

WEEK 5

GIVING

Theme

GIVING like Jesus

Memory Verse

³ "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. Luke 21:3

Bible Verses

Luke 21:1-4

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3 "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

Big Idea

Why is GIVING to Jesus important?

Goals

- ➡ Give examples of different ways of GIVING with Jesus. How did Jesus model this? Have an opportunity for the kids to actually GIVE to Jesus. What should we give? Who should we give to?

WARM-UP

Treasure Hunts

What you need

Pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, Butcher paper, crayons with their paper label removed

What you do

Spread the coins out on a hard surface like a table. Cover the table and coins with the butcher paper and tape it down so you cannot lift it and see under. Have the children use the crayons to rub the paper with the crayons sideways to create a crayon rubbing image and see if they can find all the coins. Have the kids tell you how much each is worth.

What you say

Discuss what it means to be rich. Can someone be rich even if they don't have money? Can someone with lots of money still be poor? Who would think \$5.00 is a lot of money? Who do you know that would think \$5.00 is a little bit of money?

OBSERVATION

In this skit Red will bring in his junk to donate to others instead of things that he actually likes.

Prep

Ideas are provided in the script to use the following props: a bubble machine, a ball and a Fitbit. Feel free to modify and change the script to match whatever beaten up, broken or clearly used toys you have.

Teacher: Hi everyone! Glad you are back here with us today! We are doing a Red Letter 40 Day Challenge and each week we are working on a different theme: but before I talk about the theme for this week let's do a quick review of the 5 themes of the Red Letter Challenge: I want to hear them nice and loud!

BEING, FORGIVING, SERVING, GIVING, GOING

Awesome!

Sharing Time: Would anyone like to come up and share with the group a challenge that they completed this last week? What you did or how you did it?

Thanks for sharing that, great job. OK everyone stand up! Can you also show me with your motions what the 5 words are? It is going to be completely silent in here: ready:

Teacher leads the children through the 5 motions: encourage silence during this time.

Teacher: You guys are doing great. Give yourselves a round of applause! So that means that this week's theme is...

Audience: GIVING!

Teacher: Yep! Giving! I think everybody already knows what that means. I mean this is too easy! Should we just skip this one?

Red runs on the stage dropping things out of his hands. He is holding mostly junk, toys that can no longer be used or very old and stained clothing or torn destroyed books.

Red: No, no don't skip this one. I want to teach this one. I'm going to show the kids all about giving.

Teacher: Well, ok Red what do you have there?

Red: No, no don't skip this one. I want to teach this one. I'm going to show the kids all about giving.

Teacher: Well, ok Red what do you have there?

Red: Oh I am so excited to show you all that I have! I went through my room because I wanted to find things I can give away to other kids that might not have as much.

Teacher: That's great Red! Well what did you find to give away?

Red: Well, let's see I have my broken Fitbit! I left it out in the rain and it stopped working, so I just thought that maybe a kid could use it as a bracelet or something, you know?

Teacher: (Hesitantly) Oookay...what else do you have?

Red: OH! OK! Well, this was a great book of mine but the outside cover fell off and we are missing the back 4 pages because of it so you can't find out the ending...but the beginning is REALLY good.

Teacher: Hmmmm...what else?

Red: I've got a really cool bubble machine!

Teacher: Now that's really cool Red! Someone is really going to have fun with that when all those bubbles come out!

Red: Actually no bubbles are going to come out.

Teacher: No bubbles are going to come out? But isn't that how a bubble machine works?

Red: Normally yes, but some of the bubbles must have gotten into the battery section and it got all rusty and now it doesn't work anymore. But that's ok! I am going to have them pretend it's a little dog. See? If you tie on a piece of string to it and then drag it around it's like a pet!

Have Red do this and try to drag the machine around like a pet. Keep that "pet" the rest of the skit. Have the "pet" interact with the kids, ask them who wants to pet him or give him a treat: play it up throughout the morning.

Teacher: Red! None of these things work! You don't have anything that kids can play with!

Red: But what about this basketball?

