

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

LESSON 2: MY GIFT MATTERS ☆

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

This lesson illustrates how every gift given to God, no matter how large or small, is very important in building up God's Kingdom.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS

Body of Christ, Giving, Offering, Stewardship, Tithing

AS KIDS ARRIVE (5 MINUTES)

Gifts from the Heart (Activity) [Click here](#)

WORSHIP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

BIBLE VERSE (12 MINUTES)

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have." 2

Corinthians 8:12 NIV

Have the children repeat this verse several times aloud with you. As you repeat the verse, have the children add body movements to the verse.

For if the willingness is there – Cross hand over hand on your chest

The gift is acceptable according to what one has – Extend your hands out like you are giving a gift, while shaking your head yes.

Not according to what he does not have. – Shake your head no and pretend to pull out empty pockets.

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

Introduction:

Today, our lesson is about how the Macedonian churches were walking in God's Grace. They desired to help each other and give from what they had even if it was not a lot. Paul wrote a letter to the believers to encourage them to continue their generosity. All believers have something they can give, whether it is big or small, to help build God's Church and in doing so, help spread the Gospel around the world. Remember no gift is too small for God to use, when the gift is gladly given. Let's read Paul's letter together.

Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think the believers gave with grateful hearts? (Yes, verse 2-3.)
2. Do you think they gave all they could? (Yes, verse 3 says, "and even beyond what they were able.")
3. If someone doesn't have much to give, what should that person do? (Allow for discussion.)
4. When you give from your heart, are you helping those in need? (Yes.)
5. Who became poor so we could become rich? (Jesus.)

FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

Building the Church (Activity) [Click here](#)

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (15 MINUTES)

Share What You Have (Activity) [Click here](#)

PRAYER/SNACK (10 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

Before having a snack, start by thanking God for His provision. For snack time, have children build a small church using graham crackers, frosting, and sprinkles. Discuss how the little churches wouldn't be the same if we didn't have the graham crackers to use as walls or roofs and that we need the frosting to hold it all together. It wouldn't be the same if we didn't have sprinkles to make it beautiful. Remember every believer has a part in building God's Church

CLOSING ACTIVITY (15 MINUTES)

Made With Love (Craft) [Click here](#)

NEXT WEEK

Be sure to come back next week to see what new things we will learn about God.

TAKE HOME PAGE

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

MADE WITH LOVE ☆

Children will enjoy making a card for someone special, while learning that God doesn't look at the size of the gift but rather the heart of the giver.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS:

Giving, Love, Offering, Stewardship

MATERIALS:

Sample of store bought greeting cards
Tissue paper, scissors, glue stick, colored construction paper, glitter, markers, ribbon, stickers



DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

PREPARATION:

Before class, collect a sample of greeting cards and the craft supplies needed to make homemade cards.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Allow children to use the material you provided to make a greeting card for someone special.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

How many of you like to get cards in the mail? Here are some greeting cards that came from the store. These cards are special because someone decided to take the time to go find the card and buy it with their own money. (Pass the cards around so students can look at them.)

If we had the time and the money, we could go buy a card. However, we are going to make a greeting card for someone special using just the materials we have on hand. It will mean just as much, if not more, as buying a card from a store. Remember that the Lord loves a cheerful giver. (Allow children to begin making their cards at this time.)

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is it important to give with a cheerful heart? (*A gift loses its purpose if it is not gladly given.*)
2. What kinds of gifts does God give us? (*Salvation, family, knowledge, food, shelter, protection, talents, wealth, etc.*)
3. What kinds of gifts can we give God? (*Praise, worship, obedience, money, service, etc.*)

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GIFTS FROM THE HEART ☆

This activity will teach children that God does not care if our gift is large or small, but rather He looks at the heart from which the gift was given.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS:

Giving, Offering, Sharing, Stewardship, Tithing

MATERIALS:

Old book
New book
Wrapping paper, tape, bows

DURATION:

Approximately 5 minutes



PREPARATION:

Before class, wrap two books using the wrapping paper, tape, and bows. One book should be used and well worn, while the other book should be brand new. Mark the gift containing the used book in some way to help you remember which book is which.

At the start of class, select a volunteer to hold the gift containing the brand new book, instructing the volunteer not to open the gift. Explain that he or she will be giving the gift to another volunteer on your cue.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Say, "Today we are going to pretend to celebrate a birthday. I have two gifts to help us celebrate this birthday." Select a volunteer to pretend it is his or her birthday.

