

# “Giving What We Value Shows Our Faith”

**Bible Passage: 2 Corinthians 8:1-2**

**MEMORY VERSE**

**2 Corinthians 9:11**

## **What you'll need:**

Bible

Verse slides

11 dollar bills or pieces of candy

Worship songs

**Teacher Tip:** *In this week's lesson, we find the ultimate example of generosity as Paul introduces us to the Macedonian church in 2 Corinthians. We learn that, even though the people had very little, they gave joyfully to whoever had a need. What a stark contrast to the rich young man we learned about last week! Instead of trusting their possessions and holding onto them tightly, the Macedonian people trusted God and gave freely. This is the model that Christ wants us to follow. Your challenge this week is to communicate that spirit of selfless generosity to your children. Be certain that you allow this message to penetrate your own heart before you teach it. When we give selflessly, we become more like the Macedonian people and, more importantly, more like Christ!*

## 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

***Would you rather give away all your video games or all your shoes? Why?***

## Worship Song: "Giving God"

(🎧) *(Tech cue worship video)*

## Large Group Lesson: “Giving What We Value Shows Our Faith”

**Teacher’s Tip:** *Set up the verse slides, set your dollar bills (or candy) in an accessible place.*

Last week we talked about the rich young man who asked Jesus how to get eternal life. Does anyone remember what Jesus told that man? (allow for responses) Right! Jesus told the man that he must give up all he possessed and follow him. Did the man do that? No! He walked away sad, because he was trusting in his possessions more than in Jesus and wasn’t willing to give them up. We learned last week that in order to serve Jesus completely, we must be willing to give up everything to follow Him.

Today we’re going to learn about an amazing group of people! These people loved God very much and loved each other as well. Because they were godly and so full of love, they were also a very generous group of people.

Let’s read together about this amazing church. In 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 and verse 7, it says...

(🔊) (on the screen)

“And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. (now skip down to verse 7) ...just as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

Wow! The people of this church were incredibly generous people! In fact, the scripture says that the people “welled up in rich generosity.” That means they were overflowing with generosity...it was everywhere!

Did the people of the Macedonian church give generously because they were all rich and had lots of things to share? Does it sound like they were living in big mansions and eating lobster for lunch every day? No! The passage tells us that the people of the Macedonian church were extremely poor. They were some of

**the poorest people in the world. They probably lived in very small and run-down homes and maybe only ate once a day. They didn't have a lot to offer, but it says here that they were still very generous! And not only were they generous, they were overflowing with joy as they gave! Can you imagine that? They were happy to give to one another, even though they barely had anything to give! The bible tells us that they not only gave to the people in their own church, but also gave to those struggling hundreds of miles away in Judea! And the more they gave, the more joy they experienced!**

**Why do you think God was so pleased with the Macedonian church?** (allow children to answer) **That's right, unlike the rich young ruler we talked about last week, the people of this church were serving God completely and, as a result, they were willing to give up everything to serve the Lord and to help each other. That's the kind of generosity that God wants from his children!**

**Here's an important question for you: Is it easier to give up something when you have a lot or a little? Let's look at it this way...** (invite two volunteers to come up to help you)

(give out dollar bills, or candy if you prefer, to two volunteers as you speak)

**Suppose** (insert first child's name) **has 10 dollars and** (insert second child's name) **only has one dollar. And let's suppose I am traveling through their city and in great need of money for food. If I ask** (first child) **for a dollar and receive it, do you think it was hard to give that dollar bill up? Why or why not?** (allow children to answer). **Okay, suppose I ask** (second child) **for a dollar. Would it be easier or harder for him to give it to me? Why?** (allow children to answer or poll the audience as to which would be more difficult. Thank the volunteers as they sit down.)

**Well this might be a surprise for you...it's not how much stuff we have that really determines how hard it is to give to others. It's how much we *value* the things we have. A man with great riches can be very generous if he's selflessly giving to others. A very poor man can be very greedy if he refuses to share or give what little he has. It doesn't matter how much we have or don't have, it's how much we value the things we have. If I give up something I really value for the sake of others, I am displaying the same faith that the Macedonian people had. Giving up something we value shows our faith. It shows that we are trusting in God to take care of us and not trusting in our possessions.**

**Let's sing a song together and, as we worship, let's focus on what God might be telling us to do next.**

## Worship Song: “Be Glorified”

(🎧) *(Tech cue worship video)*

### 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.*

**Today, we’re going to take a few minutes to ask God to speak to us. We’re going to invite Him to show us how we can be more like the people of the Macedonian church.**

**The last part of the verses we read earlier said, “see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” That means we should seek to be really, really good at giving to others.**

**Let’s take the next few moments to quietly reflect on how we can excel in the grace of giving.** (play worship music quietly as the children reflect and pray quietly.)

**Some of you might feel God encouraging you to respond in a specific way. Maybe God had revealed some things in your life that you should give up. Or maybe you feel like you should give something you have to help others. We’re going to take the rest of our time in large group to concentrate on what God might have us to do next. If you feel led to speak to a leader about what God might be asking you to do, be sure to ask them. You might want to write a prayer on a prayer card or in a journal to God, asking for his help in making you a better giver. Just take this opportunity to connect to God and trust the Holy Spirit to tell you how to respond.**