

KIDStory[®]+

A PROGRAM OF KIDS AROUND THE WORLD

The unified story of the BIBLE,
in twelve BIBLE stories on:

Generosity

A COLLABORATION OF KIDS AROUND THE WORLD & THE BIBLE PROJECT



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Kids Around the World® 2022

katw.net

Welcome to KIDStory+

in collaboration with The Bible Project

The materials and lessons in this manual are based on a strategy called KIDStory, which equips leaders to create environments where kids can encounter the love of Jesus through the telling of His Story and the working of His Spirit. This method focuses on students learning individual stories throughout the Bible and discovering how they apply, uniquely, to each of our lives.

We realize that a time comes when a child, and their faith, matures. Bigger questions arise and deeper conversations are needed surrounding the overarching themes we find from Genesis to Revelation. Can students deeply and truly know God and His character? Can students deeply and truly understand the major themes of the Bible? We think so and we've partnered with our friends at The Bible Project to help connect these individual stories in a manner that helps people experience the Bible as a UNIFIED STORY that leads to Jesus.

We are calling this next step KIDStory+ and through these resources, and our partnership, we believe the tools you will discover here will revolutionize the next steps for your maturing students. ***If you are unfamiliar with the core KIDStory Strategy, we encourage you to begin with any of our early training offerings: Online, In-Person or Self-Study.*** This will provide you the building blocks needed to begin unlocking the Bible for your students in applicable and transforming ways! You can find these resources at: katw-kidstory.com

These strategies are fun to learn, easy to use and designed to be shared with others. Leaders listen rather than lecture ... listen to the Holy Spirit and the responses of their students, then encourage them to also listen and be obedient to God's voice. The questions and interactions posed by the leaders are not about simply learning information; rather they focus on facilitate Holy Spirit transformation of the heart and mind. KIDStory is about God transforming a life, a family and ultimately a community through His Story and His Spirit.

You can find additional activities and questions in the back of this document for easy reference; however, understanding the foundations of the KIDStory Strategy will help multiply the impact of this material. We highly encourage you to utilize the training and resources in the link above.

CORE ESSENTIALS

There are certain things you will find in every aspect of KIDStory, whether you are training leaders or leading a group of students. We want to create environments where students learn: who God is, who they are (their purpose and value) and how to have a relationship with Jesus that is real and personal. We believe these things will happen when the following core essentials are practiced:

Bible Centered | Fun | Empowering | Relational | Spirit-Led

To learn more about how to create disciple-making environments where these core essentials are present, you'll want to be sure you take part in one of our KIDStory Training opportunities.

StoryClubs

an environment where disciple-making happens

... are environments, like Jesus created, where we feel welcomed, loved, & blessed.

A StoryClub is a place where students have fun and are free to ask real questions, connect dots and share what they are learning and experiencing; a place where God's presence is very real and evident. It's here that we leave behind rote learning concepts and step toward an approach that thrives on dialog, fun activities and is anchored in genuine relationships. It's where everyone feels safe, feels known and feels accepted and do likewise for others. StoryClubs are also a safe place for parents and leaders to learn and grow in how to lead young believers spiritually and have deeper conversations – a place where people are consistently equipped & encouraged.

A StoryClub can meet wherever and whenever is most convenient and leaders can even give it their own name. What makes a StoryClub unique is the application of the 5 Core Essentials. In a StoryClub, the stories of the Bible are linked together in fun, creative ways, while being Biblically accurate. As important as it is to see God's unified story, it is not enough. It's also about listening – listening to the Spirit and listening to a student reveal how the Spirit is stirring their heart.

The methods used to tell and retell God's unified story are coupled with engaging questions that allow the Holy Spirit to operate in every heart. It capitalizes on what students have heard and learned, creating a discovery process, bringing about true life change. The questions posed by leaders are not just for retention, but for transformation of the heart and mind, leading to real life application. Fostering this kind of environment provides leaders the opportunity to follow up on the things the Holy Spirit is teaching and revealing.

We are thrilled to work alongside the amazing scholars, storytellers & artists of The Bible Project, (bibleproject.com) who created each of the "overview" videos that will open and close each series. Additional content can be found at katw.net/kidstoryplus. Each manual will focus on a specific theme found throughout the Bible, equipping leaders & students to engage in subjects like:

- Justice
- Gospel of the Kingdom
- The Messiah
- The Image of God
- Generosity

So, WELCOME!!! We pray the Lord opens up many doors for you to create environments where students grow deeper in their faith and their understanding of God, His Son, and the enduring hope each of us is offered through our relationship with Him.

Series Format for KIDStory+

Initial Week:

- Briefly introduce the concept you will be exploring
- Identify how many Sessions you'll do together during the Series
- Show students The Bible Project video
- Introduce the Key Verse for the Series
- Conduct Session 1 for that Series

Middle Sessions:

- Briefly discuss what they remember & significant elements from The Bible Project video & previous Session
- Conduct next Session

Final Week:

- Briefly discuss what they remember & significant elements from the overview video & previous Session
- Conduct the final Session
- Watch The Bible Project video one more time
- Conduct the Series Closing Mini-Session
- Revisit the Key Verse for the Series

Each Series will open & close with a video from The Bible Project. These videos are created to provide an overview of a larger narrative in the Bible, & each Session will explore a specific story in the Bible where we see this clearly illustrated.

Each Series will include 4-5 total Sessions that link together, highlighting a specific theological or thematic element of God's unified story, pointing to Jesus. As you explore each Session, ensure the students are connecting the thread that runs through them all.

As you complete each Series, you will revisit The Bible Project video & facilitate some connecting questions to help the students discover where they see God & Jesus moving, & what the Holy Spirit is calling them to do.

Individual Session Format for KIDStory+

Opening:

- Choose a question or activity where students can share a personal story
- The answer should generate an emotion from the students
- Ask a question that needs an answer more than “Yes” or “No”

The Opening doesn't have to be directly tied to the Bible story but gets the students thinking in that direction.

Background:

- Define words or explain geographical locations & cultural differences that may not be known
- Explain important events that happened before today's story
- Review important concepts from the previous story if applicable

You don't want to stop during the story to explain words so make sure to go over them all in the Background time.

Tell the Story:

- Involve the students in the story
- Use dramatic elements that would make the story more engaging & interactive
- Use visual objects to show the group if possible
- Keep the length of the story appropriate for the students to learn so they can tell others

Tell the story just as it is in the Bible. Don't add your own words or interpretations. Make it memorable but stay true to God's Word. It is crucial that the students know that the story comes from the Bible & that it is true.

Retell:

- Have students use their Bibles to read & retell the story
- Choose a game or activity to engage the students

Make sure the students are being Biblically accurate when retelling the story.

Discover & Response Questions:

- Pray about this lesson regarding where the Holy Spirit might lead the discussion
- Use questions that engage the heart & not just the head

Move the students from remembering facts in the story to what God is doing in their hearts & lives. We want the Spirit to speak to each person for the implication that will be for them specifically.

Generosity Series Overview for Facilitators & Parents

We will be using a few helpful tools that connect in meaningful ways, so understanding the BIG PICTURE will help you engage the students each week more deeply. We encourage you to read through this one-page overview to better grasp where we are starting and where we hope to land.

