



Generous – Lesson 2

4K and 5K

Divine Attribute: God is Generous

Heart Response: Give freely

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:8 NLT

“God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”

Points of Emphasis:

1. Everything belongs to God.
2. God gives us everything we have.
3. God wants us to give our lives fully to him.
4. God wants us to give freely and share with others.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

When we come to the place in our faith where we trust in Jesus Christ, the one who rescues and saves, we are overwhelmed by his incredible gift of grace and mercy that he freely pours out on us. God is generous. He gives us everything we have: the air we breathe, the food we eat, the abilities we have, and the life we now get to live with purpose in his name. When we stay focused on the truth that God gives us everything we have, it is easy for us to give freely from what he gives us.

However, we often go through life treasuring everything else: money, success, education, and our reputations. We think we should be rewarded for our willingness to follow him with things: a stable job, a vehicle, Godly relationships, money, and good health. We often look to our “forgiveness” or “getting to go to heaven” as the reward of a life of following Jesus.

When we truly believe that he is the greatest treasure and that there is nothing better out there, we live differently. When we understand who God is, we, with great joy, would give up anything just to have him. When we fully embrace God’s generosity towards us and understand that he gives us all we have, we no longer hold tightly to

our time, talents, and treasures. We recognize that we are stewards of them instead. We start looking more like a funnel and less like a bowl: as God gives generously to us, we give freely to others.

The Bible lessons in this unit will look at three encounters Jesus had with people and their understanding of God’s generosity. As you read through the Bible lessons on the lives of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-31), and the widow (Mark 12:41-44), ask yourself what treasures you are holding onto that God has given to you. Ask God to search your heart and show you where your treasure is. Do you live like you believe there is no greater treasure than him? Thank God for the amazing generosity he has poured into your life and look for ways to give freely and share his generosity with others.

CENTER TIME

10-20 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

To help the children transition into class, please use a center format at the beginning of each service. Set up three centers in your classroom to allow children options of activities. Ideas include, but are not limited to:

1. Read books on the floor.
2. Color at the table.
3. Play with blocks on the floor.
4. Play with puzzles at the table.
5. Play with Play-Doh at the table.

OPENING ACTIVITY

10 minutes at the start of service

The following activity is provided to begin engaging the children for the upcoming lesson. As the teacher of your class, you have an important opportunity to come alongside the parents of these children to teach them about God.

Let Go and Follow Jesus

Supplies:

Jar with ball inside (one per bin)

Ask the children to take turns putting their hand into the jar and grabbing the ball with their hand. Tell them to hold on to the ball and try getting the ball and their hand out of the jar at the same time. If they hold on to the ball they shouldn't be able to remove their hand.

Tell them the ball represents all their stuff: things they say are "mine." Everything they have and want to hold on to.

Then tell them as long as they hold on to the ball, they cannot be free. But if they release it, they can be free. Have them let go of the ball and see how their hand becomes free.

God wants us to give up holding tightly to the things we have and make following him most important. That means loving and forgiving others and sharing with them everything that God freely gives to us.

BIG GROUP TIME

please check your classroom schedule

Please talk to your class about the purpose of this time—to have fun worshiping God together. Give your class practical ideas of what this means (obey the teachers up on the stage, sing and praise God with a happy heart, keep your hands to yourself, etc.). Teachers, you are crucial in helping create a peaceful, orderly environment to worship God during this time. Thank you for your help!

SMALL GROUP TIME

25-30 minutes

Bible Story

Supplies:

Bible

Lesson picture – rich young ruler (one per bin)

Do you all remember our memory verse? Let's say it together: "God will generously provide all

you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others." 2 Corinthians 9:8. Great job!

We have been learning that wealth is anything that we have. Things like our clothes, toys, food, and money. Everything we have belongs to God, and he is generous to provide all that we need.

Let's listen today as we hear a lesson from God's Word about a rich young ruler. Today's lesson is found in the book of Matthew, chapter 19. (Open your Bible to Matthew 19:16-30.) When Jesus is starting to travel to Jerusalem, a man comes up to him. The man bows down and asks, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" (Show lesson picture.)

Jesus asks the man, "Why ask me about what is good? There is only One who is good. But to answer your question—if you want to receive eternal life, keep the commandments." The rich young ruler says, "I've obeyed all these commandments. What else must I do?"

Jesus looks at the man and feels love for him (cross your arms over your heart to show "love"). Then, Jesus says, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

When Jesus tells the man to sell all of the things he owned, the man becomes sad and walks away from Jesus. Can you make a sad face?

