

Someone's Gotta Give

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

Bottom Line: Look for creative ways to give.

Key Question: What are some ways you can give this Christmas?

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)

9:00 & 11:30

Just For Fun

- No supplies Needed

10:15

Get Your Head in the Game

- Rolls of tape for students to share
- Blindfolds
- 1 permanent marker
- Wrapping paper that has been cut into 2-foot sections; one identical section per child

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

- Sheet of chart paper or a large piece of paper
- Marker

10:15

Bible Extension

- Bibles
- 20 pennies
- 1 metal bowl or container

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

- 12" section of aluminum foil for each student
- Permanent markers

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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 students arrive, take a few moments to pray that they would be able to think creatively today. Pray for that one student who doesn't have much confidence in his or her ability to be creative and will be stretched by today's discussion and activities. Pray that your group will work together well and walk away armed with tools to creatively give this week.

9:00 & 11:30

Get Your Head in the Game

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

What You Need: Wrapping paper, tape, blindfolds, permanent marker

What You Do:

- **Give** each student a piece of the pre-cut wrapping paper and place the rolls of tape within reach.
- **Ask** everyone to remove and wrap one of his or her shoes in the wrapping paper, making sure the package is taped up well.
- **Collect** the wrapped shoes and place them in a pile.
- **Ask** everyone to sit in a circle around the pile.
- **Blindfold** one student then rearrange the pile of shoes.
- **Ask** the student wearing the blindfold to reach into the pile and try to find his shoe from among the others. He can carefully squeeze the shoes but cannot tear the wrapping paper.
- **Remove** the blindfold and let the student write his name on the wrapping paper of the shoe he chose. *Don't unwrap the shoes until everyone has had a turn being blindfolded and writing his name on the shoe he think is his. It's okay if more than one kid marks the same shoe.*
- When everyone has had a turn, **distribute** a shoe to each person.
- Before they unwrap their shoes, **tell** students to read any names written on the paper.
 - Those who guessed correctly can have their shoes back.
 - Everyone else must wait until they return from Large Group (if this works for your environment and location).

Wrap Up and Say:

"It's easy to go through December and not think much about Jesus' birth because we've heard the Christmas story so many times before. We know about the angels, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds—it's as familiar as a shoe you wear every day. But when we stop and take the time to look at Christmas in a fresh way, it's as if God rewraps the truth of Jesus' birth and helps us discover something fresh and new that we hadn't noticed before. Today we want to do some fresh and creative thinking about Christmas and the perfect opportunities it brings to share God's generosity with those around us."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15**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:**

- **Ask** a variety of “Would you rather have . . .” questions using two items from the list below.
- **Give** each student a different combination of choices and add others if desired.
 - A best friend
 - An iPad
 - A happy family
 - A trip to Disney
 - \$1,000
 - A cool phone
 - A hug
 - Good grades
 - Pizza
 - Love
 - Joy
 - Nice hair
 - Cool shoes
 - Health
 - Bible
- **Let** students discuss their choices.
- **Encourage** them to ask each other why they chose the answers they did.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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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, 30 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Christmas sweater for Host
- Wall o' Presents

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- 4 individually wrapped presents (label with a number so they are opened in the proper order):
 - Present #1: a preschool toy
 - Present #2: ingredients for baking a pie
 - Present #3: school supplies
 - Present #4: a toilet brush

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, 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 transitions to Worship.

HOST: "Hey, everybody! I love that we are all here together. Help me welcome the Power Praise team in this morning."

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: “How many of you have ever played ‘Rock Paper Scissors’? (*Check responses.*) Sure, a ton of you have! If you’ve never played before, the idea of it is pretty simple. One the count of three, the two people playing say “shoot” and (*demonstrating*) either make a rock with their fist, a piece of paper with their hand, or scissors with two of their fingers. How do you win? Rock beats . . . (try to get kids to respond) scissors, scissors beats . . . paper, and paper beats . . . rock! Right! Well, ‘Rock Paper Scissors’ is a perfectly fine game, but this is [name of environment], and I think we’ should kick it up a notch with a Christmas edition!”