The KIDStory+ series is linked with videos created by the team at The Bible Project. To view it ahead of time and understand the unified story of GENEROSITY you can watch the video here: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/generosity/>

We have constructed the series to resemble a snorkeling excursion. As we swim across the surface of the waters, at times we see specific things that can tell us more about the environment we are exploring. In order to understand it better, we dive down and take a peek. Then we swim back to the surface, catch our breath and keep swimming until we find the next thing to dive deep on and that's exactly our plan. Over the next six weeks we will dive into the stories below, in hopes of better understanding GENEROSITY. These may be familiar stories to you or your students, but our hope is that linking them together in this manner will create space for new engagement, deep conversation, and thoughtful questions!

Within the Generosity Series, you will notice some sub-themes in the Discover Questions:

- Scarcity vs abundance mentality: Some believe they can't be generous because they don't have anything to give. When we start understanding who we are in Jesus Christ and our inheritance as His children, we recognize the great abundance we have to offer.
- Generosity Heroes: A hero helps others be better; they are known for their courageous acts. Through these lessons, children will recognize their ability to be heroes through their time, talents, treasures and the power of God working through them.
- Some Biblical principles outlined by Generosity Path (<https://www.generositypath.org>) have been incorporated into the lessons. Generosity Path is a global network who creates experiences to help people discover the great joy of giving. Their philosophy of teaching and facilitating discussions, along with their Biblical view on generosity, is why we include their Core Messages to be cycled through the series:
 1. God gave first: John 3:16, Romans 5:8
 2. Giving is a heart issue: Matthew 6:21
 3. God owns it all: Psalm 24:1
 4. Seek first the Kingdom of God: Matthew 6:33
 5. Heaven, not earth, is my home: Philippians 3:20
 6. Giving brings joy: Acts 20:35

THE GENEROSITY SERIES:

Week 1 – Generosity Starts with God (Genesis 1-2 summarized)

God demonstrates His generosity by creating everything we need.

Week 2 – God Gives from His Heart (Luke 2:8-20)

No one anticipated this gift that God would give to the world.

Week 3 – Generosity to All (Luke 10:25-37)

A story of how enemies can generously give to one another.

Week 4 – A Little Bit Goes a Long Way (Luke 9:10-17)

The little you may have to give, God can multiply it many times over.

Week 5 – Generosity Remembered (Acts 9:36-42)

Sharing your talents is a tremendous gift to God and His people.

Week 6 – New Perspective (Luke 19:1-10)

A repentant heart leads to a giving heart.

Week 7 – The Generous Church (Acts 2:42-47)

See what happens when the Christ followers are generous towards one another.

Week 8 – When You Least Expect It (Exodus 16:15-18; 17:1-6)

God gives generously and miraculously when we need it most.

Week 9 – Count Me In! (Exodus 35, 36, 39, 40 summarized)

We all have something to contribute to the church with our time, talents and treasures.

Week 10 – When All You Have is Jesus ... (Acts 3:1-11)

I may not have much but I can always give you Jesus.

Week 11 – To Jesus with Love (Mark 12:41-44)

It's not about how much – it's all about the heart behind what we give.

Week 12 – Sent Out to Be a World Changer (Mark 6:7-13)

Doing Jesus' work requires faith, trust and obedience - not just our stuff!

Week 13 – Extending Forgiveness Generously (Genesis 45:4-11, 14-15)

When our hearts are right before God, we can have His perspective and forgive generously.

The Generosity Theme is: *Gladly giving to make it better for someone else.*

Our series verse will be: *Matthew 10:8: As freely as you have received, freely give.*



GENEROSITY SERIES:

Gladly giving to make it better for someone else.

GENEROSITY STARTS WITH GOD

Genesis 1-2 (summarized)

1. OPENING: What is something really special you made for someone else?

2. BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

This is the first story in our Generosity series. Generosity means: *Gladly giving to make it better for someone else.* There are many things you can give, it doesn't just have to be money or things we own. It could be your time. It could be using what you are really good at and helping someone with that talent. It could be just letting God, through His Holy Spirit, work through you to do something really good for someone. It might be as simple as sharing words of encouragement. God is the One who is most generous! He has given us everything we need to live. Let's discover how all that got started.

You may also want to show a short video on generosity from The Bible Project:

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/generosity/>

3. TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

As God spoke, creation began to take shape. God made light by pushing back the darkness. Then God separated the sky from the oceans and the seas. He then gathered the waters together so there could be dry land.

God made plants, flowers and trees to grow on the land.

Then God made the sun, moon and the stars in all the galaxies.

God then filled the earth with all kinds of living creatures: birds to fly in the sky, fish to swim in the waters and all kinds of animals to roam the land.

When God looked at what He created, He said: "This is good!"

Then God created a man to be made in His image – to be like Him. This man will take care of and rule over the earth and everything that lives there. So God took dirt from the earth and formed the first man. God breathed into his nose and the man came to life! He would later be known as Adam. God even brought each kind of animal right to Adam so he could give them names!

Soon, God said to Adam, "It's not good for you to be alone. I'll make a partner just for you." So God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep, removed one of his ribs, and used this rib to create the first woman. When God brought her to Adam, Adam shouted, "At last!" Adam would call her Eve. Adam and Eve were joined together as husband and wife.

Every day God would come and walk with them.

After creating all of this, God thought, "This is excellent in every way!" Then God rested and set aside a day in each week for people to rest and enjoy being with God.

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

Group Poster: If you have the materials, have the children work together on making a poster that can tell the Bible Story. Allow the children to retell the story by using what they drew on the poster.

Rope Game: Get a piece of rope that is 15 feet long and tie the ends together. Have the children get in a circle with everyone holding on to the rope. Start moving the rope in one direction. When you say "STOP," the person closest to the knot has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this till the story is told.

5. DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

Ages 5-9

- What did you like most about this story?
- I wonder why God created all the things He did.
- in all that God created, what are your most favorite?
- In what ways was God generous to His creation?
- How is God generous to you?
- I wonder what it would have been like to actually walk with God every day.
- What does the story tell us about God?

Ages 10-13

- What was the best part of the story for you?
- Could you imagine being there? What would that have been like to have God speak and all these things be created?
- God created boys and girls differently but each is wonderfully made. What is different and special about us?
- If I was Adam or Eve, I would be feeling _____.
- How was God generous to them?
- God demonstrates His generosity to me by _____.
- I wonder what it would have been like to actually walk with God every day.
- What does this story tell us about God?

Ages 14-18

- Imagine being Adam, the first person God created. What do you think it was like when he first woke up and saw everything around him?
 - What do you think is the most unusual thing God has created?
 - What do you think it means to be created in God's image? How are we like God? How are we different?
 - I wonder what God was thinking and feeling as He was creating everything. How about when He was creating Adam and blew His very breath into him?
 - What does this story tell us about people and generosity?
 - I wonder what it would have been like to actually walk with God every day.
 - What does the story tell us about God?
-

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- What is the Holy Spirit prompting you to do this week because of what you learned today? I will _____.
-

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Read Psalm 139:14

Lord, thank you for your powerful, creative hand that has crafted each of us so wonderfully and uniquely. I ask you to bless each person with a heart of thanksgiving and wonder of your amazing creation.

GENEROSITY SERIES VERSE: Matthew 10:8

As freely as you have received, freely give.



GENEROSITY SERIES:

Gladly giving to make it better for someone else.

