



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Series: God's Big Gift  
Winter Year 2, Lesson 44

# God Gives Cheerfully, and So Do We

**Primary Scripture:** 2 Corinthians 9:6-12

**Key Verse:** 2 Corinthians 9:11, "God will make you rich enough so that you can always be generous. Your generosity will produce thanksgiving to God..."

## **How does this address a need in our kids' lives?**

Kids love to own things. Their possessions identify their likes and their dislikes. Just like adults, sometimes their possessions can become too important. They need to know that God, in fact, owns everything they have. Our possessions are only entrusted into our care as stewards. As kids see how generous God has been to them, especially in their spiritual blessings, they are able to share with others. This includes physical possessions and spiritual blessings. Today we will challenge the kids to see how cheerful God has been in giving to us all that we have so that we might cheerfully give to others. Of course, the best thing we can ever give to another is not merely possessions but the message of Jesus.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus gave his life for us. Through his death and resurrection, Jesus purchased us to be in fellowship with him forever.

**Jesus in us:** Just as Jesus demonstrated God's giving power, we also receive that giving power as we turn our lives over to Jesus.

**Jesus through us:** Jesus will supply an increase of the harvest, as we are faithful to him. Through our giving, more will witness the Kingdom of God and receive his blessings.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

Introduce the worship theme with the following.

**Boys and girls, can you tell me something that God does not own unless we give it to him? Is it our money? No, he already owns that. He owns everything here. Our houses? Our toys? Remember he owns all that! God even owns our bodies.**

**The one thing that God does not own unless we give it to him is our praise. That is why praise is so important. We give it to God when we tell him that we love him and when we declare that he is God above all else. He is worthy of worship above all else. Let's worship!**

### Songs of Worship:

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

# The Power of the Cross:

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

**Boys and girls, will you close your eyes and imagine with me? Can you remember an occasion when you had the chance to share something with someone but you did not? Maybe it was with a brother or a sister? Maybe it was with someone at school?**

**Can you remember a time when you gave something to your mom and dad, but you did not do it cheerfully? Maybe you gave them the gift of doing the dishes or taking out the trash, but even though you did it, you grumbled about it.**

**Let's think of some of those ways in which we have not been generous (which means giving) or we have not given with a happy heart. Let's ask God to forgive us. Because Jesus gave his life for us, he will help us become more like him.**

Pause for a quiet time of reflection and then pray for God's forgiveness.

## Song of Response:

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## Offering:

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

During the offering, invite the kids to share an expression or cheer that reflects cheerfulness. Perhaps shouting "yahoo" or showing a cheesy grin are examples of cheerful expressions.

As the kids give their offerings, invite them to make these cheerful expressions. Then read the Bible verse from 2 Corinthians 9:7, 8.

***"...You shouldn't be sorry that you gave or feel forced to give, since God loves a cheerful giver. Besides, God will give you his constantly overflowing kindness. Then, when you will always have everything you need, you can do more and more good things."***

Talk about the current mission project.



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

### **“Multiplying Popcorn”**

*Supplies needed: one large container of popcorn and ample supply of napkins*

Place the large bucket of popcorn at the front known as the “popcorn bank” along with the supply of napkins. Give a piece of popcorn to one person and explain the following.

If the volunteer eats that piece of popcorn that is fine, but he cannot get any more popcorn for himself. If he gives the popcorn to another person, then he can go back and get twice as much popcorn as he gave. Instead of one piece, he would now have two. If the child gives those two pieces of popcorn away, he can go back and get twice as much. Now he would have four. If he gave the four away, he could go back and get eight. If he decided to eat the eight pieces of popcorn, though, then he could no longer go back for any more popcorn.

The kids who receive popcorn as gifts from other kids can pass it along to another. Then they can go back to the popcorn bank and get twice the amount. If they decide not to pass it along, they can eat what they have. Once again, if they eat the popcorn, they are no longer allowed to return to the popcorn bank.

After playing for several minutes, have kids return to their seats as you read 2 Corinthians 9:10-11.

***“God gives seed to the farmer and food to those who need to eat. God will also give you seed and multiple it. In your lives he will increase the things you do that have his approval. God will make you rich enough so that you can always be generous.”***

# The Giving Box

## Interactive Drama – Mime

Directions for the main character (the mime) are in the solid dot markings and bold lettering. The indented circle markings and italics are scripting for the other child actors.