Teacher: It's deflated

Red: Yes but if you pump it up it will work great for about 20 minutes until the air comes out again!

Teacher: Red, I know you are trying to give. And you ARE giving something. But you gave things away that really should just be thrown away. This stuff can't be used by anyone.

Red: OH well, yeah I know that but when I was looking around my room I couldn't find anything I didn't like.

Teacher: (Gently) Have you thought about giving away something that you might actually LIKE but maybe don't use as much anymore?

Red: Like what?

Teacher: Well, like your telescope for instance. I know that's a really cool toy, but Red, you don't really like space, and you don't ever use it. I bet you could find someone who really loved looking at the night sky. Or your Lincoln Logs. They are very neat, but you don't play with them and someone else may really enjoy them.

Red: Yeah ok I guess I can see about giving those away.

Teacher: Red, I have one more thing. What if you gave away your Xbox 360 Spiderman game?

Red: What? Are you crazy?! That's my favorite game!

Teacher: I know it is Red. But I bet someone would love to have that game. You see, giving isn't just about getting rid of stuff we don't like anymore, or even getting rid of stuff we don't use anymore. Sometimes giving is hard because we should give something we do love, like the money we've been saving for a LONG time or a favorite toy.

Red: I don't know if I can do that.

Teacher: Well, what did God give us?

Red: I know it wasn't his Xbox 360 Superman game!

Teacher: OH Red. No He gave something much better than even that!

Red: What can possibly be better than that?

Teacher: When we look at what God gave to us, it is incredible. He gave us His one and only Son Jesus. And whoever believes in him will have eternal life! God loves a cheerful giver! God loves us so much that he gave himself up for us willingly and cheerfully. And now, we trust in Jesus to save us, God give us generous and cheerful hearts to give out of worship for Him!

Red: I get it now. That's the MOST favorite thing to give! Jesus died so we can know Jesus.

Teacher: That's the best gift we can ever have! Thanks for learning with us today boys and girls!

Did you get a chance to bring in your money for insert your specific ministry or event you helped raise money for? Awesome! Red is going to collect that money and we are going to count it up and let you know how much we raised!

Exit

INTERPRETATION / APPLICATION

Activity 1: Snack Time! (5 Loaves and 2 Fish)

Ages: all ages

What you need

Oyster crackers (5 for each kid), Swedish fish (2 for each kid) (Can also have extra goldfish crackers), Ziploc baggie

What you do

After distributing the snack have the children eat while listening to a kid's version of the story of John 6:1-15.

What you say

God makes a lot out of our little gifts and offerings. This is an incredible miracle of Jesus and it all started with a boy's lunch. It may not seem like much that he gave and it might not seem like much you can give, but God can do miracles with what you give. There is a story in the Bible about a little boy who gave his lunch: 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish to Jesus and He used it to do a miracle and feed thousands of people. We are going to put together a snack while I read the story.

John 6:1-15

After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (some call it Tiberias). A huge crowd followed him, attracted by the miracles they had seen him do among the sick. When he got to the other side, he climbed a hill and sat down, surrounded by his disciples. It was nearly time for the Feast of Passover, kept annually by the Jews.

When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed these people?" He said this to stretch Philip's faith. He already knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered, "Two hundred silver pieces wouldn't be enough to buy bread for each person to get a piece."

One of the disciples—it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter—said, "There's a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But that's a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this."

Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." There was a nice carpet of green grass in this place. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks, gave it to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish. All ate as much as they wanted.

When the people had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted." They went to work and filled twelve large baskets with leftovers from the five barley loaves.

The people realized that God was at work among them in what Jesus had just done. They said, "This is the Prophet for sure, God's Prophet right here in Galilee!" Jesus saw that in their enthusiasm, they were about to grab him and make him king, so he slipped off and went back up the mountain to be by himself.

Activity 2: Story Time - The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein

Ages: all ages

What you need

The Giving Tree book

What you say

Red helped show us that we need to give our best, not our trash. Let's read a story about how a tree gave her best to someone she loved. Have any of you ever read The Giving Tree?