Hand your gift to the volunteer who is pretending it is his or her birthday and allow him or her to open it. Once the gift is open, say: "I didn't have enough money to buy a new book, so I gave you one of my favorites; it is very special to me."

Then have the volunteer hand the other gift to the child pretending to have a birthday. As the child opens the gift, exclaim, "Wow, you had money to buy a brand new gift! It is so nice that you decided to spend your money on a gift instead of spending the money on yourself."

Ask, "What is different about these two gifts?" Allow for answers, then say, "These gifts were given based on what the giver was able to give. Both of us gave from the heart but gave different types of gifts. One was new and cost money, while the other book was not new; it was special to the person giving the gift. Both gifts came from the heart."

This is similar to the gifts we give God. Some of us can give money, also known as tithing. While some of us may not have much money, but can give to God in other ways, such as in service or with praise. It is not the size or the cost of the gift that matters to God, but rather the heart with which we give the gift.

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SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE ☆

Children share what they have to complete a project for the greater good

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS:

Church, Giving, Offering, Sharing, Stewardship, Tithing

MATERIALS:

Alphabet Letters [PDF] [Click here](#)
Poster board
Glue or Tape



DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

PREPARATION:

Before class, print and cut out alphabet letters.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Select a volunteer to glue or tape all the letters on the poster board. Give the volunteer only one letter. Divide the rest of the letters between all the other students in class.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

God gives some people lots of resources to help those in need and gives each of us a part in helping to build the Church.

I am trying to teach our friend the alphabet. Our friend needs to make an alphabet chart by pasting or taping letters on the poster board in the correct order. However, our friend only has one letter and he or she needs 25 more letters to complete the task. Who is willing to share the letters I gave them earlier to help our friend complete the task? (*Wait for children to raise their hands.*) Sharing what you have will help us complete our alphabet chart. In fact, we cannot do it without your help.

The first letter is an "A." Who has the "A"? Please give that "A" to our friend, so he or she can start the chart. Thank you for sharing and giving of your resources. The next letter is a "B." Who has "B"? Please give the "B" to our friend to help him or her complete the next part of the chart. Thank you for sharing and giving of your resources. (*Continue in this manner until the whole alphabet is on the poster board.*)

Volunteer Questions:

1. Friend, how did you feel when you needed 25 more letters to complete the chart and you didn't have them?
2. How did you feel when your classmates gave from what they had to help you?

Class Questions:

1. How did you feel when you gave your classmate your letters?
2. Did you want to give the letters or did you want to keep them for yourself?
3. How does God want us to give? (God wants us to give joyfully and with a grateful heart.)

Read 2 Corinthians 8:12 aloud to the class.

When believers give from what God has already provided them, they can help build the Church. Your gift matters.

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BUILDING THE CHURCH ☆

The children will have fun building a church using their bodies.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS:

Body of Christ, Church

MATERIALS:

None needed

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

We are going to talk about a church. What does a church look like? What is inside a church? If we removed the walls, could church members still come into the building? No, the roof would come crashing down. If we had a big beautiful building but no one showed up, would it still be a church? No, a church is much more than just a building. People make the Church.

We are going to build a church. Yet this is not an ordinary church, we are going to build it using our bodies. Each of you will have a part in building the church. Every part is important because without one person doing his or her job the church would not be complete.

There will be three parts in our church: the roof and walls, doors, and people.

If you are a roof and wall, you will stand with your hands over your head and connect them with another person on the other side being a roof and wall. Your legs and middle section act as the wall and your arms and head act as the roof, making a tunnel shaped church.

If you are a door, you will pretend to open and shut at the front and back as we fill the church with people.

If you are one of the people of the church, you will wait until the doors open and then walk into the church and sit down.

(If you have a small group, you or helpers can play a part. If you have a large group, you can make a very long rectangle church and fill it with lots of people. Instead of using individuals, use a pair of people to be the front and back doors of the church.)

You all did a great job building the church. We have to remember that each person has something to offer the Church. Some people can actually build a church while others give their time, money, talents, or resources. The Church needs people to be ushers, musicians, teachers, preachers, greeters, part of the prayer ministry, janitors, etc. The Church needs people to tithe to pay the bill. The Church needs people to evangelize and invite their friends. All believers have a part in the Church. It is your job to pray and ask God how you can help build His Church.

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