CG: Rock Paper Scissors Levels: Christmas Edition

HOST: “Here’s how it will go down: On the screen, you see the different levels. Level 5 on the bottom is the lowest. The goal is to win enough rounds to make it up to the top at Level 1. All of these levels are things that are associated with Christmas songs. At Level 5, everybody in the room starts out as a ‘Figgy Pudding’—you know, (*singing*) ‘So bring us some figgy pudding, bring us some figgy pudding . . .’ You will then find someone to go against. Play Rock Paper Scissors. If you win, you move up to Level 4: ‘Boughs of Holly.’ If you lose, you stay at your current level. You must then go find a new opponent, but you can only play someone on the same level as you. If you win, you move up a level. If you lose, you stay at the same level. Level 3 is ‘Silver Bells.’ Level 2 is ‘Jingle Bells.’ And, finally, Level 1 is ‘Oh, Christmas Tree.’ The first person make it to the ‘Oh Christmas Tree’ level should run up on stage and tell me, and you win! Does everyone understand? Any questions?”

“Great! And the game starts . . . NOW!”

SFX: Upbeat Christmas music as the kids play Rock Paper Scissors

After game, count and declare a winner. Introduce the winner of the game to the rest of the audience.

“Aaaaaand . . . we have a winner! (*To winner*) You get to choose a prize from our Wall o’ Presents!”

Host gives winner a prize and then exit as Communicator enters.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: “What is going on, everyone!? How are we all doing today? Awesome. So I have a question for you right out of the gate here. First off, have you ever seen people who are crazy rich? (*Pause for responses.*) Yeah, me too! Now, think about all those rich people; what are some ways that people who are rich get rich in the first place?”

Call on volunteers to share their answers.

“Sure! A person can have a great job, athletic ability, singing/acting talent, or winning the lottery or a game show. You guys nailed it with those examples. But hold on a second . . . with all of those examples, we made a bit of an assumption about what it means to be rich, didn’t we? What was the assumption we made? How did we define what it mean for a person to be rich?”

Allow volunteer to respond.

“Exactly. We all assumed that being RICH means having a lot of MONEY.”

“But what if there is a way to be RICH that doesn’t involve MONEY? Now that might sound crazy; after all, almost anywhere you look in our world, money is king and money is power. If you have it, you’re in a great shape, and if you don’t, well . . . too bad for you!”

TENSION:

COMMUNICATOR: “When we watch TV or talk to people we know, we may get the idea that the only thing worth anything in this world is working hard to be RICH, get more money to buy fancy cars and clothes, live in big mansions, and travel on expensive vacations. But is a life worth living all about stacks o’ cash and buying lots of stuff? What if being RICH could mean something different? What if being RICH didn’t have anything to do with how much money you have? That might change things, wouldn’t it?”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “Those are good questions, and we’ll get to them in a moment. First, how about we make four of *you* RICH right now!? I need four volunteers!”

Communicator calls four kids up on stage and introduces them to the rest of the group.

“Awesome. All right, this must be your day, because I have a gift for each of you . . . and this gift has the potential to make you VERY RICH. You excited?”

Communicator pulls out four individually wrapped gifts and hands them out, playing up how special they are. As they open them, the Communicator will be over the top in selling the greatness of the gifts.

“Now, before you open these, you need to know that these are some deluxe gifts. Seriously (*getting very serious*)—use them wisely. (*Beat*) All right, let’s open them up, one at a time, starting here.”

First volunteer opens up gift, revealing a preschool toy.

“(*Energetic*) Oh, man—that’s a great one! Check this out. (*Grab toy from volunteer and starts acting out how to play with it.*) This is going to be so amazing! Merry Christmas, friend!”

“Okay, let’s open another deluxe gift. I can’t wait!”

Second volunteer opens up gift, revealing ingredients for baking a pie.

“Would you look at this!? (*Hold plastic bag of flour out in amazement.*) Flour, people! (*Look through the rest of the ingredients.*) And sugar! And cherries! Just look at all of this stuff! (*To volunteer*) Can someone say ‘jackpot!’?”

“(*To next volunteer*) I bet you can barely wait to go next after seeing what came before you, huh? Well,

wait no longer, friend. Go!”

Third volunteer opens up a gift, revealing school supplies.

“School supplies! You’ve got to be kidding—you scored the mother load! Pencils! Pens! Folders . . . with tabs, even! Notebook paper—oh, man, and it is college-ruled, too! No wide-ruled for you, pal! And last but not least . . . a protractor! Just think of all the angles that will meet their match at the hands of this mathematical beast!”

