

Someone's Gotta Give

Bible: Someone's Gotta Give (Be rich principle) • *1 Timothy 6:18*

Bottom Line: Look for creative ways 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 should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

9:00 & 11:30

Early Arriver

- Beach ball
- Small ball or beanbag

10:15

Spy It

- 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

Ribbon Tangle

- Bibles
- Long spool of thin ribbon

10:15

Countdown to Christmas

- "Countdown to Christmas" Activity Page; 1 for each kid
- "Countdown to Christmas Boxes" Activity Page; 1 for each kid
- Markers
- Tape

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- Mini-stockings; 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)

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to give your group creative and fun ideas for ways they can be generous and rich in good deeds. Pray that God would remind you of ways your few can use their time, talents, and energy to be generous toward others. Thank God for giving you that opportunity through leading your group.

9:00 & 11:30

Early Arriver Idea

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Beach ball, small ball

What You Do:

- Greet kids as they arrive.
- Ask them what they think the word "creative" means. Have they ever done something creatively?
- Give the group the beach ball and the small ball.
- Designate a point in your small group area as the goal.
- Give them a few rules:
 - Everyone has to touch each ball on its way to the goal.
 - No one can touch it twice.
- Play again, letting them make their own rules and encouraging them to challenge themselves.
- Discuss how it's fun to exercise the creativity that God gave us by looking at things from a new perspective. How could they be creative in other areas of their lives?

What You Say:

"Man you guys were super creative! When you change how you look at something, you're using creativity. **[Transition] Let's go hear about another way we can use our creativity at Christmastime.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15**Spy It**

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Play a game of “I Spy” with your group.
 - First, start the game yourself and choose something pretty normal: a door, someone’s shoes, a picture close by, etc.
 - Describe it to them in the most creative way possible: a portal, a floor-to-human interface, a moment frozen for all time, etc.
- The kids think they know this game, so make it as creative as you can!
 - “I spy something you would need in a basketball court but not at a dirtbike race” for a wood floor.
 - “I spy the most invasive species of craft supply known to humankind” for a jar of glitter.
- After kids have gotten the idea, let them have a turn spying everyday things but describing them as creatively as possible while the rest of the group guesses.

What You Say:

“That was a fun version of this game. When you change how you look at something, you’re using creativity. **[Transition] Let’s go hear about another way we can use our creativity at Christmastime.**”

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
- Festive clothing for Host
- 2 stacks of wrapped Christmas presents

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- Bible
- 3 boxes with the following props:
 - Box 1: Preschool-age toys (large blocks, picture book, small mitt, ball, etc.)
 - Box 2: Non-perishable food items (can be gathered from your own pantry or purchased and later donated to a food pantry: macaroni and cheese, cookie or brownie mix, canned goods, etc.)
 - Box 3: Cleaning supplies (gloves, bathroom cleaners, mop bucket, trash bags, etc.)

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 music as kids enter.

CG: Theme Slide

Host enters with lots of energy.

Opener

HOST: "One more week! Woo-HOO! Who in here is pumped that we've got just one more week until Christmas? I know I am. Although I've got a lot I've got to get done before the big day. All of this talk about generosity has me inspired. I am determined to get every single friend and family member the best, most creative gift possible! And speaking of creativity, do I have a game for you.

"I have a game this morning that will test your creativity, your agility, your generosity! After all, generosity IS what we're talking about this month.

CG: Generosity Slide

"Generosity is making someone's day by giving something away. As you can see, I have these stacks of presents here. Each of you needs to give your gift away by moving it to the other team's side. BUT you have to go one at a time, and you can't touch the present with your hands. If it touches the floor you have to start over. You can, however, have a teammate help you by placing the present for you. For example, you could get down on your back and crab walk with your hands and feet. You could have a friend put the present on your stomach, and then you'd be able to bring the present over to the side. But that's just one idea! The sky is the limit, so use your creativity to give those gifts away! Does everyone understand? Any questions? Great! Let's divide into two teams.

Divide the room into two teams and have each team stand opposite each other next to their stack of gifts.

"On your marks, get set, go! Give those gifts away!

CG: Upbeat Christmas music

Celebrate with the winning team who gets all the presents delivered to the other team's side first.

"That was awesome! You guys have some amazing creativity, which will come in handy with today's Bible Truth. Which, by the way, it is time for, right now! Please welcome to the stage, the amazing, the honorable, the wise.. [Historyteller's Name]."

Host exits as Historyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: "God has a lot to say to us in the Bible about being generous. I want to share one of those verses today. It also happens to be our memory verse this month. This verse was originally part of a letter that a pastor named Paul sent to a younger pastor named Timothy. Paul was trying to help Timothy become a better pastor and care for the people in his church. Let's take a look at that verse.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

(Open your Bible) "1 Timothy 6:18 says: Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. (NIV).

