



Date: _____
Series: Sunday After Christmas
Winter Year 2, Lesson 32

More Satisfying to Give

Take Home Point: *It is more satisfying to give than to receive. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Acts 20:32-36. Paul entrusts the Gospel message to those in Ephesus.

Key Verse: Acts 20:35b. "We should remember the words that the Lord Jesus said, 'Giving gifts is more satisfying than receiving them.'"

We will help kids know:

- Giving gifts is more satisfying than receiving them.
- Jesus gave his life for us so we could also give of ourselves to others.
- When we give to others because we love God we are also making a gift to God.




We will help kids feel:

- Surprised and convicted at how easy it is to think of *what I get* rather than of *what I can give*.
- Motivated to see opportunities to give to others.

We will help kids do:

- Share what presents they received at Christmas and presents they gave to others.
- Identify ways they can give to others.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Children are asked to share about their Christmas. They talk about what they gave as well as what they received.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
Large Group 	3 6	Overview Video: Watch the video/DVD <i>Wemmicks: Punchinello and the Most Marvelous Gift</i> , produced by Gateway Films, 2004. The length of the video is 30 minutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DVD or book: <i>Punchinello and the Most Marvelous Gift</i> by Max Lucado <p>Note: You can order <i>Punchinello and the Most Marvelous Gift</i> online at http://www.christiancinema.com</p>
Small Group Application 	4	Children discuss/brainstorm ideas of gifts they can give of themselves or gifts of service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper and pen/pencil

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Note: Be very careful on the wording of the following question. Though you will be asking about Christmas presents, you are giving an opportunity for kids to talk about presents they gave as well as received. The catch will be that they will most likely talk only about what they received rather than what they gave.

Ask kids to tell about Christmas presents in their house.

Think about this Christmas and tell about the Christmas presents in your house.

Did anyone tell about what gifts they gave to others instead of what they received?

Is it easier to think about what you want to get, or is it easier to think about what you want to give?

Now, let's take turns and talk about some of the gifts you gave to others.

Can anyone remember the presents you gave to others last year?

Oftentimes, it is easier to remember the gifts you gave because the Bible says it is more important to give than to receive. That is what we will discover today when we learn **it is more satisfying to give than to receive.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says.* Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.

Overview

Video: Watch the video/DVD *Wemmicks: Punchinello and the Most Marvelous Gift*, produced by Gateway Films, 2004. The length of the video is 30 minutes. Order from <http://www.christiancinema.com>

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?/Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

At the beginning of the story, we know that Punchinello made up a song. *"I like you. I love you. I want all to see—Without you, Eli, there'd be no me."* But when he saw all the things other people made or were doing, he didn't think he had a special gift to give Eli.

When he told Dr. Marvel that he made up a song about Eli, too, no one listened. Because of this, Punchinello didn't think his song was important. However, we know at the end of the story, Punchinello's gift was special and important. Punchinello gave a gift straight from his heart. It didn't matter if it was fancy or big.

The apostle Paul said this when he was talking to a church in the city of Ephesus. He told them in Acts 20:35b, *"We should remember the words that the Lord Jesus said, 'Giving gifts is more satisfying than receiving them.'"*

Read Acts 20:32-35.

What gifts did Paul give the people of Ephesus? *(Acts 20:32,35. He shared the message of God, and with that, the inheritance that all of God's people receive. His example of working hard to help the weak.)*

What do you think is "the inheritance that all of God's people receive"? *(God's blessings, eternal life, etc.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

What are some gifts you can give others? How can you give of yourselves to other people? *(Acts of service or kindness, sharing the message of Jesus...)*

Each of us has special things that we can do that will serve God and also help others. Think of gifts of service or kindness. Or, think of friends and neighbors and people out of town. Let's come up with some ideas. Remember **it is more satisfying to give than to receive.*

Application Activity:

Supplies: paper, pen/pencil

Let the kids brainstorm ideas and write gifts of service or kindness they can give others on a piece of paper.

Closing Prayer:

Read through the list of gifts of service and kindness. Encourage kids to pray for someone whom they can serve and what they can do to serve them. Encourage them to be specific.

Close by thanking God for his ultimate act of love and service in sending his Son Jesus, so that we can be made right with him and receive his wonderful blessings and inheritance.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Christmas is about God giving his Son Jesus to the world. What happens to everyone who believes that Jesus is God's Son and is the Savior?

What does the Bible say they will have? (*Eternal life.*)

I would like a volunteer to come forward and read what the Bible says to confirm what you all just told me.

Ask a child to come forward and read John 3:16.

"God loved the world this way: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life."

Wow. This is wonderful. God loves you and me so much that he sent Jesus to into the world to show us how to live on earth. He died for our sins so we can live forever with him in heaven.

Did you know that eternal life doesn't just start in heaven? Eternal life starts right now when you trust Jesus. The amazing thing is that Jesus lives in your heart right now, and because of that, you can give yourself to others just like Jesus gave himself to the world.

So the Bible says this in Acts 20:35b, "*We should remember the words that the Lord Jesus said, 'Giving gifts is more satisfying than receiving them.'*"

You may choose which version to read or read them both.

Or "*... remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*" (NIV version.)

Video

Show the video/DVD, *Wemmicks: Punchinello and the Most Marvelous Gift*, produced by Gateway Films, 2004. The length of the video is 30 minutes.

Option: Read the book, *Punchinello and the Most Marvelous Gift* by Max Lucado.

Closing Prayer:

Heavenly Father, when we go back to our groups today, help each of us think of ways that we can be like Punchinello so that we can give a gift to you that is also giving a gift of ourselves to others. Each of us has special things that we can do that will serve you and also help others. Show us what they are and help us to do it. Thank you for the one who is the best gift of all—Jesus. We pray in his name, Amen.

Dismiss students to their small groups.