What you do

Read the Giving Tree: talk about what the tree gave and why she gave so much: contrasting the boy's lack of contentment.

Activity 3: Guess what's in My Pocket

Ages: all ages

What you need

A mix of change to play multiple rounds

What you say

A woman in our story gave two pennies. That was all she had in the world. It wasn't a lot, but when it's all she had, that's a whole lot to God. God wants us to know that even if we only have a little to give, it's still needed for the Kingdom of God. I have some money in my pocket. Can you hear it jingling? You can't see it, but you can hear it! I am going to let you guess how much money I have in my pocket. Whoever is the closest will get to keep the change!

What you do

Play a couple rounds of game. Let kids who get the closest to the amount keep the coins.

Activity 4: Give, Give, Share! (Like game of Duck, Duck, Goose!)

Ages: younger ages

What you need

A gift wrapped empty box or some other prop that have a connection with gifts

What you do

We are going to practice being givers today! I have this gift to give, so I am going to give it to one person. When that person receives a gift, then they are the one that gets to give!

What you say

Play Duck Duck Goose-type game: but the one who is it is the giver and must place the coin/item in the children's hands. Talk about how when you are given something then you become the giver. God gives us so much, and then we get to become givers to others.

Activity 5: Overflowing

Ages: all ages

What you need

1 pitcher of beans/dried corn, sand, or pebbles. Something pourable, 1 casserole pan,
1 cup of water

What you say

Let's read Luke 6:38 and see what it says about giving. "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full- pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over and poured into your lap." Now I am going to demonstrate that today with my pitcher and cup. Watch what happens when I fill this cup.

The same thing happens with our gifts from God. He pours so much out that we can't even hold it all!

What you do

As you re-read Luke 6:38 pour out the pitcher and try to keep everything in the cup. Shake the cup or press it down and still there should be more running over.

Activity 6: Big Things Start Small

Ages: all ages

What you need

Seed packets, Avery labels, markers, pictures in a book or on an iPad of giant sequoia trees.

What you do

Show tiny seeds, let them hold them in their hands. Now show pictures of trees in contrasting the seeds. Give each kid a seed packet and a label on it. Write the Bible verse out on the label along with their name. Encourage them to take the seed packets home and plant them.

What you say

God can make big and beautiful things out of tiny gifts. Look at these pictures of giant trees. They all came from tiny seeds. God makes big beautiful things out of tiny gifts. He takes what we give and makes beautiful things out of it.

PRAYER

Jesus, we thank you for bringing us here today. Thank you for showing us what giving is all about, and for being the perfect example of giving. You are an amazing God, and we want to give because of everything you have given to us. Help us when we are stingy or don't want to give to others and forgive us for those times when we don't want to or won't give the way we should. We love you Jesus,

Amen

WEEK 5

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KIDS TAKE HOME SHEET

Theme

GIVING like Jesus

Memory Verse

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Bible Verses

Luke 21:1-4

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Big Idea

Why is GIVING like Jesus important?

Dear Parents:

Many of the principles of the Red Letter Challenge are things that will progress as children grow into adulthood: but often kids grasp things even easier than adults do! The giving principle is often something that is often even easier for kids to do than adults! It will amaze you at their generosity, when you give them opportunities to give and share.

We talk about motive for giving, as well as who is the Ultimate Giver, Jesus. Understanding what Jesus has given to us helps us give freely to whoever needs it. We give because we have been given everything.

Not accepting and allowing them to give extravagantly like that stifles something that is so beautiful inside. If during this week they feel prompted to give something that makes you hesitate, that's normal! Let them give! And give freely!

Challenge: ways you can GIVE this week:

- ➡ Give food to the needy. Ask your parents or an adult oif you can help clear out your cupboards or go shopping and collect food for the needy. Find a church or a food pantry in your area to drop off the food to.
- ➡ Go through closets and empty out drawers of clothes/toys to give away to a neighbor or a local second hand store or women's shelter.