



GENEROSITY | WEEK 1 | NOVEMBER 3, 2024

## Elementary Lesson

# Good

**Monthly Virtue:** Generosity—Making someone’s day by giving something away

**Bible Story:** Good (Every Good and Perfect Gift) • *James 1:17a*

**Key Question:** What good things has God given you?

**Basic Truth:** I am made by God to worship Him.

**Memory Verse:** Every good and perfect gift is from God. *James 1:17a (NirV)*

### LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35, NirV) However, sometimes generosity doesn’t come naturally to us. We want the newest and best things, or we want everyone to notice what we have. When we really enjoy the things we have, sometimes that makes it harder for us to be willing to share with others. However, with the help of God’s Spirit, we can learn that HOW we give is more important than even WHAT we give. It’s about our hearts. God showed us the ultimate example of generosity by sending Jesus. This month, we’ll take a look at how we can respond by being generous to others.*

Key Question: What good things has God given you? Sometimes we can get so caught up in the things that other people have that we forget about the good things WE have. It’s easy to hone in on our physical possessions and forget that God has blessed all of us in different ways. We hope this question invites preteens to open their minds to the various ways God cares for them.

We start the month with an insight from James 1:17a: “Every good and perfect gift is from God.” (NirV) Every good thing in our lives comes from God, starting with the gift of Jesus. When we take the time to reflect on all that God has given us, we can respond by being generous to others.

**Pre-Service Check List**

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

**Morning Flow**

- Doors Open 9:15/11:00
- Large Group Starts 9:35/11:20
- Small Group Starts 10:05/11:50

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

**(SLIDE: BAPTISM)** *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!”

**(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)** “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

### LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

#### WOBBLE TOWER

(10 Cups, 20 Ping Pong Balls, Bucket to Hold Ping Pong Balls)

All this month we are talking about generosity. We define it as this...

**(SLIDE: VIRTUE)** Generosity—Making someone’s day by giving something away

Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35, NlrV) However, sometimes generosity doesn’t come naturally to us. We want the newest and best things, or we want everyone to notice what we have. When we really enjoy the things we have, sometimes that makes it harder for us to be willing to share with others. However, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can learn that HOW we give is more important than even WHAT we give. It’s about our hearts. God showed us the ultimate example of generosity by sending Jesus. Check out our verse for the month:

**(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE)** Every good and perfect gift is from God. *James 1:17a (NlrV)*

*Take a minute to explain that ‘James’ is a book in the New Testament, and that the first number means ‘chapter’ and the second one means ‘verse’. ‘NlrV’ is what translation the Bible is in. The Bible wasn’t originally written in English! There are different translations.*

More on that later, but for now, let’s play a game!

**(SLIDE: WOBBLE TOWER)**

## (SLIDE: 2 MINUTE COUNTDOWN)

Ok, I'm going to need 4 contestants, two boys and two girls. Now, I need people who are good at throwing and catching!

- HOW TO PLAY:
  - **CHOOSE CONTESTANTS.** *You will need two teams of two contestants per team. Have them come forward and give one teammate 5 cups and have the other stand by the bucket of ping pong balls. It would be worth having additional kids be ball retrievers to put missed ping pong balls back in the bucket.*
  - **TOSS AND STACK.** *Play the 2-minute timer and on "Go" teams will try to build the largest tower before time runs out (or first to 5 - whichever happens first). One teammate will hold the cups in one hand and a single cup in the other. Every time they catch a ping pong ball in the single cup hand, they add a new cup on top without removing the ping pong ball that they just caught. The pattern in their hand should be cup, ball, cup, ball, cup, etc. The other teammate tosses ping pong balls across the six-foot gap trying to land them in their tower! The tallest tower at the end of time wins!*

"That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let's worship God!"

## WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)

(VIDEO: PRAISE, BURN)

## BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)

(No Supplies)

Turn to the person next to you and chat about this: What's the best gift you've ever received? It could be something you got for a holiday or birthday, or it could be something you received at a totally random time of year! Whatever you felt was the best gift—ever! Chat for a minute about what comes to mind.

*Give kids a few moments to share with one another about their best gifts. As you have time, have kids share some of their best gifts and comment appropriately. If there's time, Large Group Leader can feel free to add a personal story about a gift they received.*

Of course, it's so great to think about all those good gifts and experiences that people have given to us. But...it does make me wonder something.

"Think about this: where do those good things come from? Like who should get the credit? The place where those things were created? The store where they were purchased? Or maybe from the people who give them? Or is there something else we need to think about when it comes to the good things we receive? Like is there more happening than just the giving of a gift?"

"As we begin talking about the idea of generosity, these are important questions to ask. And

important questions deserve for us to search for good answers! One of the best places for us to discover great answers to our most important questions is the Bible. Remember, the Bible was written by real people who had real experiences with God. God inspired them to write about those moments so people like us could get to know God, too. Let's head to the Bible now."

### **(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 5 MIN)**

We might not always remember that every good and perfect gift is from above. What we experience throughout our lives certainly doesn't feel like a 'gift' sometimes.