GOD GIVES FROM HIS HEART

Luke 2:8-20

1. OPENING: Something I would want the world to know is _____.

2. BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

People have been waiting for thousands of years for God to send a Savior, the One who would free them from their sins. They kept waiting not knowing exactly when that time would come. They just knew they needed to be ready. The prophets, those people who speak for God, continue to tell the people to trust and follow the Lord. The people start to but then they stop. God decides to be silent for 400 years. Then an angel appears to a young lady named Mary, who is engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. God tells Mary that she is going to have a baby – a baby from God Himself. They are to name him Jesus. Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem just when it was time for the baby to be born. God is always the first to give.

3. TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and they became very frightened. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news that will be a great joy to all the people.

Today your Savior was born in the town of David. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box."

Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel, praising God and saying: "Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace among the people who please God."

When the angels left them and went back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened which the Lord has told us about."

So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in a feeding trough. When they had seen him, they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

But Mary treasured these things and continued to think about them. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard. It had been just as the angel had told them.

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

Story Comic Strip: Give each child a sheet of paper. Have them fold it in half, then fold that half again and then a third time. When you open the paper, there should be 8 boxes on the paper. For each scene or action in the Bible story, have each child draw a simple picture or object in each box in the order that it happens in the story. Let the children retell the story to a partner by using their comic strips.

Act it Out: Assign different characters of the story to each of the children. Let them practice before actually acting out the story. See if there are one or two children who want to be the person telling the story while the other children act it out.

5. DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

Ages 5-9

- What did you like best in the story?
- If you could be anyone in the story, who would you want to be?
- Imagine being one of the shepherds. What do you think they were feeling throughout the story?
- Have you made a commitment to follow Jesus? Who can you tell about Jesus like the shepherds did?
- Generosity is gladly giving to make it better for someone else. What does this story tell us about God being generous?
- How were the other characters in the story being generous?
- What does the story tell us about God?

Ages 10-13

- What was the best part of the story for you?
- Who were the different people in the story? For you, who was the Hero of Generosity in this story?
- Imagine being the shepherds in the story. Go back through the story and share what they might have been thinking and feeling in each of the scenes.
- Generosity is gladly giving to make it better for someone else. What does this story tell us about God being generous?
- Who else was generous in the story? How did they give of their time, talents, treasures and the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
- If I were there to witness Jesus' birth, I could be generous by _____.
- Have you made a commitment to follow Jesus? Who can you tell about Jesus like the shepherds did?
- What does this story tell us about God?

Ages 14-18

- What was the most important part of the story for you?
 - For you, who was the main character in this story?
 - Imagine being God in the story. Go back through the story and share what He might have been thinking and feeling in each of the scenes.
 - Generosity is gladly giving to make it better for someone else. What does this story tell us about God being generous?
 - I wonder why God sent Jesus as a baby to be born in a stable.
 - Who is Jesus to you? If you were to tell others about Jesus, what would you share with them?
 - How is God challenging you right now because of what we have talked about today?
 - What does the story tell us about God?
-

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- God has been generous to me. I believe God is asking me to be generous by _____.
-

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Jesus, bless these children with a boldness to tell others the Good News of Your birth.

GENEROSITY SERIES VERSE: Matthew 10:8

As freely as you have received, freely give.



GENEROSITY SERIES:

Gladly giving to make it better for someone else.

GENEROSITY TO ALL

Luke 10:25-37

1. OPENING: Tell us about a person that is hard to get along with.

2. BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

We find different people were trying to trick Jesus by asking him difficult questions. Jesus always had the right answer for them. Now during this time, the Samaritans and the Jewish people did not get along – they were enemies. A lawyer comes and asks a question to test Jesus. Let's see how Jesus responds.

3. TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

Then an expert on the law stood up to test Jesus, saying, "Teacher, what must I do to get life forever?"

Jesus said, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?"

The man answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind." Also, "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Jesus said to him, "Your answer is right. Do this and you will live."

But the man, wanting to show the importance of his question, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus answered, "As a man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, some robbers attacked him. They tore off his clothes, beat him, and left him lying there, almost dead. It happened that a priest was going down that road. When he saw the man, he walked by on the other side. Next, a Levite came there, and after he went over and looked at the man, he walked by on the other side of the road.

Then a Samaritan traveling down the road came to where the hurt man was. When he saw the man, he felt very sorry for him. The Samaritan went to him, poured olive oil and wine on his wounds, and bandaged them.

Then he put the hurt man on his own donkey and took him to an inn where he cared for him. The next day, the Samaritan brought out two coins, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of this man. If you spend more money on him, I will pay it back to you when I come again.'

Then Jesus said, "Which one of these three men do you think was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by the robbers?"

The expert on the law answered, "The one who showed him mercy."

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

Hand Motions: Go back through the Bible story and have the group come up with different hand motions that would help them remember each part of the story. Keep going back through the story adding more hand motions until the story is retold.

Rope Game: Get a piece of rope that is 15 feet long and tie the ends together. Have the children get in a circle with everyone holding on to the rope. Start moving the rope in one direction. When you say "STOP," the person closest to the knot has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this till the story is told.

5. DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

Ages 5-9

- What was the best part of the story for you?
- Have you been beat up before? How did it make you feel?
- If you were to be a hero to this man, how could you be generous with your time or something you have?
- What does the story tell us about being generous?
- What does the story tell us about Jesus? How can we be more like Him in how we treat others?

Ages 10-13

- Who were the different people in the story?
- I wonder why the religious leaders did not help the man who was beat up. What were they thinking and feeling?
- In what ways was the Samaritan generous with the man on the road?
- What was the heart condition of each of the people in this story?
- For the man who was beat up, I wonder how he might treat people differently when he was better.
- For the person you described earlier that is hard to get along with, you can be a Hero of Generosity by _____.
- What does this story tell us about God and how He wants us to treat others?

Ages 14-18

- What was the most important event in the story for you?
 - What are some things Jesus may have been trying to teach the people by telling this parable?
 - In what ways do you think the Samaritan could relate to what the man on the road was feeling?
 - In what ways was the Samaritan a hero to the man who was beat up?
 - When have you felt alone and people just walked by and it seemed like they didn't care?
 - In our story, what do you think motivated the people to either help or walk by the man?
 - Are there people whom you have passed by that you felt prompted to help? What do you think might have happened if you had made a different choice?
 - Jesus is like the Good Samaritan because He _____.
-

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- From what I learned today, I will be a generous hero to _____ by _____.
-

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Lord, I pray you will bless us all with eyes to see and a heart of compassion to be generous to those in need. Help us to look past our own needs to see how we can meet the needs of others.

GENEROSITY SERIES VERSE: Matthew 10:8

As freely as you have received, freely give.



GENEROSITY SERIES:

Gladly giving to make it better for someone else.

A LITTLE BIT GOES A LONG WAY

Luke 9:10-17

1. OPENING: What is something really important to you that would be more difficult to share?

2. BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Jesus has been teaching the people and doing a lot of miracles. He is making people well and commanding the demons to leave. The people love his teachings. He is now trying to get away for a while to be alone with his disciples, or sometimes called the apostles, the men he has chosen to follow him. A large crowd of people still figure out where he is going.

3. TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

Jesus took the apostles away with him so they could be alone together. But the people learned where Jesus went and followed him.

