

GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-14



The STORY

Read about being a cheerful giver in 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. (The children may have a difficult time following this passage so feel free to paraphrase as you go or go back to re-read the text where necessary.)

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What is Paul talking about in this passage? (Paul is talking about giving.)
- What kinds of things does Paul want us to give? (Paul is specifically talking about money but there are many things we could give away for others.)
- What kinds of things could you give others? (Even young children can give their time and attention, particularly when Mom or Dad is talking to them.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: two people, one giving a great amount without happiness and another giving a small amount with joy. Engage the children by asking:

- What is more important, how much we give or the heart attitude behind our gift? (Our attitude is more important because that is what gives God the most glory.)
- Who do you think pleased God in the picture, the one who gave a lot or the one who only gave a little? (God was pleased with the one who gave with a right attitude. This is based on Mark 12:42, the story of the widow who was only able to give two small copper coins. She was honored by Jesus because although she only gave a little, she gave all that she had with joy.)
- What does Paul say is the reason the disciples are so generous? (We learn from 1 Corinthians 9:13 that their generosity flows from their confession of the Gospel of Christ. When we are aware of how much Jesus has given us, it is easier to give away some of what we have.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Let's try to name everything that God gave us. (Engage the children in this exercise and make a list on a white board.)
- Share James 1:17 with your class "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above." Help the children memorize this verse.
- What is the greatest gift that came down from above? (Of course the greatest gift is Jesus. Read to them John 3:16 and point out to them that God's gifts, especially Jesus, come to us not because we deserve or earn them but because of His love for us.)

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Paul is excited about the cheerful giving of the Corinthians. He is not excited because it is an empty work but because it flows out of their, "confession of the gospel of Christ" (2 Corinthians 9:13).

Our giving should not be a work with which we try to gain heaven. Our giving should be a work which we do out of thanksgiving for our salvation and promise of life in heaven. The end result is that the giving of the Corinthians brought thanksgiving to God. Because of the cross, God is able to make "all grace abound" (2 Corinthians 9:8) through His salvation in the Gospel so that the treasures of this world no longer have a grip on us.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

