



**PRE-K
LARGE GROUP**

LESSON 3

GENEROSITY AND CHEERFUL GIVING

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Helps Us Be Generous

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 9

GOD'S BIG STORY: Paul writes to the Corinthian Christians, encouraging them to give generously to the believers in Jerusalem and reminding them that God loves a cheerful giver.

WORD OF WONDER: The three most important things to have are faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love. —1 Corinthians 13:13 (NirV)

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





LESSON 3 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Helps Us Be Generous

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 9

WORD OF WONDER: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NIV)

I lived for a time in a small farming community. I wasn't on a farm, but all my friends were. I learned from them a great deal about planting and harvesting. When it comes to planting, you'll almost always overspread seeds. If you hold back from putting them out there, you'll find that by harvest time you won't get a great return.

When it comes to generosity, the same is true. If we hold back from being generous, we miss out on the amazing returns that could have come our way.

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–14. Paul understood this principle: We're to be generous with our time, talent, and treasure the way God is generous with His love for us.

There's also a second principle with generosity that has to do with our heart attitude: "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). If we give grudgingly, we can miss the gifts God desires for us. Still, we all struggle sometimes. My encouragement? Give anyway. What I've realized is that if I give God all I have, even when my heart doesn't feel all that grateful, God takes my little and turns it into abundance. Because that is who God is!

Is there something you're only releasing a little of? Give God all of it, and see what He does!

—Tom Bump

Children's Ministry Leader, Author, and Coach
Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

The Corinthian assembly of Jesus' followers were prone to create divisions between people of different economic status. Paul writes to them with care, using rhetoric to build them up and prompt the desire to give generously.

WHAT?

The collection Paul mentions comes up elsewhere too (see Romans 15:25–26). Paul planned this effort to help the poor of Jerusalem, and he saw a financial gift as a way for Gentiles to bless the people of Israel, showing their unity in Christ.

WHERE?

As the capital of the region of Achaia, Corinth was a wealthy city by ancient standards. It had a thriving mercantile industry, where Paul earned a living as a tentmaker according to Acts 18:3.

WHEN?

There isn't a consensus for dating 2 Corinthians, but Paul would have likely exchanged letters with the Corinthians in the AD 40s and early 50s. The collection Paul successfully brought to Jerusalem precipitated his arrest, which eventually brought him to Rome.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus is careful to warn His followers, "You can't serve God and money at the same time" (Matthew 6:24). Followers of Christ are commanded to help the poor and share from material abundance, since wealth can only come from God.



LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Helps Us Be Generous

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 9

WORD OF WONDER: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NirV)

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

SUPPLIES: several fake flowers

Hold the fake flowers together as if holding a bouquet. Choose kids ahead of time to raise their hands when you ask if anyone wants a flower. Choose a kid for every flower but one (you'll need it for yourself). Choose kids ahead of time to raise their hands when you ask if anyone wants a flower. Choose a kid for every flower but one (you'll need it for yourself).

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Hello, everyone! I'm so glad you're joining me and our friend, Tac the Cat! Hi, Tac!

(Smell bouquet enthusiastically.)

Tac the Cat: Hello! What do you have in your hand?

Leader: Oh, these? Just my favorite flowers in the world! They smell so, so good. Want to smell?

(Offer bouquet to Tac.)

Tac the Cat: Oh, they do smell good!

Leader: Does anyone else want to smell my flowers?

(Invite the kids you chose ahead of time to raise their hands for a flower. Hand out flowers until there is only one left for you.)

Leader: *(Handing out flowers)* Here you go! And one for you! And another for you!

Tac the Cat: Wait, why did you do that?

Leader: Do what?

Tac the Cat: That! Give all your flowers away! Now you've only got one!

Leader: Oh, I suppose you're right, but I'm OK with not having any more flowers!

Tac the Cat: But they were your favorite flowers! And now you only have one left! Doesn't that bother you?

Leader: Well, maybe I do miss the flowers a little bit. But look at how happy everyone who got a flower is! It can feel good when we are generous to others.

Tac the Cat: Generous? Like giving things to other people?

Leader: Yeah! Things like money, toys, or clothes. You can also be generous with your time and talents to help others!

Tac the Cat: Hmm ... that's interesting. I need to think about that some more.

Leader: It's always good to be curious and have questions. You could try being generous and sharing with others. God is generous with us, and He can help us share with others too!

Tac the Cat: That's a good idea! I'm going to do that right now. I have some catnip treats I can share with a friend. Bye!

