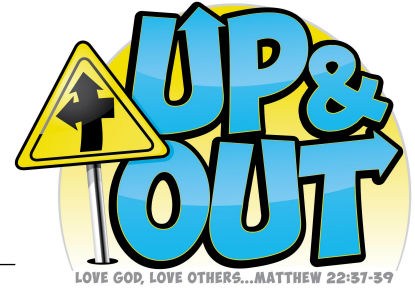


Core Values

Huddle 4: *Courageously Generous*



SETTING THE ATMOSPHERE

As children arrive, collect the “In” slips and see which grade they are in for their huddle teams. Remember to check all slips to make sure children are to be in Up & Out this hour.

Team Time

Each team leader (student leader) should spend time getting a conversation started within the team to find out more about each child. Spend time today discussing the following questions up front...

- What is the best present you ever received?
- What is the best gift you ever gave someone else?

Huddle Teams

- 1st & 2nd grade girls
- 1st & 2nd grade boys
- 3rd & 4th grade girls
- 3rd & 4th grade boys

Opening Prayer

Leader prays for the group

LESSON HUDDLE

Let's all come over together and get started this morning. Good morning, Up & Out! Where we look up (pause for the group to respond) **TO GOD** and look out (Pause) **TO OTHERS**.

Who can tell me what we have been learning about the last 3 weeks in Up and Out? (*The Core Values*) Can anyone name the 3 Core Values we have talked about?

1. Biblically Oriented
2. Prayerfully Dependent
3. Faithfully Gathered

We are halfway through this series! The final 3 core values we will be discussing are:

4. Courageously Generous
5. Ministry Focused
6. Culturally Engaged

Today's lesson will focus on being Courageously Generous. What are some things we can be generous with? (*Money, our time, our resources—stuff/toys/food*) Has anyone ever bought someone a gift or made

something really special for someone and you could not wait to give it to them? (*Allow a few students to share*) Did it make you happy to see their face when they opened it? God wants us to have that same joy when we give to the local church and to those in need.

Let's turn to 2 Corinthians 9:7 (*Have a student volunteer read*):

"You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. 'For God loves a person who gives *cheerfully*.'"

The next verse we will read is from 1 Peter 4:8-9:

"Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins. Cheerfully share your home with those who need a meal or place to stay."

After reading these verses, what does the Bible say our attitudes should be when we give our money, or share our things? (*To do it cheerfully*) The Bible says it is better not to give, if you can't do it with a cheerful heart. When we do not have a cheerful heart about giving something away, what do you think that tells us about ourselves? (*That we value that object too highly, we feel entitled/possessive, etc.*)

Who is the source of all of our money, resources, talents, and abilities? (*God is!*)

1 Corinthians 8:6 says, "But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we live for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom God made everything and through whom we have been given life."

Who owns it all? (*God does*) As you all get older and start to work and earn money we want you to remember that ultimately God owns it all. We are called to manage the money and resources he has given us. This is the meaning of stewardship. Can you all say that with me? (*Stewardship*) God wants us to give a portion of all that we earn back to Him. That is why we have an offering box and giving stations where you may see adults giving to the work of the local church. This helps support the ministry of making and growing disciples for Him.

Let's take turns reading one last passage.

James 2:14-16, "What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, 'Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well', but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do?"

By giving away a portion of what God has given us to the local church and to those in need, we are demonstrating that our faith in him is real. We acknowledge that he owns it all and we are responsible to manage it well.

Let's take a moment to thank God for our blessings and to stir our hearts to live courageously generous lives.

Huddle Up, Pray, & Break

ACTIVITY: Act It Out

Needed:

4 student actors

- 1 master/man going on a trip
- Servant #1
- Servant #2
- Servant #3

Have the students stand in the front of the room. They can act out the actions and pretend to mouth the words while their character is speaking in the story.

Does anyone know the Parable of the 3 Servants from Matthew 25? We are going to give a few of you a chance to act it out. I will need 4 actors to role-play this story as I read from Matthew 25:14-29.

“Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. He gave 5 bags of silver to one, 2 bags of silver to another, and 1 bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

The servant who received the 5 bags of silver began to invest the money and earned 5 more. The servant with 2 bags of silver also went to work and earned 2 more. But the servant who received the 1 bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money.

After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they used his money. The servant to whom he had entrusted the 5 bags of silver came forward with 5 more and said, ‘Master, you gave me 5 bags of silver to invest, and I have earned 5 more.’

The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!’

The servant who had received the 2 bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me 2 bags of silver to invest, and I have earned 2 more.’

The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!’

Then the servant with the 1 bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn't plant and gathering crops you didn't cultivate. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn't plant and gathered crops I didn't cultivate, why didn't you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the 10 bags of silver. To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away.’”

Thank you fine actors! What is the meaning of this story? (Use wisely what God has given you! Even if it is a small amount or a large amount, we will be accountable for what is given us!)

ACTIVITY: These Courageously Generous Hands

Materials Needed:

- Construction paper
- Markers/crayons
- Scissors

Have each student trace his or her hand on the construction paper. Label each finger 1-5 and list 5 ways they can be courageously generous this month. Cut out the tracing of their hand. Remind the students that doing something out of the generosity of their hearts is good, but to be courageously generous requires us to be stretched a little bit out of our comfort zone. That is why we are having them list 5 deeds for them to commit to do this month. Remember God loves a cheerful giver, so be creative and think of ways you can joyfully give of your time, money, or resources.

(Examples: Bake cookies for my neighbor, donate books to the library, donate toys or clothes to the Foster/Adopt resource center or Miracle Hill, pick up sticks for my grandparents/elderly neighbor, tithe from my allowance, lemonade stand and donate the proceeds)

ACTIVITY: Lucky Number

Materials Needed:

- Deck of cards (2 for larger groups)
- Candy/prizes

Lay out an entire deck of cards on the floor or table facedown. Have each student pick 3 cards (or 2 cards if you have more than 17 students). Help the students add the sum of their cards. The student with the greatest sum wins. Play can continue for several rounds. At the end of the game any winner can draw a prize from the prize bag. Allow them to keep their prize or have a chance to “courageously give” it away. Those who choose to give their prize away can then pick 2 prizes to replace the 1 they gave away



2801 Pelham Rd. Greenville SC 29615 Ph: 864.284.0122 Fx: 864.284.0222