

“God Is the Ultimate Giver”

Bible Passage: John 3:16

MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 9:11

What you'll need:

Bible

Verse and sun image slides

Thank you cards

Worship songs

Teacher Tip: *This week's lesson is all about communicating the generosity of God and how He is our example of generosity. God is generous and we want to be more like Him, therefore we must be generous too. It's a simple message with profound implications. Be sure to spend some time in prayer as you prepare to teach this lesson. Perhaps God is calling you to be more generous as well. Read over John 3:16 and meditate on the full depth of God's selfless sacrifice to redeem us. It's amazing! Pray that the Holy Spirit will speak through you as you teach this lesson and that He'll inspire the hearts and minds of your kids to become more like God, to become more generous!*

Large Group:

Teacher Tip: *Open large group time by welcoming the kids. Large group should be a time of both fun and learning. As the teacher, you set the tone for the whole experience. Be sure to exude excitement as you open the large group time.*

Say: "Let's review our Memory Verse!" (verse on screen) "Let's say it together..."

MEMORY VERSE: *"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."*

2 Corinthians 9:1

"BREAK THE ICE"

Teacher Tip: "Break the Ice" is a great way to build community among your kids. Encourage them to find three or four other kids and ask them the following question. Once a few minutes have passed, *and if time permits*, spend a few moments dialoguing with the group about their answers.

"Break the Ice" Question

What is the coolest gift you've ever been given?

Worship Song: "Giving God"

(🔊) *(Tech cue worship video)*

Large Group Lesson: "God Is the Ultimate Giver"

Teacher's Tip: Set up the verse and sun image slides and have your Bible handy

Today we're going to talk about how God is a giving God. Let's look at John 3:16 together:

(🗨️) (on the screen) **"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."**

What does this verse say about God? It says that He loved the world so much that He did what? (allow children to answer) That's right! He gave! God showed His generosity to us by giving us His Son, Jesus Christ. What does "generosity" mean? (allow children to answer). Those are great answers! Generosity means to "unselfishly give up something we value because we love others." God loves us so much! Do you think it was easy for God to send Jesus to earth, knowing that He would eventually be crucified on the cross? No!

By sending Jesus to us to be our Savior, God proved His love for us.

Did you know that God exists in three persons? God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We call that the Trinity; it can be challenging to understand how one God can exist in three persons. But because He is God, anything is possible! Think about it this way.

We've all seen the sun right?

(🗨️) (show picture of the sun on the screen)

The sun is a giant mass of gas, hot plasma and fire in outer space. All the planets in our solar system orbit around the sun. The sun provides light to the earth, so that life can exist on our planet. The sun also provides heat to the earth, to keep us warm. In a similar way, God the Father, who created the whole universe, resides in Heaven. Jesus is like the light of the world, so that we can have eternal life. And the Holy Spirit might be compared to the heat of the sun, it reminds us of the presence of God here on earth. God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit are all part of the God we worship.

God the Father showed His generosity by sending His Son, Jesus. How did Jesus

display God's generosity? (allow kids to answer) **Jesus was an amazing gift to us! Why did God send Jesus again? Right! Because He loves us and he wants us to spend eternity with Him. John 3:16 tells us that Jesus was sent so that "whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."**

How did Jesus, God the Son, show generosity? (allow kids to answer) **That's right! He gave up His own life to be our Savior! Wow! What an amazing display of generosity, to lay down your own life. Jesus could have said, "no way, I don't want to die for the sins of man!" But instead He told God that if it was His will, He would go to the cross to become our Savior.**

Okay, we've talked about God the Father and Jesus, God's Son. What's the third part of the Trinity? That's right, the Holy Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit display God's generosity? (allow kids to answer)

The Holy Spirit is another one of God's amazing gifts to us! After Jesus resurrected into Heaven, God wanted His presence to continue living on earth, so He sent His Spirit. (on screen) In Romans 5:5, it says "God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us." This verse tells us that the Holy Spirit was given to us as an outpouring of God's love. Not only did God send His Son to be our Savior, but He also sent His Spirit to help us and guide us! God's generosity continues working through us each and every day, making us more like Him. What a generous God we serve!

Just as God is generous, we can be generous too! But we must have God's love in our hearts. When we love others, we will show that love by giving to others. And giving doesn't just mean giving money or things away. We can give our time to help someone in need. We can give our talents by using them to serve God. There are so many ways that we can give! And when the love of God is in our hearts, we'll always be generous, just as God is generous.

WHAT NOW?

Teacher Tip: *“What Now?” is an opportunity for the kids to reflect and respond to the teaching time. Spend as much or as little time as you need here.*

As God’s children, we should always want to be more like Him. And if we want to be more like God, we too must be generous givers! In fact, we are most like God when we give.

Let’s take a few moments and think about the verse we read earlier, John 3:16.
(on screen)

Read the verse aloud.

For a few moments, we’re going to be silent and think about that verse. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to that verse? How can God’s example of generosity help us to be more generous? (allow an appropriate amount of time to pass before moving on)

We’re going to respond in worship, to both thank God for His generosity to us and to ask Him to help us to be more generous. You’ll notice “Thank You” cards on the table. Take one of the “Thank You” cards and write a prayer of thanksgiving on it, telling God how grateful you are for His generosity in your life and in sending His Son to be our Savior. Take the cards with you as a reminder of your prayers this week.

After the kids are finished, close the Large Group time.

THANK YOU CARDS

(Cut out the card and fold along the dotted line with the printed side as the front of the card.)