"Now, I think I might have an idea of what you're thinking. The verse says, 'Command them to do what is good.' And I imagine that most of you are thinking, 'Who exactly are 'THEM?'."

Well, let's take a look at the verse that comes before this one. 1 Timothy 6:17 reads:

CG: 1 Timothy 6:17

'Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.'

HISTORYTELLER: "Let's reread the first 5 words: 'Command those who are RICH.'"

Now, I bet I know what you are thinking. 'Well, that doesn't apply to me. I'm just a kid. I'm not rich.' But I'm here to tell you today that you ARE rich—just maybe not in the way that you think of being rich. This isn't about money. It's about much more than that.

"I've brought these presents today to show you just how rich you are."

TOY BOX

*Move behind the table and stand behind the first present.
Begin slowly pulling the toys out of the box.*

HISTORYTELLER: "Does anyone have an idea what these might represent? Yes, they're toys. Now, does anyone notice anything in particular about these toys? *(Pause to see if they notice anything.)* Yes, these are toys for younger children, right? Maybe kids who are in preschool? Are these the sorts of toys you play with now? Of course not! And if they're not toys that you'd play with, why would I bring them

today?

“Maybe they can have something to do with generosity? What do you think? How could you be generous with preschool toys? *(Get responses. NOTE: Adjust what you say based on their responses.)* Yes, you could give them away if you’ve outgrown them, but I want you think outside the box. What’s something you could do with your time?”

“You could take some of the time that God has given you each day to play with your younger brother or sister, right? There’s nothing a little brother loves more than when his big brother plays a game of catch with him or when his big sister reads a book to him. Or maybe there’s a mom in your neighborhood who has a lot of little kids, and they could use a big kid like you to come play with them sometimes. There are a lot of ways to show generosity to someone who is younger than you.”

FOOD BOX

Move behind the second box and begin pulling out the food items.

HISTORYTELLER: “What do you think these items could be used for? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, you could use these to make a meal for someone. Maybe you could offer to help your mom or dad make dinner to give them a break. Or maybe you could make cookies for your Small Group Leader or your teacher! Or you could ask your parent if you could look in your pantry at home to see if you have any extra food you don’t need that you could donate to a local food pantry where they help people who don’t have enough food. You could even use some of your allowance to buy food to donate yourself. I bet you could think of a lot of ways you could use the things in this box to be generous with your cooking talents and the extra things your family has.”

CLEANING BOX

Move behind the third box and begin pulling out the items.

HISTORYTELLER: “Here’s our last box for today. How could you be generous with these items? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes, you could help your parents clean the house. Maybe you could even help clean a bathroom or two! At school, you could offer to help your teacher clean up your classroom instead of immediately running to recess each day. You don’t even need all these cleaning products. Just picking up after yourself and throwing any trash you see left behind by others can make a HUGE difference! You can use all that energy God has given you to BE RICH and make a difference in the world.”

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “You can be generous in good deeds without spending a dime. And those good deeds often mean more to someone than an expensive gift ever would. Let’s read that verse together one more time.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

(Open your Bible) “1 Timothy 6:18 says: *command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. (NIV).*

“All of us in here can be rich when we share what we have with others. And what are the things that we have? We have our time, our love, our energy, our creativity, and yes, we even have some THINGS and money that we can pair with all of that to really make a difference in someone’s day. It just takes a little bit of creativity to be generous. It’s like our Bottom Line for today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Look for creative ways to give.

“I can’t wait to hear about all the ways that you guys give this week. It’s not too late to come up with some creative gifts for Christmas, of course, but don’t let it stop there. Let’s ask God for help finding creative ways to give all through the year.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for all that You have given us. Sometimes we may feel we don’t have a lot extra to be generous with, but the truth is, we all have SOMETHING we can share with others to make their day. Help each of us look for creative ways to give, not just at Christmas, but also all through the year. In Jesus’ name, we pray, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, you can bring that on up now.”

“Now, up on your feet and be extra generous with your praise and worship to Go!”

Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.

Worship

SFX: “Hosanna Rock”

SFX: “Go Tell It”

SFX: “Down to Earth”

Power Praise exits as Host enters.

Closer

HOST: “Did you ever think you could be rich even if you don’t have a lot of money? You can! In fact, you can be rich with no money at all. Like Paul told Timothy, you can be rich in doing good things. We can do good things no matter how much money we have.

