

GODLY LIVING

LESSON 1: SHARING YOUR BLESSINGS ☆

Lessons in this series: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [Overview](#)

This lesson will help the children discover that Jesus is very pleased when they are willing to share their blessings with others who are in need.

TOPICS

Blessings, Fairness, Giving, Sharing

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)

Bring age appropriate jigsaw puzzles the children can work on together. Later, you can relate today's lesson to how they shared and worked together assembling the puzzles.

WORSHIP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

BIBLE VERSE (8 MINUTES)

"Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:13 NIV

Write each word of the verse and the reference on a separate index card. Then hide the cards around the room, but so the kids can find them easily. Show the children a blank card so they will know what to look for, and tell them how many cards in all they need to find. (In this case, there will be 10 cards.) Once they find all of the cards, read the verse again slowly. Then, go word by word, giving the children time to find each corresponding card, and placing it on a table so the entire verse is in the correct order. When finished, have the children read the memory verse again using the cards, and then repeat the scripture reference.

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the scripture through twice from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

Introduction:

Ever wonder why we do the things we do in church? Why do we listen to the pastor preach, or why do we have Sunday school? Why do we sing hymns, and why do we eat in church?

Well, it all started a long time ago, when the Apostles were given power from God to tell others about Jesus. As people listened, they believed and accepted Jesus into their hearts. They became Christians, and wanted to be with others who also believed in Jesus. They met in the temple courts (which are like our churches today) and in people's houses. Let's read the Bible, and find out what they did when they got together.

Read Acts 2:42-47

Read the passage a second time, stopping on each keyword or phrase (shown below in bold letters).

Discussion Questions:

1. **Fellowship** means being together and having fun with other Christians. Do we do that in church? *(Yes.)*
2. **Breaking Bread** means bringing food and eating together. Do we do that in church? *(Yes.)*
3. **Filled with Awe** is when God's wonderful power is felt. Have you ever felt the power of God? *(Allow for answers.)*
4. **In Common** means that everyone was sharing what they had so no one was in need. Can we help others by sharing? *(Yes.)*
5. **Possessions** are things that we have. We can share our possessions. What kinds of things do you think the people in our Bible story shared? *(Food, clothing, shelter, etc.)*
6. **Praising God** can be done by singing songs to Him. What is your favorite song to sing about Jesus? *(Allow for answers.)*

FUN TIME (8 MINUTES)

Colorshare (Game) [Click here](#)

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

Fat Fat Elephant (Story) [Click here](#)

PRAYER/SNACK (10 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

For today's snack, let the children share M&M's or raisins. Using plastic spoons, have the children make equal piles of treats so everyone has the same amount. If they are old enough to count, have them count out 5 each to start with. While eating, discuss what kind of things children can share? What kind of things can grownups share?

CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 MINUTES)

Share with God's People (Song) [Click here](#).

NEXT WEEK

Do you want to live a Godly life? Next week we'll learn more about how to do it.

TAKE HOME PAGE

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home [PDF]. [Click here](#)

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SHARE WITH GOD'S PEOPLE ☆

An easy to learn chant about sharing with others and practicing hospitality, taken from Romans 12:13.

TOPICS:

Caring, Giving, Sharing

MATERIALS:

Song sheet [PDF] [Click here](#)

DURATION:

Approximately 6 minutes



WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Sing this song as a chant, or make up any tune where the kids can sing along. Have the children call out the correct word for the blank spaces that fits each situation.

CHORUS

All

Share with God's people who are in need, practice hospitality,
Share with God's people who are in need, practice hospitality.

VERSE 1

Leader

When someone is very hungry,
From their mouth down to their feet,
Practice hospitality,
By giving something to ____! (*Eat*)

All

Practice hospitality, practice hospitality,
Practice hospitality, by giving something to Eat!
(*repeat chorus*)

VERSE 2

Leader

When someone is very very cold,
And shivering from head to toe,
Practice hospitality,
By giving them a ____! (*Coat*)

All

Practice hospitality, practice hospitality,
Practice hospitality, by giving them a Coat!
(*repeat chorus*)

ADDITIONAL VERSES

Leader

A little girl has lost her doll,
And is making lots of noise
Practice hospitality,
By sharing some of your ____! (*Toys*)

You see your friend is very sad,
And needs a lot of love,
Practice hospitality,
By giving them a ____! (*Hug*)

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SHARE WITH GOD'S PEOPLE

(Chorus) All

*Share with God's people who are in need, practice hospitality,
Share with God's people who are in need, practice hospitality.*

Leader

When someone is very hungry,
From their mouth down to their feet,
Practice hospitality, By giving something to _____! *(Eat)*

All

Practice hospitality, practice hospitality,
Practice hospitality, by giving something to eat!
(Repeat Chorus)

Leader

When someone is very cold,
And shivering from head to toe,
Practice hospitality, by giving them a _____! *(Coat)*

All

Practice hospitality, practice hospitality,
Practice hospitality, by giving them a coat!
(Repeat Chorus)

- - Additional verses for the Leader - -

A little girl has lost her doll,
And is making lots of noise
Practice hospitality, by sharing some of your _____! *(Toys)*

You see your friend is very sad,
And needs a lot of love,
Practice hospitality, by giving them a _____! *(Hug)*

FAT FAT ELEPHANT ☆

A small elephant becomes too big for his friends.

👉 For storybook version [Click here](#)

TOPICS:

Animals, Blessing, Friendship, Sharing

MATERIALS (OPTIONAL):

Display items as they appear in the story:
Bucket, Paintbrush, Blanket, Pillow, Chair

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



Not so long ago, there was a jungle filled with many, many animals. There were big ones, little ones, even itty-bitty ones. Most were friendly, but a few were a little mean. All the animals played together, except the mean ones. They didn't have too many friends so they just stayed alone most of the time. One day, a big hippopotamus and a large brown bear were resting after eating a big snack.