He welcomed them and talked with them about God's kingdom and healed those who needed to be healed.

Late in the afternoon, the twelve apostles came to Jesus and said, "Send the people away. They need to go to the towns and countryside around here and find places to sleep and something to eat, because no one lives in this place." But Jesus said to them, "You give them something to eat."

They said, "We only have five loaves of bread and two fish from this boy, and it would take a whole year's wages to buy food for all these people," for there were about five thousand men there. Jesus had the disciples sit everyone down on the grass.

Then he took the five loaves of bread and two fish, and looking up to heaven, he thanked God for the food.

Then he divided the food and gave it to the followers to give to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and what was left over was gathered up, filling twelve baskets.

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

Tee Shirt Design: Have each child design the front of a tee shirt that could tell the major parts of the story.

Tingo Tingo Tango: Have the children get into a circle. Pass an object around as you are saying "Tingo, Tingo, Tango." When you get to "Tango," whoever has the ball has to say the next part of the story. Vary the amount of time between the words so the children do not know who will be next.

5. DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

Ages 5-9

- What was the best part of the story for you?
- The boy was generous by giving _____. The disciples were generous by giving _____.
- What do you think the boy was thinking when the disciples asked for his food? I wonder what he felt when he saw his food feeding all the people?
- What does the story tell us about being generous?
- What does the story tell us about Jesus?

Ages 10-13

- What did you like about the story?
- What did the boy have that apparently no one else did?
- Who were the different heroes in the story? How did they gladly do something for someone else? How did they give of their time, talents, treasures and the things of God?
- Go through the story and look at it through the eyes of the disciples. What were they thinking and feeling in each of the scenes? How about the boy that gave his fish and bread?
- What could you have generously offered the disciples to help out? In what ways do we need to trust God to be generous?
- What does this story tell us about how Jesus does ministry?

Ages 14-18

- Which events in the story do you relate to most?
 - We can share our time, talents, treasures and spiritual gifts. What did each person share in our story today?
 - Have you ever been to a stadium filled with people or seen pictures of one? Imagine having to feed 5000 men along with their families which would probably equal at least 10,000 people. What thoughts and feelings initially come to mind?
 - I wonder what the disciples were thinking and feeling as they saw all the people and they were given the task of feeding them all.
 - What situation might you be praying for where people really need God's help? How are you feeling about that?
 - What does the story tell us about being a Generosity Hero?
 - What does the story tell us about God?
-

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- I can be a Generosity Hero this week by giving _____ to _____.
-

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Jesus, bless these children with the faith to trust you with the little we have to generously bless others.

Read over and bless the children with Hebrews 13:16: *And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

GENEROSITY SERIES VERSE: Matthew 10:8

As freely as you have received, freely give.



GENEROSITY SERIES:

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GENEROSITY REMEMBERED

Acts 9:36-42

1. OPENING: When was a time when someone shared their talents with you?

2. BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Peter has been traveling throughout the land when he came to Lydda. There he prayed for a man who could not walk and he was healed. People from a nearby city heard about this and called for Peter to come pray for someone very special to them named Tabitha. Tabitha was known throughout the city for her generosity.

3. TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

In the city of Joppa there was a follower named Tabitha. She was always doing good deeds and kind acts. While Peter was in Lydda, Tabitha became sick and died. Her body was washed and put in a room upstairs.

Since Lydda is near Joppa and the followers in Joppa heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two messengers to Peter.

They begged him, "Hurry, please come to us!" So Peter got ready and went with them. When he arrived, they took him to the upstairs room where all the widows stood around Peter, crying.

They showed him the shirts and coats Tabitha had made when she was still alive. Peter sent everyone out of the room and kneeled and prayed. Then he turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, stand up."

She opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then he called the saints and the widows into the room and showed them that Tabitha was alive.

People everywhere in Joppa learned about this, and many believed in the Lord.

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

Story Review: Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

Dice: The children are sitting in a circle. The first child starts retelling the Bible story. At the signal, the child stops, rolls the dice, and whatever number appears, you count clockwise that number of children. That child now continues retelling the story until the signal is given, etc.

5. DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

Ages 5-9

- What was the best part of the story for you?
- From today's story, how do you know that Tabitha was generous?
- How did the people in the story give back to Tabitha?
- I wonder how we can be like Tabitha and be generous.
- Have you been a Generosity Hero to anyone lately? Share what happened.
- What does the story tell us about people?
- What does the story tell us about God?

Ages 10-13

- Who were the different people in the story?
- What were their responses to what was happening? Go through the story and picture the people in each part. What do you think each was thinking and feeling?
- If you were there and saw what happened, what would you have told people afterwards?
- Have you been a Generosity Hero to anyone lately? Share what happened.
- How was Peter being a hero of generosity?
- What does this story tell us about how God works?

Ages 14-18

- What were the most important events in this story for you?
 - What should motivate us when we are trying to be generous?
 - In what ways were the different people in the story being generous? How so?
 - What were the priorities in Tabitha's life? What about you?
 - Picture yourself in the story. Who would you be and how would you respond?
 - Have you been a Generosity Hero to anyone lately? Share what happened.
 - If you could say something to God right now, it would be _____.
 - What does the story tell us about God?
-

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- I too can be a generous part of God's story by _____.
-

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

God, bless us with faith to put into action Your plans and not just our own.

GENEROSITY SERIES VERSE: Matthew 10:8

As freely as you have received, freely give.



GENEROSITY SERIES:

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NEW PERSPECTIVE

Luke 19:1-10

1. OPENING: If you got to be with someone really important, what could you offer them to show you care?

2. BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

During the time when Jesus lived here on this earth, the tax collectors cheated people out of their money. They charged more money than they were supposed to and kept the extra for themselves. They became very rich doing this but people hated them. During this time, it was not appropriate for men to be climbing trees as people could then look up inside your clothes.

It's approaching the last week in Jesus' life. He is on his way to Jerusalem but he stops in a town called Jericho.

This being the middle of our Generosity series, you may want to watch The Bible Project video on Generosity. Go to: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/generosity/>.

3. TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

Jesus was going through the city of Jericho. A man was there named Zacchaeus, who was a very important tax collector, and he was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but he was not able because he was too short to see above the crowd.

He ran ahead to a place where Jesus would come, and he climbed a sycamore tree so he could see him. When Jesus came to that place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down! I must stay at your house today."

Zacchaeus came down quickly and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to complain, "Jesus is staying with a sinner!" But Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "I will give half of my possessions to the poor.

And if I have cheated anyone, I will pay back four times more." Jesus said to him, "Salvation has come to this house today, because this man also belongs to the family of Abraham. The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them."

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

Musical Chairs: Put enough chairs in a circle for each person in your group except one. The chairs should be facing out. Everyone gets to sit in the chair except the one person remaining. When the music starts, the children start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find a chair. The person remaining has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this until the story is retold.

Act it Out: Assign different characters of the story to each of the children. Let them practice before actually acting out the story. See if there are one or two children who want to be the person telling the story while the other children act it out.

5. DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

Ages 5-9

- What was the best part of the story for you?
- I wonder why Zacchaeus worked so hard to see Jesus.
- If Jesus were to come to your house today, what could you give Him?
- In what ways was Zacchaeus being generous? I wonder how that made him feel.
- What does the story tell us about how we can be generous?
- What does the story tell us about God and Jesus?