Leader: Bye, Tac!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: How could being generous help others? Allow the kids to respond. How are we like God when we are generous? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God helps us be generous?"

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD HELPS US BE GENEROUS**. Today, we'll discover how God helps us to be generous!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say it with you and do the motions.

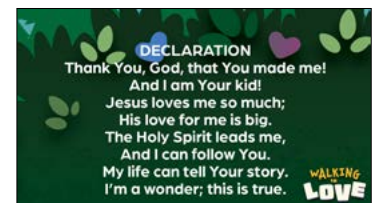
Let's say these words together.

Thank You, God, that You made me! (Kids repeat.)

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

Put your hands on your hips.



Jesus loves me so much; *(Kids repeat.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. *(Kids repeat.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, *(Kids repeat.)*

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. *(Kids repeat.)*

March in place like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story. *(Kids repeat.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. *(Kids repeat.)*

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words with these as a guide if needed: **God, You have given us every good thing in our lives. Help us listen to You today and learn how we can share Your love with others by being generous. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

Worship

"Today, we'll learn about how God helps us be generous to others. Let's sing about God's generosity together!"

VIDEOS: BREAKER ROCK BEACH, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of 2 Corinthians in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? *(Hands together then opening palms up, like opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of 2 Corinthians in the Bible."

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: Bible; scissors (prep only); a few fake coins, a few hearts (foam or paper); a few smiley faces; a few packs of seeds; a present

Gather enough items so ever 1-2 kids has an item. Pass out items before you begin. Only 1 kid or volunteer should have the present.

"You are getting some items to help you understand and remember our Bible story today. While we're hearing God's big story, I'll let you know when to hold up your item. Until you hear your item, please hold it quietly in your lap. Are you ready to hear today's part of God's big story?"

Paul, who was one of Jesus' followers, wrote letters to the early church to help them follow Jesus. The book of 2 Corinthians is a letter Paul wrote to people who lived in the city of Corinth. Paul told them that, above all, showing one another love would make them more like Jesus.

It's easy and good for most of us to show love and care for people who are close to us. But it is a little harder to show love and generosity to strangers. To remind us that God wants us to love all people, hold up a heart if you have one. Pause to let kids hold up hearts. Paul wanted the Corinthians to love and help people they didn't even know! The heart reminds us of this.

Paul had a plan to collect money, or an offering, to help the people who were poor in Jerusalem, which was another city. Paul wanted the Corinthians to share their money, hold up your coins! Pause to let kids hold up coin cards. The money picture reminds us that Paul wanted the Corinthians to share money with people they had never met.

Why would anyone do that? Paul says, "Here is something to remember. The one who plants only a little will gather only a little. And the one who plants a lot will gather a lot. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn't give if you don't want to. You shouldn't give because you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). To remind us how God loves a cheerful giver, you can smile at someone! Cheerful means being happy! Who has something cheerful? Pause to let kids hold up smiley faces

Imagine that a farmer wanted to grow wheat in a field. To do that, the farmer would need to plant a lot of seeds instead of keeping all of them. Paul says giving to others is like planting seeds. Paul tells the Corinthians that God will give them what they need and give them lots of good things when they share with others. To remind us to plant seeds of generosity, like a farmer planting seeds, hold up the seeds. Pause to let kids hold up seed cards.

We can remember that God is the One who gives us everything we have in the first place. God does not give us gifts and blessings just for us to hold on to our gifts and not share them. To help us remember that God gives us good gifts because He is generous to us, and we can share with others, turn your cards over. What do you see when you put the pieces together? Pause to let kid/volunteer hold up gift box. It's a gift! The gift reminds us that God gives us gifts generously and that we can share with others!

Generosity means we share happily with others. Generosity will allow others to thank God. It reminds the world that God is the Creator and giver of everything we need. We cannot do anything to repay God's generosity, but we can do our best to follow and do what Jesus did. Jesus did not focus on His own needs, but He put the needs of others ahead of His own. God helps us be generous.

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD HELPS US BE GENEROUS**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God is the ultimate giver of good gifts. The greatest gift He gives us is forgiveness and salvation through Jesus. Because of God's gifts and generosity with us, we can be generous with others and help them see what God is like through our giving."

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for His generosity toward us so we can show generosity to others.

God, thank You for all the good gifts and blessings You have given us. We are grateful! Remind us that You've given us everything we have, and because of that, we can give good things to others. Thank You for helping us be generous. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them. Use your own words, with these as a guide if needed,

Blessing: May you experience God's blessing when you are generous. May God give you the courage to give to others and show God's love. Amen.