



Date: _____
Series: Giving to God
Winter Year 2, Lesson 28

Give to God By Giving to Others

Take Home Point: *We give to God by giving to others.
*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Matthew 25:31-40

Key Verse: Matthew 25: 40b, "Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me."

We will help kids know:

- Christmas is a celebration of God's gift to the world: his own Son took our sin on himself.
- When they give to others, it's just like giving to Jesus.
- It's more blessed to give than to receive.

We will help kids feel:

- Blessed because they've been given so much.
- Motivated to give to others as a way of giving to Jesus.

We will help kids do:

- Eat popcorn as they name blessings God has given to them.
- Identify ways to give to God by giving to others.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Students will eat a piece of popcorn for every gift from God they mention. Then they will give a piece of popcorn back for every gift they have given to God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sack of precooked popcorn • one large popcorn bowl • napkins or coffee filters for every child
Large Group 	4 6 7 8	<p>Overview</p> <p>Introduction: General (Gen) R. Osity is a storefront holiday bell ringer for charity who encourages people to give.</p> <p>Interactive Sketch: Kids act out a story of people with a giving spirit and those without it.</p> <p>Wrap Up: Presenter demonstrates how we can act in a giving way toward each other with the use of gift nametags.</p>	<p><i>Costume:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presenter is dressed as a storefront holiday bell ringer for charity <p><i>Props:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pot with lid hanging from a pole • several gift tags in the pot that say: "To Jesus, From: _____." • a hand bell that rings • bowl of popcorn • six rulers or other splint-like objects • duct tape or other heavy tape • six arm-extension toy hand grabbers
Small Group Application 	4	Kids will discuss the scripture passage and write the names of those in need on gift nametags. They are challenged to give to these people and pray for them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gift nametags • thin line markers

Series Overview

Giving to God

As the Christmas season comes upon us, pre-teen kids will ask the question: “What will I get for Christmas?” This series changes that question into: “What will I give for Christmas?” Kids will learn four important truths about giving. They will apply these truths to their lives and discover that “it is more blessed to give than to receive.” The very foundation of such giving is receiving what God has given to us. He gave us his best when he gave us his Son, Jesus. God fully demonstrated this truth: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Week 1: Give to God – By Giving to Others.

Week 2: Give Gifts That Fit the Person.

Week 3: Give Gifts of Kindness and Encouragement.

Week 4: Give Gifts Every Day

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.

As kids gather: *Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.*

Supplies: A sack of popcorn, one large bowl, napkin or coffee filter for every student

Give each student a napkin (or coffee filter bowl) and a handful of popcorn. Pour the rest of the popcorn into a large bowl and place in the center of the group.

We have just finished Thanksgiving and now we are getting ready for Christmas. It's a good time to think of the gifts God has given us. So, for every time you tell about a gift God has given, you can take a piece of popcorn from the bowl and eat it. For example, I thank God for giving me the gift to be your Shepherd. (Or name something else you consider a gift from God.)

Be sure kids take turns and someone does not dominate the discussion. As kids share their gift lists, direct someone to mention Jesus as his/her Savior.

Now, let's put one piece of popcorn back into the bowl for every gift that you have given back to God. For example: We give God worship and praise during church.

When they run out of ideas, suggest the following:

Did you know that when you give something to another person it's just like giving something back to Jesus? For example, this week, for Jesus' sake, I gave the gift of a kind word to ... (name someone).

Today we discover that **we give to God by giving to others.*

Large Group Overview: 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.*

Introduction: General (Gen) R. Osity is a storefront holiday bell ringer for charity who encourages people to give.

Interactive Sketch: Kids act out a story of people with a giving spirit and those without it.

Wrap Up: With the use of gift nametags, the presenter demonstrates how we can act in a giving way toward each other.

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?

Have kids refer to Matthew 25:31-40 in their Bibles. Say:

Our key verse today is Matthew 25:40b, "Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me."

In Matthew 25:35-36, who does Jesus say are those that seem unimportant? (The hungry and thirsty, those who need clothing and shelter, sick people, those in prison.)

Who does Jesus say these people are to him? (*His brothers and sisters.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

What people do you think of when you read this passage? (*The homeless, poor inner city single moms and families, prisoners and their families, older people in nursing homes, poor people in other countries.*)

Who are we really giving to when we help or serve these people?
(*Matthew 25:40b. Jesus.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

What can you do for these people to serve them? (*Serve a meal in a homeless shelter; make donations to charities such as Angel Tree; deliver Christmas presents to needy people; say kind words to those in need, showing them respect; volunteer at a hospital or nursing home, etc.*)

How might your neighbors and friends be in need? (*Kids may know someone very sick; a family who has lost a loved one; a family going through a divorce; someone who has lost a job, etc.*)

What can you do for them to give to God?

Activity

Supplies: Gift nametags or copy Appendix and thin line markers

Give each kid a gift nametag that says, "To Jesus, From _____." Have them write their own name in the blank. On the back, list the names of all those to whom they can give something. Challenge kids to take the gift nametags home and follow through with giving to God by giving to others. Use the nametags to remember these people in prayer.

Remind students of the Take Home Point: ****We give to God by giving to others.***

Closing prayer:

Thank God for giving the best gift, his Son, Jesus. Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict us of how much we have been given through Jesus' death and resurrection. Thank God for other blessings and for the privilege of serving him by giving to others. Pray for those names or people written on the gift nametags.