"Hey bear," the hippopotamus said. "This is how I like to live. Eat a big snack and then take a long nap. How about you?"

The bear replied, "Me too! But sometimes I like to walk around the jungle looking for a campsite...you know, to scare the people. It's fun! They scream and then run away. Then I go get the food they left behind. You get good snacks that way."

Just then, a not so big elephant walked up to them. The bear noticed something different about the elephant.

"Hey, what's that you have with you?" The bear asked.

The elephant turned to the bear, "Oh nothing. It's just a bucket. I keep it filled with water from the river. That way, wherever I go, I'll always have a supply of nice refreshing water to drink."

"Hmmm," said the hippopotamus. "That's smart."

Actually, both the hippopotamus and the bear thought it was a little odd. The river was not far from anywhere in the jungle.

Yes, this elephant was strange indeed. As he walked away from the hippopotamus and the bear, he spotted a paintbrush. "This will help me scrub myself when I take my bath in the river," he thought. He picked it up and off he went, carrying a bucket filled with water and a paintbrush.

As he made his way to the river to take a bath and try out his new paintbrush, he saw a large colorful blanket draped over a tree limb. "This will be great to keep me warm when the jungle gets cold," he thought to himself. Although he knew the jungle never got cold, at least not since he was born. Still, he wanted to be prepared just in case it did. He swung the blanket onto his back and off he went, carrying a bucket filled with water, a paintbrush, and a colorful blanket.

As he got closer to the river, he spotted four fluffy pillows leaning against a tree. "These pillows will come in very handy when I can't find a soft place to take my nap." He stuffed the pillows under his blanket, and as he did, he looked kind of fat. And so off he walked, with a little more difficulty now, carrying a bucket filled with water, a paintbrush, a colorful blanket, and four fluffy pillows.

Then, he spotted a small wooden chair. "I can let my friends sit on this chair whenever they come to visit me," he thought. So he put the chair on the top of the blanket and off he went carrying a bucket filled with water, a paintbrush, four fluffy pillows, a colorful blanket, and a small wooden chair. Finally, the elephant reached the river, where a tall giraffe was swimming near the shore.

"Why are you carrying all that stuff?" asked the giraffe.

The elephant explained all about the bucket filled with water, the paintbrush, the four fluffy pillows, the colorful blanket, and the small wooden chair he was carrying. The giraffe could only laugh. "You're an elephant! You don't need those things. Besides, they make you look like a big fat circus elephant. You can hardly run or play with all that stuff."

"You can laugh all you want," the elephant said proudly, "but we'll see who is laughing when you get thirsty, or when night falls and it's time for you to go to bed."

And so it went for the fat elephant. The animals would all laugh at him as he walked through the jungle. Soon, he did his best to stay away from them altogether. One day, when he wasn't paying attention, he wandered too close to a campsite. A small boy asked him if he could borrow the bucket, but the elephant said no and turned his eyes away. Then a little girl asked if she could borrow his blanket. He looked at her and she looked cold, but he said no again and walked on. Then an old man that looked tired from walking asked if he could sit on his chair to rest, but he said no, No, NO! The elephant grew annoyed at everyone wanting to borrow his things, so he decided to paint a sign with his brush on the side of his body that said, "Go away." From then on, the animals and the people pretty much left him alone.

At first, he was lonely, but he got used to not having people and friends asking to borrow his things. As the days went on, he found more and more things and wrapped them all up under his blanket. Now he looked really fat and he couldn't run at all any more. In fact, he could hardly walk.

One day, the Wacky World Circus sent animal catchers to the jungle. The circus needed some new animals for their show. And wouldn't you know it, within a few minutes they spotted the fat elephant. One of the catchers said, "This one would be great for the circus. Look, he already has a colorful blanket wrapped around him and look at all those things he can carry."

The elephant saw the catchers and tried to run. But he was very, very slow. He would not let go off all his stuff, so they caught him and threw him into a cage.

"Let me out!" he shouted. "I'm not really fat. It's just all this stuff I'm carrying." The elephant was sad and thought, "I could have escaped them if I wasn't so heavy with my stuff. What should I do now? I don't want to be in a cage."

Just then the little boy and little girl from before walked by and saw him. The little boy laughed loudly and the little girl shouted, "**BOO!**"

Suddenly, the elephant jumped and all his possessions fell to the ground. Then he cried.

The children looked at each other and said, "You are a sad and silly elephant. You could have escaped all along. See, without all those things you're not so big. In fact, you could probably slip right through those two bent cage bars. Go ahead, try it."

The elephant wasn't so sure but tried it anyway. The children shouted, "Go! Go! Go!"

Without the bucket filled with water, the paintbrush, the four pillows, the colorful blanket, the wooden chair, and all the other stuff he collected, he was really not very big and he escaped easily. He was even able to run fast. He waved his tail thanking the little children but didn't dare look back. He ran back into the jungle, to his friends. Once again he felt safe and most of all, free.

THE END

Moral of the Story:

Having things is not bad, but being selfish with them is not good. God blesses us with many things but He also expects us to share them with others who are needy. Things can't talk, play, or give you a hug. When we do not share, people will not want to be around us. Without the love of others we may feel like being in a cage where nobody can reach us.

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One Kid's Treasure

Written by Len Schuler

Illustrations by Kit Jaspering



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“This will help me scrub myself when I take my bath in the river,” he thought.

So he picked it up also, and off he went, carrying a bucket filled with water, and a paintbrush





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