

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

- Play Stations:
 - Wrapping Gifts
 - Coin Sorting
 - Generosity and Cheerful Giving Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Expanding Soap
- Word of Wonder: 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NirV)
- Circle Time: I Can Give
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Generosity Stations



Walking in Love Preschool Spotify playlist



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 y 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)

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: empty gift boxes, wrapping paper, kid-safe scissors, tape, gift bags, tissue paper, trash can, 3 types of coins (real or fake), bowls (3, same size), coloring utensils, scissors (prep only, optional)

RESOURCES: [Generosity and Cheerful Giving Coloring Sheet](#) (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to RBKids! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help you get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas about what we'll be learning today?"

Play Station: Wrapping Gifts

Set-up: Lay out several empty gift boxes, wrapping paper, kid-safe scissors, tape, gift bags, and tissue paper. You can precut some sections of wrapping paper for the kids.

Play: Encourage kids to create pretend gifts by wrapping the boxes and filling the gift bags with tissue paper. Once all gifts are wrapped, kids can unwrap them and wrap them again! Just make sure to throw all trash in the trash can. When finished, set aside one gift box to use later in Circle Time.

Play Station: Coin Sorting

Set-up: Gather three types of coins (real or fake) to sort. Set out three bowls. You might want to place a coin or tape a sample coin in front of each bowl for kids to identify.

Play: Encourage kids to sort the coins by putting each one in its corresponding bowl. Once all coins are sorted, dump them out and start again!

Leader Tip: Be sure to keep a close eye on this station so kids don't put coins in their mouths.

Play Station: Generosity and Cheerful Giving Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of the Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a toy or gift they can share with others.

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

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)

"Let's work on our Word of Wonder! First, let's say it together. On the count of three. One, two, three! Recite the verse. "The three most important things to have are faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love." Think you got it? If you don't, that's OK; we're going to play a game to help us remember.

Invite the kids to find partners. Following your lead, they will give each other a high five or fist bump each time they say a word of the verse.

Give your partner a high five every time we say a word of our Word of Wonder. But remember to follow my lead! Ready? Let's go!

- The three.
- The three most.
- The three most important.
- The three most important things.
- The three most important things are.
- The three most important things are faith.
- The three most important things are faith, hope.
- The three most important things are faith, hope and love.

Are your hands OK? This is our last round! The three most important things to have are faith, hope and love. But the greatest of them is love. First Corinthians 13:13. Phew! You all gave a LOT of high fives!"

Make It Inclusive! Some kids may not want to have physical interaction with someone else. Instead, allow them to clap their hands for every word of the verse.

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

- **THE THREE**—Hold up three fingers.
- **MOST IMPORTANT THINGS TO HAVE**—Make a “check mark” motion in the air.
- **ARE FAITH,**—Make prayer hands.
- **HOPE**—Hold hands out with palms upward.
- **AND LOVE.**—Place hand on your heart.
- **BUT THE GREATEST OF THEM**—Hold up pointer finger as number one.
- **IS LOVE.**—Place hand on your heart.
- **1 CORINTHIANS 13:13**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **How does your generosity show others God’s love?**
- **How do you feel God’s love when you are generous?**

God’s Big Story / Snack

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 read part of God’s big story, which comes from the book of 2 Corinthians in the Bible. "

Read 2 Corinthians 9:6–14 from an NIV Bible.

Circle Time: I Can Give

SUPPLIES: empty gift box from Curiosity Play Station

"For our circle time today, we’re going to practice generosity by passing this gift box to each other. I’ll start, and whomever I give the box to can answer a question. If you don’t want to answer, just give the box to someone else! Try to give the box to someone you don’t know very well. This helps everyone feel included. Ready? OK!" Give the box to a kid and allow that child to answer a question from the list below. Encourage the kids to include everyone and not just give the box to their friends. If they don’t want to answer a question, they can pass the box to someone new.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Whom did Paul ask to give money?** *(the Corinthians)*
- **What kind of giver does God love?** *(a cheerful giver)*
- **Paul compares giving money to planting what?** *(a farmer planting seeds)*
- **Why might we need God's help to be generous? Is it easy or difficult for you to share generously with others?**
- **Whom could we be generous with?**
- **What does generosity show other people about God?**
- **Why do you think it is sometimes hard to be generous? How can God help?**

"It was great for you to share that gift with each other. If there really was a present in there, would it have been hard to let go of the box? Allow kids to answer. It might have been hard for me too. Giving to others may be hard for us, but God helps us share and be generous. Let's talk to God now in prayer!"

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for helping them to be generous.

Head to Large Group!

Responding in Worship: Generosity Stations

SUPPLIES: paper, writing utensils, white cardstock (1 sheet per kid), glue sticks, tissue paper in a variety of colors, coloring utensils

RESOURCES: songs from the [Walking in Love Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, designate two areas in your room as response stations where kids can think and pray about different ways they can practice (or create a plan for practicing) generosity. Set the areas up ahead of time as needed. Here are some station ideas—feel free to utilize them or add your own ideas:

- Prayer station: Clear an area of space for kids to pray quietly about how they can be generous and ask the Holy Spirit to help them. Encourage them to ask God who in their life could benefit from their generosity. Consider placing an area rug on the floor .

Encourage-Generosity Flowers. The kids will make tissue paper flowers to give to someone as a reminder of God’s generosity and how God helps us be generous with others.

Give each kid a sheet of cardstock and a few pieces of

tissue paper in a variety of colors. Set out glue sticks. Have kids tear the tissue paper into medium-sized pieces. Then let them crumple the tissue paper slightly and glue the middle of the tissue paper to the paper. Then draw stems under the tissue paper “flowers” or let the kids draw stems on them. Before kids begin working with glue, write their names on the back of each sheet.



"Great flowers, everyone! Take a moment to think about who might like to receive this flower.

Allow kids to sit and think. **It might be hard to give your flower to someone because you worked so hard on it, but that makes it so special to give it away to someone else. Who do you think you can practice being generous by giving your flower away to?"**

Leader Tip: If your church has an outreach ministry or partners with a local community charity, you can allow the kids to help put together donations or supplies for the organization to give the kids an opportunity to give generously.

Gather kids together. **Today we heard from Paul’s letter to the Christians in Corinth encouraging them to be generous to people they had never even met. God loves a cheerful giver, and He helps us be generous! Let’s spend a few minutes asking God to help us be generous to others this week.**

Show kids each response station. Invite them to visit one or more stations and to pray and think about how they can be generous to others. Being generous can be hard! Remind kids that God doesn’t leave us on our own to try to be generous. Through the Holy Spirit, He helps us! So, encourage kids to ask God for help!

During this time, quietly play music from the [Walking in Love Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#). Consider visiting each station quietly as kids work, praying over kids by name. After several minutes, gather kids back together. Some kids may be eager to share their generosity ideas with the group, so give them an opportunity to do so!



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 3 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Create space for God to remind kids they are known, loved, led, and their lives can tell of God's wonder.

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