Ages 10-13

- Who were the different people in the story?
- Go through the story and picture Zacchaeus in each part. What might he be thinking and feeling?
- Think of the people who received their money back from Zacchaeus. I wonder how they felt and responded when he did that.
- How have people responded when you have been generous with them?
- What can you generously offer Jesus in your home?
- What does this story tell us about how God works?

Ages 14-18

- What events stood out to you most in today's story?
 - What choices did Zacchaeus make? What other choices could he have made? What happened because of the choices he made?
 - What do you think Zacchaeus was thinking and feeling throughout the story?
 - Picture Jesus coming to your home today. What would you offer Him? What would be important to Jesus if He came?
 - Zacchaeus wanted to know Jesus personally and did what he could to at least see him. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus? If so, tell us about it. If not, would you like to know more?
 - What do you do to be closer to Jesus?
 - In what ways can you be generous like Zacchaeus was?
 - What does the story tell us about God and Jesus?
-

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- We all have something to be generous with. It could be our time, talents, treasures or a spiritual gift. From what you learned today, what is God wanting you to be generous with this coming week?
-

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Lord, You have given us so much. Bless our eyes to see people that may need something that we can give them to know You more.

GENEROSITY SERIES VERSE: Matthew 10:8

As freely as you have received, freely give.



GENEROSITY SERIES:

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THE GENEROUS CHURCH

Acts 2:42-47

1. OPENING: What do you like about coming here?

2. BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Jesus has gone back to Heaven and the Holy Spirit has come to be inside the disciples. Peter has just told the people about Jesus and 3000 of them believed in Jesus and were baptized. This was the first church. How did the first Christians live and treat one another? How were they Generosity Heroes?

3. TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

Peter warned them with many other words. He begged them, "Save yourselves from the evil of today's people!" Then those people who accepted what Peter said were baptized. About three thousand people were added to the number of believers that day. They spent their time learning the apostles' teaching, sharing, breaking bread, and praying together.

The apostles were doing many miracles and signs, and everyone felt great respect for God. All the believers were together and shared everything. They would sell their land and the things they owned and then divide the money and give it to anyone who needed it. The believers met together in the Temple every day. They ate together in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. They praised God and were liked by all the people. Every day the Lord added those who were being saved to the group of believers.

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

Story Review: Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

Rope Game: Get a piece of rope that is 15 feet long and tie the ends together. Have the children get in a circle with everyone holding on to the rope. Start moving the rope in one direction. When you say "STOP," the person closest to the knot has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this till the story is told.

5. DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

Ages 5-9

- What was the best part of the story for you?
- As we go back through the story, how were the first Christians generous with one another?
- How might you have been a Generosity Hero if you lived back then? How might you be a Generosity Hero today?
- What does the story tell us about being generous?
- What does the story tell us about God and how He cares for His people?

Ages 10-13

- What was something new that you saw in the story that you had not seen before?
- What time, talent, treasure or gift of the Spirit did they share?
- I wonder what was going on at the time that the first Christians needed to care for one another this way.
- If God created the church with everyone caring for one another, what might God be expecting from the church today?
- What could you have generously offered the church? What might you contribute today?
- What does this story tell us about how God works?

Ages 14-18

- What was intriguing to you in how the church first got started?
 - What choices did the people make? What other choices could they have made? What results may have happened because of the choices made?
 - If you were a part of the first church, what might you have needed? What could you have given?
 - What do you have as an individual to contribute to our church? As a group how might we be able to contribute?
 - Generosity to me means _____.
 - What does the story tell us about God?
-

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- I believe the Holy Spirit is prompting me to _____.
-

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Lord, thank you for the church – a place to give and receive from You and others. Bless our church and what each of us can contribute to it.

GENEROSITY SERIES VERSE: Matthew 10:8

As freely as you have received, freely give.



GENEROSITY SERIES:

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WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT IT

Exodus 16:15-18; 17:1-6

1. OPENING: What is something you would love to eat every day?

2. BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

The Israelites have been slaves in Egypt for 400 years. God sends Moses to free the people and through many miracles of God, the Pharaoh lets the people go. They are now wandering around in the desert but have no food or water. They begin to grumble and complain to their leader, Moses. They want to go back to Egypt as they at least had food to eat and water to drink. Moses then goes to God and asks God to provide. God provides in miraculous ways, one being every morning there was a food on the ground called manna.

3. TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

When the Israelites saw it (*manna*), they asked each other, "What is it?" because they did not know what it was.

So Moses told them, "This is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. The LORD has commanded, 'Each one of you must gather what he needs, about two quarts for every person in your family.'"

So the people of Israel did this; some people gathered much, and some gathered little. Then they measured it. The person who gathered more did not have too much, nor did the person who gathered less have too little. Each person gathered just as much as he needed.

All of God's people then left the desert and traveled from place to place, as the LORD commanded. They camped at one place, but there was no water there for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why are you testing the LORD?"

But the people were very thirsty for water, so they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt? Was it to kill us, our children, and our farm animals with thirst?"

So Moses cried to the LORD, "What can I do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me to death."

The LORD said to Moses, "Go ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you. Carry with you the walking stick that you used to strike the Nile River. Now go! I will stand in front of you on a rock at Mount Sinai. Hit that rock with the stick, and water will come out of it so that the people can drink." Moses did these things as the elders of Israel watched.



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COUNT ME IN! EXODUS, 35, 36, 39, 40 (Summarized)

1. OPENING: Describe a time when you were able to do something with someone else's help.

2. BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

God wants to be with His people. He gave instructions to Moses on how to build a place that could move around with them as they travel from Egypt back to the Promised Land. It was called a tabernacle. God's presence was there with the people. He had very specific instructions on how the tabernacle should be built and how everyone could be involved. Today we are going to tell the story as if Moses was telling it to us.

3. TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

I have been with God and He gave me many instructions, including how to build a tabernacle – a home – for God Himself to dwell. Many things were needed.

So I gathered all of God's people and invited them to be a part in building this home for God. The craftsman could construct everything the Lord commanded. The women could sew the special clothes that the priests would need to wear. Everyone could give materials and the work necessary to complete God's home.

Everyone listened and then went home to prepare their gifts. For those that wanted to give, they brought to the Lord what had been stirred in their hearts to give. (Some were given specific jobs because of their wisdom and skills.)

Soon the craftsmen came to me saying: "We have too much! There is more than enough to do what God has asked of us! Tell the people to stop bringing their gifts and offerings!"

Then the day came when everything was complete! I inspected the building.

Everything was completed just as God had commanded. A cloud came and covered the tabernacle. The Lord's glorious presence and His awesome glory filled God's dwelling place among the people.

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

Story Review: Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

Musical Chairs: Put enough chairs in a circle for each person in your group except one. The chairs should be facing out. Everyone gets to sit in the chair except the one person remaining. When the music starts, the children start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone needs to find a chair. The person remaining has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this until the story is retold.

5. DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

Ages 5-9

- Who were the different people in the story?
- In what ways were the people generous in giving to make the Tabernacle?
- As God was looking down on this project, I think He felt _____.
- What does the story tell us about being generous?
- This Bible story tells me that God is _____.