You see, the man is very rich. He has many, many things. The man loves the things he has very much. He does not want to have to give them up. He does not understand that Jesus is the greatest gift and that he is generous and will give the man all that he needs and more.

Jesus then begins to teach his disciples, saying, "I tell you the truth, it is very hard for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. I'll say it again—it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!"

When the disciples hear this, they are surprised and ask, “Then who in the world can be saved?” Then Jesus responds, “Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But with God everything is possible.” Peter, one of the disciples, says to Jesus, “We’ve given up everything to follow you. What will we get?”

Jesus responds, “And everyone who has given up houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or property, for my sake, will receive a hundred times as much in return and will inherit eternal life.”

Jesus was teaching his disciples and the rich young man that nothing can be more important than loving him. He is the greatest treasure. God wants us to love him more than money, toys, or anything else. When we give freely, it shows that we believe that God is generous to us and that he has given us everything we have.

Jesus is more important than anything. There is nothing better out there than him. He is so generous that he gave his life for us so we can spend forever with him. We can have eternal life with him by fully giving our lives to him, following him no matter what the cost.

Prayer

Prayer time may not be appropriate immediately following story time. If this is the case, we ask that you be intentional about praying spontaneously or formally with the children at other times during class.

Dear God, help us to love you more than anything we have. Help us see that you love us so much and give us everything we have. Help us to put you first and share everything you have given to us with others. Amen.

It’s all God’s

Supplies:

God’s or Mine worksheet (one per child)
Things a Kid Might Have cutout (one per bin)
Cross cutout (one per child)

Give each child a worksheet with “God’s” on one side and “Mine” on the other. Next, give each child a set of pictures of things they might have (money, toys, food) and ask them if these things are God’s or ours. All of the items will go on the “God’s” side as you point out to the children that God owns everything and gives us everything we have. Have them glue those things to the “God’s” side of the worksheet. Remind them that we may have these items in our house, but ultimately God owns them and he has been generous to give them to us.

Hand each child a cross. Explain that the cross is for each of them and can be glued on the “Mine” side of the worksheet. God is so generous and loves them each so much that he sent Jesus to give his life for them. God loves them personally and they each can have a relationship with God because of Jesus. The only thing that should be on the “Mine” side of their plate is a cross that represents Jesus. He is all we need. Jesus generously gives us all we need. Encourage them to put the worksheet somewhere in their room at home to remind them to pray. Then they can ask God to help them remember to follow him and be generous with everything he has given them.

***Have fun and let them do the crafts themselves, as much as possible. This is a hands-on way for them to learn who God is and remember what they learn. It doesn’t matter if they place the label or stickers in the wrong spot. What matters is teaching them who God is. ***

SNACK & ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

last 30 minutes

Please wash the children’s hands before snack time and say a prayer thanking God for the food. As they are eating their snack, please take time to go over the review questions.

Review Questions

- 1. What did Jesus tell the rich young man to do to receive eternal life?** (Go and sell everything he owns, give his money to the poor, and then follow Jesus!)
- 2. Why was the rich man sad?** (He didn't want to give up everything he had.)
- 3. Can we have eternal life with Jesus by following rules like the Ten Commandments or by being a "good person"?** (No, it is impossible; we all sin. But we can have eternal life by asking Jesus to forgive us and by fully giving our lives to him.)
- 4. Would it be hard for you to give up your favorite toy to follow Jesus?**
- 5. Do you remember there is no greater gift than Jesus and he freely gives himself to us?**

Eye of the Needle

Supplies:

Paper towel tube (one per bin)

Set of objects too large to go through tube (one per bin)

Have the children try putting large objects through the paper towel tube. Explain to them that it is impossible. Jesus said it is easier for a

camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Just like in the opening activity, if we try to hold on to things, we are not free to fully love Jesus. Jesus was asking the rich young ruler to give up his possessions and follow him. God doesn't say we have to give away everything we have in order to follow him or that we cannot have toys or food or money. But God does say we need to give our whole heart to him and make him our the greatest treasure. There is no greater treasure than Jesus. Everything we have is worth giving up to follow him and to have a relationship with him. Ask the children if they were asked to give away one of their toys which one would be the hardest for them to give away.

Give and Share Action Song

(Sing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")

**Jesus gives me everything, everything,
everything**

**Jesus gives me everything that I need and
more**

**I will freely give and share, give and share, give
and share**

I will freely give and share all he gives to me.