“You can give someone your time, your talents, and your energy, all for the low, low price of free. You just have to get creative, that’s all. So here’s the one thing to remember today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Look for creative ways to give. Say that with me.”

HOST and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Look for creative ways to give.”

HOST: “Awesome! Look for ways to love each other that don’t cost a dime. Be rich in doing good things and as you do, you’ll be spreading the wealth of love and kindness. And those can go a long way. We talked about a lot of ways you can give of your time already, but you will think about even more with your Small Group. I can’t wait to hear what you come up with and how it catches on with your friends, family, and beyond. Have a great week, everyone! See you next time!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)**9:00 & 11:30****Ribbon Tangle****[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:** Spool of ribbon, Bibles**What You Do:**

- Look up 1 Timothy 6:18 in your Bibles and say it out loud together.
- Keep the Bibles open to that verse so kids can refer to it during the game.
- For the game:
 - Help them to stand in such a way that they create a shape like a star, tree, or a heart.
 - If they succeed in making a cool shape, take a picture from above the shape so they can see how neat it looks.
- At the end of the game, collect all the ribbon so it's not a distraction.

What You Say:

“That was a creative way to say our verse, and it looked really cool too! Our verse was also our Bible Truth this week, which is pretty great, because I’ve had some questions about this verse! What does it mean to be rich in doing good deeds? *(Pause for answers.)* Those seem like interesting ideas. I definitely want to have a ton of good deeds piled up around me! What about ‘give generously?’ Is there a way that you give not generously? What do you think? *(Pause for answers.)* So giving generously is about giving without expecting something back. But what if you’ve done what we’re talking about this week, and you **[Bottom Line] look for creative ways to give**, and you put a ton of time and effort and creativity into a gift, and someone still doesn’t say thank you or even realize how awesome your gift is? What do you do then? *(Pause for answers.)* Yeah, that can feel pretty crummy.

“But if we’re giving generously, we don’t actually have to worry about being thanked or appreciated. We’re giving just to be generous, like God has been generous to us. Our verse doesn’t say anything about the people you give to, just the way that you give. That definitely helps me. Generosity allows me to be kind and compassionate without looking for anything in return.”

Optional Additional Discussion Questions

- Have you ever felt that your creativity has run out or that you just don’t have what it takes to be creative in giving to others? Where do you think creativity and skill come from? *(Encourage kids to talk about how creative God is and how we’re made in His image.)*
- Read Exodus 31:1-6. God wanted His people to make a beautiful meeting place for Him—a sacred and special tent that people could go to and worship God. The only problem was no one had ever seen or heard of anything like it. But God gave two leaders incredible skill and creativity so that they could teach others and the holy tent could be made from rich and beautiful materials.
- If God could give creativity and skill to two people in the desert who were trying to build a meeting tent, do you think He could give it to you? Why? Have you ever asked?
- Read James 1:5. Do you think creativity is like wisdom? How do you think God would give it to you?

10:15**Countdown to Christmas****[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Countdown to Christmas” activity page, blank square cutouts (8 per child), markers, tape, and completed sample craft.

What You Do:

- Give each kid a copy of Countdown to Christmas activity page.
- Let kids know that they will be making an advent calendar to count down to Christmas.
- Ask if anyone has an advent calendar at home that they’ve been using to count down.
- Pass out the blank squares; 8 per child.
- Ask kids to number the blank squares 1 through 8.
- Tell kids to tape the number squares over the verse boxes, in order, with one piece of tape at the top of each box.
- When all of the verse boxes have been covered, give kids a few minutes to color and decorate their advent calendars.

What You Say:

“I bet you are all very excited for Christmas to finally be here! This week, hang these calendars in your room and use them to help you keep track of how many days are left until Christmas. Every day, tear off one of the number flaps and practice the piece of the verse that is printed below, as well as the parts printed in the days before. By the time Christmas is here, you will have memorized the whole verse! This verse tells us to be rich in doing good, not rich in things or rich in money. These calendars can also be a way to help you to remember to **[Bottom Line] look for creative ways to give.** Remember this week that it’s not about what you get, but what you can give to 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:** Mini-sockings**What You Do:**

- Give each child a mini stocking.
- Ask kids to pray a sentence prayer asking God to help them **[Bottom Line] look for creative ways to give** this week.
- Challenge them to find a way to give something that fits into this tiny stocking to someone they want to show generosity to.
- Close in prayer.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for how creative You are. When You sent Jesus as a baby on Christmas, it was the most generous and creative gift in history! Please help us to be generous this week and to **[Bottom Line] look for creative ways to give**. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, invite families to help come up with a gift that fits in the stocking and a recipient to give the stocking to. Give each family a Parent Cue and give each child a God Time Card.