Ages 10-13

- Some things I noticed in the story were _____.
- I wonder what it was like for Moses to build something for God. How do you think he felt?
- In what ways were the people generous with their time, talents and treasures in building the tabernacle?
- Something I could contribute to this Club is _____.
- If you had been there, what would you have felt when God's presence came down?
- Who is someone in our community that needs a Generosity Hero? What might we do as a group to help out?
- This story tells me that God is _____.

Ages 14-18

- What were the critical things in today's Bible story?
- How were the people generous in their giving of their time, talent and treasure?
- Giving is hard, let alone being generous in our giving. Why and how do you think the people responded the way they did?
- In regards to your time, talent and treasures, what do you have to contribute to make this Club / Church / Mission work well?
- What makes it hard to give? What motivates a person's heart to give?
- What have you experienced when you have given generously?
- What does the story tell us about God?

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- What is God prompting you to do with what you have learned today?
- I believe God wants me to be generous with _____ by sharing it with _____.

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Lord open up our eyes to see the needs of others around us. Bless us as we join together to help meet those needs with all that you have given us.

GENEROSITY SERIES VERSE: Matthew 10:8

As freely as you have received, freely give.



GENEROSITY SERIES:

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WHEN ALL YOU HAVE IS JESUS... *Acts 3:1-11*

1. OPENING: Would you rather help someone with their chores or give them food to eat? Why?

2. BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

in Jesus' time, the people went to the Temple (what we might call our church) every day at the same time. People, who were sick and could not work, would beg for money at the entrance to the Temple. Jesus has returned to Heaven and the people who were followers of Him had received the Holy Spirit. As they were obedient to what God asked of them, they could do the same miracles that Jesus did. Two of those first disciples were named Peter and John.

3. TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

One day Peter and John went to the Temple at three o'clock, the time set each day for the afternoon prayer service.

There, at the Temple gate called Beautiful Gate, was a man who had been crippled all his life. Every day he was carried to this gate to beg for money from the people going into the Temple. The man saw Peter and John going into the Temple and asked them for money.

Peter and John looked straight at him and said, "Look at us!" The man looked at them, thinking they were going to give him some money. But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold, but I do have something else I can give you.

By the power of Jesus Christ from Nazareth, stand up and walk!" Then Peter took the man's right hand and lifted him up. Immediately the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk.

He went into the Temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God. All the people recognized him as the crippled man who always sat by the Beautiful Gate begging for money.

Now they saw this same man walking and praising God, and they were amazed. They wondered how this could happen.

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

Top Ten: Have the kids, either as a group or individually, write out the top ten events of the story.

Act it Out: Assign different characters of the story to each of the children. Let them practice before actually acting out the story. See if there are one or two children who want to be the person telling the story while the other children act it out.

5. DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

Ages 5-9

- What was the best part of the story for you?
- If you were the lame man who was begging for money every day, how would you have felt? Do you know anyone who has to keep asking for food or money?
- If you were to be a hero to this man, how could you have been generous with him and make it better for him?
- How might you be a Generosity Hero to someone today?
- What does the story tell us about being generous?
- What does the story tell us about God and His caring for people?

Ages 10-13

- Who were the different people in the story?
- What were their responses to what was happening? Go through the story and picture the lame man in each part. What do you think he was feeling?
- Peter and John would have seen this man every day asking for money. I wonder why they stopped this particular day.
- How were Peter and John being Generosity Heroes?
- What was the motivating factor in their giving?
- What could you have generously offered the lame man? How might you do that for someone today?
- What does this story tell us about how God works?

Ages 14-18

- What was the climax of the story for you? What was happening leading up to the climax?
 - What choices did Peter make? What other choices could he have made? What happened because of the choices he made?
 - I wonder how the lame man felt when Peter and John said they had no money but could give him Jesus.
 - Are there people whom you have passed that you felt prompted to help?
 - What motivates people to give generously?
 - If you are a follower of Jesus, you have the same Holy Spirit living and working in you as did Peter. I wonder how God might want you to be generous with His Spirit as they were.
 - What does the story tell us about God?
-

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- I believe God wants me to be generous with _____ by sharing it with _____.
-

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Thank you, Lord, for all that you have given us that we can give powerfully away to others. Though we may have little, yet we have a lot to give. Bless our eyes and hearts to see those who are in need of a miracle from you.

GENEROSITY SERIES VERSE: Matthew 10:8

As freely as you have received, freely give.



GENEROSITY SERIES:

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TO JESUS WITH LOVE

Mark 12:41-44

1. OPENING: If you had a lot of money, what would you do with it?

2. BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Jesus has been teaching the people what is really important to live in the Kingdom of God. He tells them many things about money and what is important to God about our money. Jesus tells the people to be considerate of one another and not to cheat those who are poor, especially the widows, the women whose husbands have died. During these times, they did not collect an offering during the service but they left a box outside the temple for people to put their tithes and offerings in. A tithe was 10% of the money they would make and any additional money the people gave was called their offering.

3. TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

Jesus sat near the Temple money box and watched the people put in their money. Many rich people gave large sums of money. Then a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which were only worth a few cents.

Calling his followers to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow gave more than all those rich people. They gave only what they did not need. This woman is very poor, but she gave all she had; she gave all she had to live on."

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

Ball Game: Several different games can be played with a ball. Have the children get in a circle. When you say "GO," or start playing the music, the children pass the ball around the circle until you say "STOP" or stop the music. When that happens, the person who has the ball has to say the next part of the story. When you say "GO" or start the music, the children start passing the ball till you say "STOP."

Create a Song: Create a song that will retell the Bible Story. You might use a song that the children are very familiar with and then change the words so it retells the Bible story. They can create an original song or possibly a rap song.

5. DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

Ages 5-9

- What was the best part of the story for you?
- How did the people in our story trust or not trust God?
- I wonder what the widow was thinking and feeling when she placed the two coins in the box.
- What does the story tell us about being generous?
- If you could tell Jesus something, I would want Him to know that _____

Ages 10-13

- Who were the different people in the story?
- What were their responses to what was happening? Go through the story and picture the people in each part. What were their reactions to the things that were said and done?
- I wonder what God is thinking and feeling when different people give their tithes and offerings.
- What is happening in the hearts and minds of the different people in today's Bible story?
- How was the widow being generous when she only gave two coins?
- What might be a generous offering for you to give?
- What does this story tell us about Jesus?

Ages 14-18

- For you, what was significant about this Bible story?
 - What might the widow have been thinking and feeling as she was giving away all that she had to live on?
 - The story doesn't tell us, but I wonder what the responses were of other people who were around.
 - If you could say something to the widow, I would tell her _____.
 - What does this story say to you about generously giving to God?
 - What does the story tell us about the character of God and His expectations?
-

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- Because of what I learned this week about generously giving to God, I will _____.
-

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Lord, bless these children with the understanding that it is not how much money we can give, but with whatever we can give, we do it generously and with a grateful heart.

GENEROSITY SERIES VERSE: Matthew 10:8

As freely as you have received, freely give.



GENEROSITY SERIES:

Gladly giving to make it better for someone else.

SENT OUT TO BE A WORLD CHANGER

Mark 6:7-13

1. OPENING: Share a time when you felt like you made a difference in someone's life.

2. BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Jesus has been teaching and healing throughout the land. He returns to his home town of Nazareth and finds that the people have little faith in him being God's Son. Because of that, he is only able to do a few healings. He begins to go to outlying villages and calls his disciples, those He is teaching to be just like Him, to help Him. This is where we will begin our Bible story from the book of Mark.