"Maybe your family had planned to go away for the holidays but because of some budget cuts, your parents just couldn't afford it this year. So, while your friends were all posting pics from sunny beaches, you were stuck in town for the week instead. During that week, however, your family was able to hang out with some other families who were still in town and even serve together at a local ministry for a day. You laughed a lot together and really enjoyed some quality time together. Looking back on the week, you realized that what at first seemed like a bummer turned into a joy at the end.

"Or maybe right now, you find yourself envying other people because they have talents and abilities that are really obvious and praiseworthy . . . maybe they're always getting complimented or encouraged for their gifts. And when you think about yourself, you aren't so sure what your gifts are yet or how they might be used. But what if God is preparing to use those gifts in a really powerful way in the future?

Check this out:

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)** I am made by God to worship Him (to live in a way that shows Him love and honor)

There are many, many times that we don't immediately see that our circumstances are good gifts from God. In the uncertainty and waiting, we can still show worship to God by living our lives in a way that shows Him love and honor. Like, not grumbling when things don't go our way or going out of our way to celebrate with a friend who had something good happen to them. We can have faith that God works all things for our good and His glory.

And the beautiful thing about all these good gifts from God is that they ultimately point us back to the good God who gave them. They remind us that God has already given us the GREATEST gift of all—Jesus, through whom we can have forgiveness and a forever relationship with God!

"God gives us every good and perfect gift, and when we see those good gifts, we are reminded about their good Giver—our good and perfect God!

Ok, let's turn to the person next to us and answer our Key Question for today.

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION)** 'What good things has God given you?'

*Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on*



*Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don't try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.*

“Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1...”

“I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let's pray.

Dear God, thank you for sending us your son, Jesus. He really is the best gift. Thank you for giving us good gifts. I pray that we worship you with our lives and have eyes to see what you've given us, and faith to wait when we don't yet see how things are going to turn out for our good and your glory. Amen.

## **DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS**



## SMALL GROUP

**Monthly Virtue:** Generosity—Making someone’s day by giving something away

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### TALK ABOUT IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*There are no right or wrong answers but try to challenge the kids to think deeper.*

Key Question: What good things has God given you?

*(Answers will vary: a way to have a right relationship with God through Jesus, a family, a church, people that love us, etc.)*

### LOOK IT UP (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.*

Look Up: 1 Timothy 6:17-18

Say: “The book of 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy is in the New Testament and is a letter written by Paul (who wrote most of the New Testament) to a young missionary/pastor named Timothy.

### PRACTICE IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

**(3 Envelopes, “Hidden Gifts” - 1 per group precut, Index Cards - 10-15, Markers/Crayons)**

What You Do:

- Display the envelopes that are labeled ‘LIFE’, ‘WORLD’, and ‘JESUS’
- Remind the kids what God has given us using the words on the envelopes.
  - “LIFE”: God has given us lungs to breathe and a heart that beats and pumps blood throughout our body. God has also given us people who love us and take care of us.
  - “WORLD”: God has provided the beautiful green grass and the trees. God created the food we have to eat.
  - “JESUS”: God gave us Jesus! Jesus loves us and cares for us. Because of Jesus, we can have a relationship with God that lasts forever!
- Scatter the “Hidden Gifts” cards so kids can see them. Work together to sort them into the appropriate envelope. (So the ‘animals’ card would go in the ‘World’ envelope).
- After sorting the cards, pass out the blank index cards and markers. Have kids write or draw another good gift that hasn’t been mentioned.
  - Suggestions: soft bed, snacks, ability to play sports, flowers, fun, etc.
- When kids are done, work together again to sort those cards into envelopes.

### What You Say:

“God has provided some amazing things for us. **God gives us good things.** We don’t have to open them from an envelope —they’re always around us! The more we open our eyes and see all that God has given us, we can be generous and share those same things with other people!”

*[Make It Personal] (Share with the kids about an age-appropriate time you were filled with joy about something God gave you. It could be a breath-taking sunset, a friend, or a kind gesture from a stranger. Explain why it was such a special gift God gave you.)*

#### Ask:

- How do you react when you receive a good gift?
- Why is it so easy to focus on what we don’t have?
- What are some ways you can show your gratitude for what God has given you?

## GET STRONGER (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

**(“Memory Verse Letters” - 2 sets per group, Memory Verse Poster)**

### What You Do:

- Review the memory verse.
- Split the group into 2 teams. Do a relay-style game where kids retrieve the letters and put them in order.
  - Relay options:
    - Over/under: kids have to pass their papers from the front to the back one at a time by going over one kid’s head and then under the next kid’s legs.
    - Race: Put the two sets a distance away and have teams speedwalk/hop/crawl from the start, to the cards, and back one at a time.
- *Pro Tip: For your early readers, have the Memory Verse Poster on display so they can match the words on the cards with that on the poster in the right order.*

## PRAYER

“Dear God, thank you for all of the wonderful things you have given us. Help us to see all of the good and perfect gifts you give. We love you, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”