“And if that were not enough . . . *(holding up gift)* there is still one MORE gift!”

Fourth volunteer opens up a gift, revealing a toilet brush.

“Oh, man—how amazing is that?! Do you know what this is? *(Beat)* Yes, a toilet brush! Wow . . . you really struck gold this time, my friend!”

Surveying all four volunteers.

“Will you just look at all of these deluxe gifts? Huh, I would have thought you all would have been a bit more excited . . . I mean, as promised earlier, I just gave you gifts that have the potential to make you VERY RICH!”

“Still not feelin’ it, huh? Okay . . . I think I know the problem here. Remember at the top we talked about how God may have a different idea of what it means to be RICH? Let’s check and see if there is a verse from the Bible that can help clear some things up for us.”

Communicator sends volunteers back to their seats leaving the “gifts” behind.

CG: 1 Timothy 6:18

“(Reading from 1 Timothy 6:18, emphasizing the words “be rich.”) ‘Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. (NIV)’”

“These words were written by an early church leader named Paul. He was helping out a younger leader named Timothy who was leading an early church of Jesus followers.”

“Paul commands—yep, that’s a strong word—the followers of Jesus to be rich! Now some of you are thinking, that is a strange thing to command someone to be, especially since how much money we have is sometimes out of our control. But did you catch all of what that verse said about being rich? God, who is speaking His message through Paul, is changing the definition of what it means to be rich. How does God tell them to BE RICH?”

Call on volunteer for answer.

“Exactly—to be rich in DOING GOOD THINGS. Our world thinks you need money, and lots of it, to be rich. But here God reveals another way—a better way—to be RICH.”

Looking back over the gifts of the volunteers.

“Okay, so let’s head back to our super-deluxe Christmas gifts our friends opened earlier and connect some dots. In all honestly, all of these gifts are pretty sad gifts. What you see here are probably not at the top—or the bottom—of your Christmas lists. But what I said was that they had the *potential* to make you very RICH. See, what I meant by RICH is what we find here in the verse. In other words, all of these things can be used to do something good for someone else. Let’s check it out.”

Walking over to the preschool toy.

“Take this toy, for example. Maybe you’ve got a younger brother or sister or cousin or neighbor. And they have a LOT of energy and are wearing their parents down a bit. What if you volunteered to play with them so that their parents could take a break? That is a good thing you would be doing for someone else!”

Walking over to the ingredients.

“Or what about these ingredients? How might they be used to do something good for someone else?”

Call on volunteers to share.

“Great ideas! Many of you will be spending Christmas next week with your family. And one of the things many of us look forward to is the food. Mmmmm . . . the foouoooooood. (*Snapping out of it*) Oh . . . well, someone has to make all that food. And it can get a bit overwhelming. What if you offered to help bake a pie? It would be one less thing someone else would have to do. That is a good thing you would be doing for someone else. And plus, you’d learn how to bake a pie! Win-win!”

Walking over to the school supplies.

“Now, I know that nobody wants to talk about school right now while you are all about to be on break, but hang with me just for a moment. How might these school supplies be used to do good? Well, of course there is something to be said about doing your best . . . but how could these be used to do something good for someone else?”

“Well, maybe you’ve got a friend who is struggling with understanding a new concept in math or needs help with his or her writing homework or help coming up with an idea for a project. What if you were able to use what you know to help your friend out? That is a good thing you would be doing for someone else!”

Walking over to the toilet brush.

“All right, now I see many of you were tracking with me up to this point, but now you might be thinking, ‘*[Host’s name]*, what is the deal with the toilet brush?!’ Well, you know that there are a lot of jobs that get done around your house that are not very fun to do, right? Washing the dishes . . . doing the laundry . . . (*holding up brush*) cleaning the toilet. But somebody does those jobs . . . and not just once . . . but like *every* week! What if you were to volunteer to do some of the jobs around the house that need to be done but aren’t that fun or exciting? That is a good thing you would be doing for someone else, and I’m sure your parents would be thrilled.”

Send volunteers back to their seats.