In closing our Generosity series, if your group has not watched the Generosity video from The Bible Project, or as a review, go to: <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/generosity/>.

3. TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

And Jesus called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two. He gave them his power and authority to deal with the enemy and to cast out evil spirits.

These were the instructions Jesus gave them: Take nothing with you – no extra food, no extra clothes or money. You may take with you a walking stick, the sandals on your feet and the cloak on your back.

“Wherever you go,” Jesus said, “stay in the same house until you leave town. But if any place refuses to welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust from your feet as you leave as a warning to them.”

So the disciples went out, telling everyone they met to repent of their sins. Life could be different for them if they turn to God. And they cast out many demons and anointed many sick people with olive oil and they were healed.

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

Top Ten: Have the kids, either as a group or individually, write out the top ten events of the story.

Rope Game: Get a piece of rope that is 15 feet long and tie the ends together. Have the children get in a circle with everyone holding on to the rope. Start moving the rope in one direction. When you say "STOP," the person closest to the knot has to say the next part of the story. Continue doing this till the story is told.

5. DISCOVER QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

Ages 5-9

- What was the best part of the story for you?
- What were the disciples **not** allowed to take with them?
- What did they have? (You might keep asking: "What else did they have?" as they had much more than just the physical things mentioned in the story.)
- What do you think it was like for the disciples as they were able to do miracles when they went to the different villages?
- What has God given you to be generous with others?
- What does the story tell us about being generous?
- What does the story tell us about Jesus and His caring for people?

Ages 10-13

- What did you like about the story?
- What did the disciples have in order to do what Jesus asked of them?
- How did the disciples give of their time, talent, treasures and gifts of the Spirit?
- How might you be able to give generously like the disciples did?
- What does the story tell us about being generous and a follower of Jesus?
- What does this story tell us about God?

Ages 14-18

- What did you wonder about as the story was being told?
- The disciples made some difficult choices. What were some of them?
- What choices would you have chosen if you were one of those disciples?
- We often think we need to have certain things to do ministry. What might be some of those things? What were these first followers of Jesus able to do with basically having nothing? What does that say about what God could accomplish through me?
- It is the same Holy Spirit that was working in the first disciples as who lives in us if we are Christ followers. What might you be trusting God for to accomplish His will?
- What might God want us to believe in regards to being a Generosity Hero?
- What does the story tell us about God?

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- How do you think God wants you to have a part in His story of generosity?
-

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Lord, it may seem like I have just a little bit but it doesn't stop you from accomplishing great things for Your Kingdom. Bless these children with eyes to see, ears to hear and a heart to follow you faithfully.

GENEROSITY SERIES VERSE: Matthew 10:8

As freely as you have received, freely give.



GENEROSITY SERIES:

Gladly giving to make it better for someone else.

Extending Forgiveness Generously

Genesis 45:4-11; 14-15

1. OPENING: When was a time when you gave generously to someone when you felt they didn't deserve it?

2. BACKGROUND: *a brief explanation of what led up to today's story*

Joseph was one of twelve sons. He was his dad's favorite and because of that, the other brothers did not like him and eventually sold him and he became a slave in Egypt. The brothers convinced their father that he had been killed by a wild animal. Many difficult things continued to happen to Joseph but he remained faithful to God. Eventually things turned around for Joseph and he became second in command in Egypt. A famine, or lack of food, now comes to where Joseph's father and brothers live. Most of the brothers come to Egypt to buy some food for their families. They do not know what has happened to Joseph and that he is in charge of everything in Egypt including the distribution of the food. Joseph had a plan where his whole family would have to come to Egypt and then he could see his younger brother, Benjamin, and his father, Jacob.

3. TELL: *use added expression, vocal fluctuation or body language to help tell today's story*

So Joseph said to them, "Come close to me." When the brothers came close to him, he said to them, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold as a slave to go to Egypt. Now don't be worried or angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me here ahead of you to save people's lives. No food has grown on the land for two years now, and there will be five more years without planting or harvest. So God sent me here ahead of you to make sure you have some descendants left on earth and to keep you alive in an amazing way. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. God has made me the highest officer of the king of Egypt. I am in charge of his palace, and I am the master of all the land of Egypt.

"So leave quickly and go to my father. Tell him, 'Your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all Egypt. Come down to me quickly.'"

"Live in the land of Goshen where you will be near me. Your children, your grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all that you have will also be near me. I will care for you during the next five years of hunger so that you and your family and all that you have will not starve."

Then Joseph hugged his brother Benjamin and cried, and Benjamin cried also. And Joseph kissed all his brothers and cried as he hugged them. After this, his brothers talked with him.

4. RETELL: *use one or both of the activities below to help everyone retain today's story*

#1: Story Review: Go back through the Story by using questions, fill-ins and correcting wrong statements.

#2: Balloon or Ball Toss: Have the children get into circles of about 8. Have them toss the balloon or ball from one to another either as the music is going or when you have said, "GO." When you stop the music or say "STOP," whoever has the balloon has to say the next part of the story. For some added fun, try adding a marble or small round pebble in the balloon before you inflate it.

5. DISCOVERY QUESTIONS: *in small groups, allow conversation and exploration to take shape*

Ages 5-9

- What did you like about today's story?
- Can you see the expressions on the peoples' faces in our story? What were they like? What do you think they were thinking and feeling throughout the story?
- Joseph was generous with his attitude by forgiving his brothers. How might you be generous like Joseph?
- What does this story tell us about God?

Ages 10-13

- What I liked best in the story is _____.
- If we look at our theme of Generosity (Gladly giving to make it better for someone else.) in what ways was Joseph generously giving to his family? How easy or hard do you think that was for him?
- Imagine that you are Joseph. How would you have responded if you met your brothers after they had treated you like they did? How did Joseph choose to respond? What other responses could he have had?
- How might we have an attitude like Joseph towards God and the things we experience?

Ages 14-18

- As a group decide what the Top 10 events of the story were.
- If we look at our theme of Generosity (Gladly giving to make it better for someone else.) in what ways was Joseph generously giving to his family?
- How would you have responded if you were Joseph? Being generous is not just with our time and money but also in our attitude. In what ways was Joseph being generous with his attitude? In what ways and with whom might you need to be generous?
- How might that feel to generously forgive someone? What happens if they don't receive it from you?
- How might we have an attitude like Joseph towards God and our life experiences?

6. PERSONAL RESPONSE QUESTIONS: *shift the discussion to a more individual focus*

- In being generous with my attitude and being more like Jesus, I believe He is asking me to _____.

7. CLOSING BLESSING: *lead the kids in prayer or allow one of them to take the lead*

Jesus, You expressed the greatest generosity by expressing your love to us and extending forgiveness when we did not deserve it. Bless these children with the same heart of forgiveness that Joseph and Jesus had for those that hurt them.

GENEROSITY SERIES VERSE: Matthew 10:8

As freely as you have received, freely give.

Retell Activities & Descriptions

It is important to retell the Bible story after it's been told. Students engage in the story through retelling activities and it helps them in learning it well enough that they can retell it to someone else. Teaching others creates the greatest degree of retention.

