy in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that 1 Timothy starts with the number 1 followed by the letters T-I. When the kids find 1 Timothy, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find 1 Timothy. Help the kids find the page. When they find 1 Timothy, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 6. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 18 in chapter 6. Read the verse aloud, and then lead everyone to say the verse together.

• Point out the “Christmas Tree” and guide the kids to line up a few feet away.
• Distribute the “Verse Ornaments” down the line and in order, helping kids read each one.
• In “Pin the Tail on the Donkey” fashion, blindfold the first child in line, spin him around once or twice, and guide him to “walk” to the Christmas tree and “hang” his ornament.
• Continue until every ornament is on the tree.
• Next, invite kids to take turns using the garland to connect the ornaments in order. Reinforce the verse by guiding kids to say each word or phrase as they connect the ornaments.
• End by saying the completed verse together.

What You Say:
“1 Timothy 6:18 says: Command the rich to do what is good. Tell them to be rich in doing good things. They must give freely. They must be willing to share. What do you think it means to be ‘rich in doing good things’? (Kids may be stuck for answers. That’s okay. Give them a few seconds to ponder and get their brains going, and then continue.) Do you think being ‘rich in doing good things’ means that God wants you to always be ready to do good things for others?

“What are some good things that you can do for others this week? (I can share with my sister; I can help others when they need help; I can be kind; I can give hugs; I can play with my brother.) You guys are so generous! So this week, remember: [Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give.”

Note: Save the tree for Week 3 Groups Activity #3: Give Freely.
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: Gift-wrap bows

What You Do:
- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Place a bow on each child. (You can place them on their shoulders, on their backs, on their tummies, on their heads, or even on their noses!)
- As you do, say the Bottom Line and insert each child’s name. (“Because God gave, Eli can give. Because God gave, Janelle can give.”)
- Use the conversation below to lead kids into prayer.

What You Say:
“The Bible tells us that God loved us SO much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to give His life to pay for our sins. Since God loves us THAT much, we should love others, too. And that’s what being generous is all about. It’s sharing God’s love with others because God loves us and gave us Jesus. So remember: [Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give.

“Dear God, thank You that You love (name each child) SO much that You sent Your Son, Jesus. Thank You, Lord, for being so generous that You sent Your only Son to pay for our sins. Since You were so generous to us, help us be generous to others, too. Because You gave, help us give. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.”

Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent Cue cards as adults arrive to pick up. As parents notice the bows, encourage kids to tell their parents today’s Bottom Line: [Bottom Line] because God gave, I can give.