

June 10, 2018 – Outside the Box

Bible Story Focus: A Cheerful Giver

2 Corinthians 8:1-15;9:6-15

Memory Verse: If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

Main Point: God wants us to give to others.

Big Picture Question: Who changes us? God changes us to be like Jesus.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities as Your 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds arrive.

1. Listen for a cheerful voice

What you do - Choose a favorite Bible story from a Bible storybook to read. Explain to preschoolers that you will use a different voice to read each page. When they hear you read in a cheerful voice, they should stand up. Vary between a cheerful voice, a whiny voice, a sad voice, an angry voice, and a grumpy voice.

What you SAY - How would you feel if people gave you something you needed or wanted, but they were grumpy, sad, or whiny when they did so? In today's Bible story, Paul told the believers in Corinth that God is happy when we give to others cheerfully. He said God loves a cheerful giver. Listen to hear what else Paul wrote in our Bible story.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

Introduce the Bible story

Ask preschoolers to tell about a great gift they received. Then ask if they can think of the best gift they ever gave.

What you SAY - Giving a gift is often better than getting a gift! God gave us the greatest gift—His own Son. Knowing Jesus makes us want to give to others. Listen to our Bible story about giving cheerfully.

Watch or tell the Bible story Place a bookmark at 2 Corinthians 8 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

What you SAY - Another great gift God gives us is His Word. We can believe the Bible because it is God's true words. Today's Bible story comes from 2 Corinthians.

Play Bible Story – A Cheerful Giver

Talk about the Bible story

What you SAY - God wants us to give to others. Jesus gave up everything He had in heaven and came to earth to rescue sinners. We had nothing, but because of Jesus, we now have salvation and life forever with God. Giving cheerfully shows that we believe the good news about Jesus.

Ask the following review questions:

1. Why was Paul collecting money for the believers in Jerusalem? (They needed help.)
2. What did Paul encourage the believers in Corinth to do? (to give to those in need)
3. What would happen if people gave to those who do not have enough? (Everyone will have what they need.)
4. What kind of giver does God love? (a cheerful one)
5. What happens when we give to the church? (The church uses what we give to help people in need. Then those people will thank God.)

Learn the big picture question

What you SAY - Who changes us? God changes us to be like Jesus. Jesus gave everything He had—even His very own life—to save us from sin. Knowing what Jesus did for us changes us. We want to be kind and giving to others because God has given us everything we need.

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 5:17. Read the key passage aloud several times.

What you SAY - We do not change on the outside when we trust in Jesus, but we most certainly change on the inside. God makes us new by giving us the Holy Spirit.

Transition to experience the story

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. Make a coin pouch

What you need – 6x8 foam sheet per child, small Velcro circle stickers, misc stickers, play money.

What you do - Provide a foam sheet for each child. Assist children in folding the foam sheet lengthwise, leaving two inches at the top. Seal the sides with colorful duct tape or staples. Preschoolers may decorate their pouches with stickers. Give each child some play money but explain it can be used to hold real money to share with others.

What you SAY - God wants us to give to others. You may not have a lot of money to give to help others, and that is OK. God cares more about what we feel in our hearts when we give than how much we give. Are we giving with a cheerful heart or are we really wanting to keep what we have for ourselves? We are sinners. We want to keep what we have for ourselves, but when we remember that God gave us everything we need when He sent Jesus to save us, the Holy Spirit changes our hearts and helps us to give with joy.

2. Bible Story Coloring Page

Snack

Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack. Remind preschoolers that God wants us to give to others whether we give our money, time, or talents. God provided everything we need when He sent His own Son. Jesus gave everything He had—even His very own life—to save us from sin. Because of Jesus, we can be kind and giving to others.

What you SAY - God, thank You that Jesus gave everything He had— even His very own life—to save us from sin. Help us to remember that and to let it change us so that we will joyfully share what we have with others and show them kindness. Amen.