The retell activities should be fun and engage the student in the story. Listed below are various ways to retell a Bible story using varied engagement strategies. One way not listed, if the children have Bibles, is to have them open them and re-read the story, perhaps even using different translations. This can also be done by someone reading the story and the leader asking sequential questions which everyone then answers by looking in the Bible.

ART

- **Drawing:** Students can draw what they saw or what they liked best as the story was being told. Have each student share their pictures with the rest of the group.
- **Group Poster:** Students work together on making a poster that can tell the Bible Story. Allow the students to retell the story by using what they drew on the poster.
- **Story Parts:** Students select a certain scene of the story to draw. Have the students put the story in order by the drawings that have been made and retell it as a group.
- **Comic Strip:** Students fold a piece of paper into 4-8 sections. For each scene or action in the Bible story, students draw a picture or object in each box in the order that it happens in the story.
- **Billboard:** Design a roadside billboard of the Bible story or how you see yourself connecting with it.
- **Pictionary:** Different parts of the story are randomly given out and each student needs to draw what they have been given until someone guesses what it is.
- **Tee Shirt Design:** Have each student design the front of a tee shirt that could tell the major parts of the story.
- **Logo Design:** If there could be just one picture, with no words, that would best tell the Bible story, what would that be? Have the students draw it. You can use this simple picture as a way of reviewing the different Bible stories in weeks to come.
- **Book Cover Design:** Students design and draw their own book cover with words and pictures that best capture the different parts of the Bible story.

Retell Activities & Descriptions

DRAMA / PERFORMANCE

- **Act it Out:** Assign different characters of the story to each of the students. Let them practice before actually acting out the story. See if there are one or two students who want to be the person telling the story while the other children act it out.
- **Retell:** through a character's eyes.
- **Create a Song:** Create a song that will retell the Bible Story. You might use a song that the students are very familiar with and then change the words so it retells the Bible story.
- **Partners:** Have the students get into smaller groups of 2-3. Each student will take a turn retelling the story. If someone gets stuck and can't remember the next part, the others in the group can help them.
- **Pantomime:** Divide the group into several smaller groups. Have one act out the first part of the story without using words. The other groups have to say what is happening. Rotate groups and continue until the story is complete
- **Objects:** Give each group 1-3 different objects. The group needs to use the different objects in the retelling of the story. They can add other objects, but must use the 3 objects given to them.
- **Human Slide Show:** Find a big cloth to use as a curtain. Two students will hold it up and then drop it when you tell them. Pick several students to be the characters in the story. For each story segment, while the curtain is up, have the students get into a position as though there were a picture or painting of that part of the story. They are to remain perfectly still and then have the cloth dropped so the rest of the group can see it. Each scene changes as the story is retold.
- **Dance:** Retell the story through a dance with or without music and words.
- **Top Ten:** Have the kids, either as a group or individually, write out the top 10 events of the story.
- **Journals:** The children are given the opportunity to just quietly sit and journal what was in the story and what it meant to them.

Retell Activities & Descriptions

GAMES

- **Musical Chairs:** Make a circle of chairs (facing out) for each person in your group (minus one). When the music starts, the students start walking in a clockwise direction around the chairs. When you stop the music, everyone quickly finds a chair. The final person standing shares a portion of the story. No students are eliminated. No chairs are removed. Continue doing this until the entire story is retold.
 - **Ball Game:** Identical to Musical Chairs, but played by passing a ball or balloon. Can be played with music or simply the words, “GO” and “STOP”. (using a balloon...try adding a marble or small round pebble in the balloon before you inflate it to increase the fun)
 - **Rope Game:** Identical to Musical Chairs, but the string moves, not the students. Using a long piece of string/rope, tie the ends together to form a loop. Students stand in a circle with everyone holding the rope. They will move the rope in one direction until you say “STOP”. The student closest to the knot, shares the next part of the story.
 - **Movers & Shakers:** Spice up the games by adding a feature to HOW they tell their portion of the story!!! Some examples could be:
 - In a low voice
 - In a high voice while jogging in place
 - In a whisper while tiptoeing
 - In a robot voice while doing the robot
- **Line Up:** Have the students line up in height order. Starting with the tallest, share the story sections until complete.
- **Hide and Seek:** Write phrases of the Bible Story on cards or strips of paper. Place them around the room. Send the students to find them all and then place themselves in the proper order. Have someone read and retell the story.
- **Story Chase:** Write each part of the story on small cards. Randomly tape one card on the back of each student. Have them assemble the story on their own without removing the card. They should line up so that each student can see the phrase in front of them. Have the student retell the story by reading the card on the person in front of them.

Discover & Response Questions

Discover Questions - Head (Facts)

***My goal is to understand the content of the story.
What does the story say? What happened in the story?
I want to **KNOW** God through His Word.***

1. What were you imagining as the story was being told? How did it make you feel?
2. Could you imagine being there? What did you hear/see/smell as the story was told?
3. What stood out to you in the story?
4. What was God/Jesus teaching them in this story?
5. Where in previous stories have we seen God do this?
6. Did you hear anything that reminded you of previous stories?
7. Was there anything that was difficult or hard to understand?
8. How did the story describe God's/Jesus's relationship with people?
9. How does God/Jesus respond to the people in the story? What does this show us?
10. How did God/Jesus respond when ... ?
11. How did people respond ... ?
12. What was God/Jesus teaching or showing them in this event?
13. What is something you learned today about ...
 - a. God?
 - b. Jesus?
 - c. This story?
 - d. What it means to follow Jesus?
 - e. Yourself?
14. What choices did the people make? What else could they have done? What happened because of the choices they made?
15. How are the characters alike or different in the story?

Discover & Response Questions

Discover Questions - Heart (Feelings)

***My goal is to connect emotionally and spiritually with the story,
Allowing the story to penetrate my heart. How does it relate to my life?***

I want to LOVE God through His Word.

1. What do you think was the most important part of today's story?
2. What feelings did you have as you heard the story? How would you have felt if ... ?
3. What did you imagine as you were listening to the story?
4. What did you wonder about when the story was being told?
5. What feelings do you think motivated ... ?
6. What do you think was going on in ...'s heart and mind in this story?
7. What surprised you or amazed you about today's story?
8. Which character in today's story do you most relate to?
9. What do you feel is really important to God/Jesus? To the character?
10. In what ways are we also like ...? In what ways are we different?
11. After hearing the story, how might it change how you view yourself?
12. Why do you think God put this story in the Bible?
13. What is something you never realized before today?
14. What is the most interesting thing you heard today?
15. How did this story challenge you or encourage you?

(CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE)

Discover & Response Questions

Discover Questions - Hands (Actions)

My goal is to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit to respond and apply what I've learned from the story.

What does God want me, specifically, to do with what I've learned?

I want to **SERVE** God by obeying what I've learned from His Word.

1. What did you hear today that makes you think you ought to make a change in your life?
2. From what you learned today, what is God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit asking you to do?
3. What do you think God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit is saying to you?
4. What should you do differently because of today's story? What difference will this make in how you love and serve Him?
5. What did we learn about being a follower of Jesus from this story? How can you put this insight into practice this week?
6. How should we respond to God/Jesus today?
7. After hearing the story, how will you live differently?
8. Do you want to know God like this? Is there something happening right now in your life where God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit could help you?
9. Who can you share this story with this week?
10. How do you think God wants you to have a part in His story?



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