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Large Group Presentation

Give to God – By Giving to Others Dramatic Presentation

Costume:

- *presenter is dressed as a storefront holiday bell ringer for charity*

Props:

- *pot with lid hanging from a pole serving as a collection place for gifts*
- *several gift tags are in the pot that say: "To Jesus, From: _____"*
- *a hand bell that rings*
- *bowl of popcorn*
- *six rulers or other splint-like objects to keep elbows locked and arms straight*
- *duct tape or other heavy tape*
- *six arm extension toy hand grabbers*

Introduction

Welcome, everyone! My name is General R. Osity! But my friends call me Gen, for short. You can call me Gen or Gen R. Osity, whichever you prefer. Today I am ringing my bell for charity and I want to invite you to give, give, give. Give until it helps someone. You might have seen some of my other helpers at different stores reminding you that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Oh, this reminds me of a story!

Invite six people to come up to the stage. If possible, take three boys and three girls.

Before I begin my story, I will give each of these volunteers an arm extension hand grabber.

(To the volunteers) **But to use these you have to follow a special rule. You cannot bend your elbows.**

For special effect, take a ruler or other splint-like object and tape it to each volunteer's arm to immobilize their elbows, keeping them from bending.

As I tell the story, I'd like to have the volunteers act out their parts.

Have three of the volunteers act out the first scene while the other three sit down. Put a bowl of popcorn in the middle of the volunteers.

Interactive Sketch:

Once I had a dream. In that dream I visited some friends at a party. The people there were thin and sickly and yet, all around them was a great big feast. If you use your imagination, this popcorn will represent the great feast. But look at the people...

Point to the volunteers standing.

See their faces? Their expressions are sad and sickly.

Prompt volunteers to look sad and sickly. Emphasize this action by repeating:

I said, their expressions are sad and sickly. Why, they're trying to eat! Let's take a look.

Ad-lib with the kids as they try to feed themselves popcorn with their locked elbows and hand grabbers.

They're trying to eat, but they can't reach their mouths to feed themselves!

Encourage kids to keep trying different ways of feeding themselves, even if it means tossing popcorn in the air and catching it in their mouths, or placing a popcorn piece on their knee or foot to try to eat.

Wow, no wonder they are so thin, sad, and sick! Yes, it seems like a most unpleasant place indeed. But in this dream, I also dreamed that I went to heaven.

Invite those three kids to sit down and the other three to stand up.

In heaven, they, too, had a great feast and had to eat with locked elbows and hand grabbers. But this feast was different. Instead of thin and sickly, they were jolly and well fed! How can this be? Look at what they are doing. They use their hand grabbers and feed each other!

Pause and interact with the volunteers until they successfully get some popcorn in the mouth of another.

Heaven is a delightful place. But what made the difference between the first and the second scenario? In the second scenario, the volunteers were enjoying the gift of giving to one another. Now, I know this is only a dream but it illustrates a very important truth that we will discuss this Christmas season. The truth is this: *"Giving gifts is more satisfying than receiving them."* (Acts 20:35.)

You remember the words of Jesus that it is more blessed to give than it is to receive. You know that to be true because at Christmas we celebrate his gift.

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. (John 3:16.)

John 3:16 says that God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. Christmas is about giving: God giving to us and us having a chance to give to God.

Encourage applause and have volunteers return to the audience.

Wrap Up:

Take out a few of the gift tags from the hanging pot that say: "To Jesus, From: _____." Say:

These are gift nametags that go on gifts to other people. But here, surprisingly enough, it says, "To Jesus." Now, if you can't see Jesus, how can you give him a gift? The Bible is very clear about this in Matthew 25:40b, "*Whatever you did for one of my brothers or sisters, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did for me.*"

So today I'm going to give some gifts to Jesus. I'd like to give Jesus a word of blessing.

Tape a gift nametag to someone while you give him/her a compliment or kind word. Take another gift card and say:

I think I'd like to offer Jesus some popcorn.

Put a gift nametag on someone and give him or her some popcorn.

I'd like to offer Jesus another give of serving him.

Put a gift nametag on a shepherd and say:

After class, I'd like to stay and help you clean up.

This demonstrates how we can **give to God by giving to others.*

Teaching Point:

It is so important that you understand how much God gave to you, not only in material things, but he gave you the best gift, his Son, Jesus. When we remember this, we can't help but to give back to him. The way to do this is by giving to others. Perhaps when we give to others, we are really giving to Jesus.

Mother Theresa is an example of this very important principle of giving. She is famous for her ministry of giving to the poorest of the poor people in India. She could serve these sick and dying people living on the streets because on each one of their faces, she saw the face of Jesus. In serving them, in fact, she was serving Jesus.

Prayer:

Dear God, we ask that you give us hearts to receive the gift of Jesus, your Son. Because you have given us so much, we want to **give back to you by giving to others.* Help us to be generous and to do that. Today and throughout the whole Christmas season, give us ideas of ways to give to others rather than just getting for ourselves. In Jesus' name. Amen.



To: *Jesus*

From:

We give to God, by giving to others. Mt. 25:40



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We give to God, by giving to others. Mt. 25:40



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