### Introduction:

The mime begins the drama by –

- **Outlining a box four foot square with his/her hands. Run palms over sides and top.**



- **Open an imaginary lid and look into the box**
- **Peek inside and get excited.**

### Part 1

- **Reach inside and pull out a coat. Pull down the lid. Be delighted. Put it on. Show that it feels warm. Take it off.**



- *Enter child #1: Cold Child. (It might be helpful to look off stage a give a wink as a cue to enter.)*
- *Cold Child comes shivering. Looks at coat. Admires coat. Motions with hands that he want the coat.*
- **Shake your head “No!” Wave the person by.**
- **Shoo away.**
  - *Cold Child leaves miserably.*

- Lean against your box and suddenly it shrinks. Your hand now outlines a smaller box. It is only two foot square.
- Show surprise and puzzlement with your face.



## Part 2

- Hug the box...now only two foot square. Show that it belongs to you.
- Open the lid and peek inside. Show delight and surprise.
- Pull out a plate of food. Close lid. Smell food. Take an imaginary spoon and dig into some tasty food on the plate. Enjoy. Roll eyes and rub tummy.



- Enter child #2: Hungry Child (It might be helpful to look off stage and give a wink as a cue to enter.)
- Hungry Child enters, rubbing tummy from hunger pains.
- Motions that he wants food.
- Quickly open the lid and replace your food. Close the lid and rest your elbow. Shrug your shoulders. You have no food.
  - Motion that he wants food.
- Shake your head "No!" and motion him away.
  - He leaves



- Suddenly the box shrinks again. Now it is only three inches square. Show disappointment.
- Put it in the palm of your hand. Peek inside. Show delight.
- Take out imaginary dust and rub it on your heart. Now you feel love.

### Part 3



- Enter child  
#3: Lonely child. He simply walks by.
- Point to your head. You have a new idea. You will try giving it away.
- Stop the person. Take some of the imaginary love dust and blow it on the person.
  - *The Lonely Child feels perked up. Smiles and gives a hug.*
- You are absolutely delighted.
- Then you are surprised. Suddenly your small three inch box has grown to the size of two foot square.



- Set it on the floor. Open it and with delight find that food again. Take out the plate, close the lid. Now look for the Hungry Child.
  - *Hungry Child is found off stage and enters. This child receives the plate of food and enjoys eating.*
  - *Exits across the stage.*
- Return to the box. Find that it now is four feet square. Show delight and surprise.
- Open the lid. Take out the coat. Close the lid. Look for the Cold Child.







- *Cold Child is found off stage and enters. This child receives the coat and is warm. Exchanges a hug.*

### **Closing.**

- The box then grows again. You are surprised and delighted. Notice the outline of the cross on the front of the box. Show the audience by tracing it with your fingers.
- Open the lid one more time. Show your delight and point to the audience. “Do they want some?” Reach in and take out some of the imaginary love dust and blow it on the audience.

## **Bible Reading:**

No Bible Reading today due to the length of the Learning Game - Mime.

## **Application:**

### **An Example from the Bible, Zacchaeus:**

Using the video *Animated Stories from the New Testament: “Treasures in Heaven”*, show the last six minutes of the story of Zacchaeus. This section begins with Zacchaeus walking toward his home and thinking to himself. He hears the thought: “Don’t you see Jesus is the Messiah?” It runs to the end of the tape and Jesus’ final teaching.

Point out how Zacchaeus, when he was so overwhelmed with Jesus’ generosity, gave four times as much back to all the people whom he had cheated. Then say:

**The best thing we can ever give anyone is the message of Jesus. We can tell others about Jesus’ love and his death on the cross for the punishment of our sins. When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we become part of God’s family and will live with him in heaven forever. We become a friend of Jesus, just like Zacchaeus.**





# Witness

## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

Have kids share a time when they felt more joy in giving to others than in receiving. For example, some acts of kindness might include delivering Christmas gifts to a needy family or serving a meal at a homeless shelter.

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

## Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

## Blessing:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

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# Supplies:

## *Learning Game:*

- one large container of popcorn
- ample supply of napkins

## *Life Application:*

- *Animated Stories from the New Testament: Treasures in Heaven* video (show the last six minutes of the story of Zacchaeus), produced by Nest Family, Inc. 1991—order from:  
[http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product\\_detail.asp?productID=THD](http://www.nestfamily.com/store/product_detail.asp?productID=THD)