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “You see, when we talk about giving at Christmas, we usually go right to thinking about physical gifts that we can give and money that we spend to get those gifts. But what if we can be RICH the way God says to be RICH—in doing good things? That would totally change the way we give this season, because we wouldn’t necessarily be so focused on a one-time gift but more of an attitude of giving all the time and in so many creative ways.”

“Let’s read that verse one more time.”

CG: 1 Timothy 6:18

“(Reading from 1 Timothy 6:18, emphasizing the words “be rich.”) ‘Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. (NIV)’”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “As you head to Small Group, think about this questions:”

CG: Key Question Slide

“What are some ways you can give this Christmas? Now, try to not immediately go to the physical things we buy. Get creative and share some ideas together. I bet you’ll think of some pretty amazing ways to be generous with more than just money and stuff! Before we head out, let’s take a moment to pray and ask God to help us be RICH!

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard, then collects the offering/tithe and 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: Large piece of paper, marker

What You Do:

- **Ask** students what it means to be creative with a gift.
 - Is it better (or more meaningful) to receive a cool, expensive gift like a phone or to receive a gift where you knew someone took the time to really figure out what you would like?
 - Why?
- One at a time, **name** a few people in your students' lives and ask them to think of a creative gift for each of those people, with following parameters:
 - It has to be something that would cost under \$15
 - There must be a personal reason for giving the gift (i.e., you know your mom needs a little "me" time so you buy her a new book and babysit your siblings for a couple hours, or your dad has fallen behind on laundry, so you wash the family's clothes)
- **Make** a list on the chart paper of the gifts as your students describe them, placing them in a "physical" and "non-physical" category, accordingly.

10:15**Bible Extension****[Talk about God | Bible Review]**

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

What You Need: Bibles, pennies, metal container

What You Do:

- **Give** everyone a Bible and ask the students to look up 1 Timothy 6:18.

Pro Tip: *If your students need help navigating through the books of the Bible to find 1 Timothy, show them how to use the table of contents to find the book, then help them locate chapter 6 and verse 18.*

- After everyone has read the verse silently, **discuss** the meaning.
 - What do you think it means to be “rich in doing good things”?
 - What would it look like to be “poor” in doing good things?
- Next, ask half of the group to **look up** Luke 21:1-4 and the other half to **look up** a parallel passage in Mark 12:41-44.
- **Divide** the verses so that everyone has a chance to read one or two.
- **Invite** your group to draw some conclusions about generosity based on Jesus’ reaction to the gifts of the rich people and the widow’s small gift.
 - Define what it means to be “rich” based on what you learned in these verses.
 - In what way was the widow rich?
 - In what way were the rich men poor?
- **Remind** them that we can be rich and have no money at all.
 - God wants us to be *millionaires* when it comes to doing good things.
 - That kind of “rich” doesn’t require “riches.”
 - It does, however, require some creative thinking in order to give in ways that don’t always involve money.
- **Set out** the bowl and scatter the pennies on the floor around it so that they are within reach.
- **Brainstorm** ways to be generous that don’t involve a lot of money and physical possessions.
 - Challenge the students to consider how they can be generous with their time, talents, and energy.
 - Each time a student shares an idea, let him or her toss a penny into the bowl.

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

What You Need: Aluminum foil, permanent markers

What You Do:

- **Gather around** the “Giving Tree.”
- **Follow up** with the students who added ornaments last week.
- **Allow** them to share how God helped them to be generous.
- **Give** each student a foot-long section of foil.
- **Show** them how to tear off pieces, form a ball, and then flatten the ball into the shape of a coin that’s a little larger than a quarter.
- **Instruct** them to smooth the top and bottom and then use a permanent marker to write different amounts of time from 5 to 30 minutes on each “coin.”
- **Encourage** them to make someone’s day by giving some time away this week.
- **Suggest** that they give one of their coins to a friend, neighbor, family member, or whoever, and then tell that person that they get to pick how the two of them spend time together.
 - They can help that person with a project, play a game, prepare a snack, or do something fun with them.
 - Encourage students to take the challenge seriously and follow through with it this week.

“Dear Jesus, today we talked about how You want us to be rich. Not rich in money and stuff we own, but rich in doing good things for You. Help us this week go all out in giving to others. Give us eyes to see opportunities to be generous and hearts that are willing to share what we have. We need Your help to think of creative ways to give. Teach us how to give the way You give. In Your name, amen.

Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up.