

Lesson 1: Generosity-What is it?

Opening:

- What do you like to do with your money?
- If you had \$100, what would you do with it?

Bible Times:

2 Kings 4-Elisha and a woman from Shunem

Read from a children's bible or use the story below (from <https://ministry-to-children.com/elisha-and-shunammite-woman/>)

In a village called Shunem lived a woman and her husband. The Bible says she was very wealthy, which means she was rich.

Elisha, a prophet of God lived during the time that this Shunammite woman lived. He would travel the dusty roads going from village to village doing the work of God. One day when the woman had prepared a meal for her and her husband to eat she saw Elisha walking through town. She greeted him and invited him to her house for dinner. Elisha was a humble servant of God and did not want to be any extra trouble to this woman so he may have said, "That's so very kind of you, but I don't want to be of any trouble to you and your husband."

The woman urged Elisha and said, "Please come. We have plenty to eat and we would love to have you in our home to rest from the heat of the day."

Elisha accepted her kind invitation and joined them for a delicious meal. They probably talked about the different things that God had been doing through Elisha as he travelled from town to town.

Each time Elisha was in Shunem he stopped in and visited the Shunammite woman and her husband and ate dinner with them. Elisha's time spent with this couple grew into a deep friendship with them.

The woman loved to have Elisha visit and it must have been sad to see him leave when it was time for him to go. She knew he was a prophet of God and was always traveling. She must have thought about what his life was like, sometimes sleeping on the ground beneath the starry sky when you had no place to stay. The woman had an idea. She decided to make a room in her house for Elisha so that he would have his own place to sleep and rest when he came to visit.

The kindness of the woman was such a gift to Elisha. Not everyone Elisha met treated him with such kindness and generosity.

As Elisha traveled he brought along a helper with him. His helper's name was Gehazi. As Elisha travelled from town to town Gehazi went with him to help him with whatever he might need.

As Elisha sat in his room he looked over at Gehazi and said, "I would like to do something to repay this woman for her kindness. Could you go and ask the woman if there is anything she needs or if there is anything we can ask the king to do for her?" Gehazi went to the woman and asked her what Elisha could do for her. She said she didn't need anything. She was content to live with her husband in Shunem.

Gehazi returned to Elisha and said, "The woman is content and asked for nothing."

"She has gone through so much trouble for me. There has to be something I can do to reward her for her kindness," Elisha replied.

Gehazi thought out loud, "Well, her husband is quite old and she has no children... "

"That's it Gehazi! She has no children! If anything were to happen to her husband she would be left all alone and have no one to care for her. Call her here quickly!"

Gehazi brought the woman to stand before Elisha. Elisha looked at this kind woman. This woman loved God deeply and it was evident by her generosity to him. Elisha knew that what he was about to say was from God Himself because as a man Elisha had no power to do such a thing. With the same excitement the woman and her husband must have had showing the room to Elisha, he said, "This time next year you will give birth to a son."

Elisha's words were not made-up man's words, they were God's words and when God promises something it always happens. How happy the Shunammite woman was.

- What did the Shunammite woman and her husband give Elisha? (she made a room for him in her house that was his to stay in every time he came to their town)
- Why did Elisha need a room?
- How did Elisha feel about this gift? How do you know?
- The Shunammite woman showed generosity. What does it mean to be generous?
- Being generous is giving to others because you are thankful to God.
- Why would thanking God make you want to give to others? What did the woman have to be thankful for-where did all the things she have come from?

Small group:

- Have you ever given someone a gift? What was the reason you gave the gift? (Birthday, Christmas, Mother's Day, just because, etc...)
- What was the best gift you gave someone? Why was it a good gift? Would it have been as good a gift if you had just given money?
- Why did the Shunammite woman make a room for Elisha? She was rich, why didn't she just give him money?
- The best gifts we give are things that we know someone wants or needs. It means we took time to figure out what would be a good gift because we care about the other person. Sometimes that might be money, but sometimes it might mean buying them food or clothing, school supplies or clothes. The Shunammite woman could have given Elisha money, but to make a

room in her home for him was a gift showed God's love to Elisha. Giving him a place to stay with friends to eat and talk with was so much nicer than giving him money to find his own place.

- So why should we be generous? Doesn't God take care of everyone? Why do we need to help others/be generous to others?
- Let's look at 1 Timothy 6:17-19 (TLB)

17 Tell those who are rich not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone, but their pride and trust should be in the living God who always richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. **18** Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and should give happily to those in need, always being ready to share with others whatever God has given them. **19** By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven—it is the only safe investment for eternity! And they will be living a fruitful Christian life down here as well.

- God gives you what you need but sometimes He gives you more than you need. He doesn't do it so you can have more stuff than other people, He does it so you can be more generous. He wants us to use us to share His love with others.
- What happens when you are generous? What does verse 19 tell us?
- When you are generous, you are storing up treasures in heaven. Not only that, but you will be living your life the way God wants you to live it.
- What kind of face does a generous person have?
- When you you are able to be generous with others, think how it makes you feel. Think about how God feels about you.
- Doesn't that give you joy?

Craft:

Offering Box: Learn how to save money to be generous to someone else. Using card stock, make copies of the box template at the end of the lesson. Have the kids decorate it then cut it out. Cut a slot in one side to put money in. Tape together or use a glue stick. Younger kids will need to have the box already put together or the table leader can put together one box with help from the kids. Have them color and decorate one box as you discuss the questions below.

- Where do you get money from?
- What do you do with that money? Do you have a way to decide how to use that money? Do you have a place to save your money?
- Where does the money come from? (Parents, grandparents) How are they able to get money? (God provides jobs for them to earn money).
- What does God want you to do with your money.
- If you save some of your money to be generous with others, will you have enough money for yourself? How do you know?
- Who takes care of your needs?

Option: Decorate envelopes and talk about the three saving box method-save for church, future, and current spending, being purposeful with your money.

Key Verse:

1 Timothy 6:18

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

- Is being generous important to God?
- What is a command?
- How does God explain generosity? (Willing to share)

Application:

- What do you do with your money?
- Can you share a time you were generous with your money?
- Is it sometimes hard to be generous with your money? Why?
- Where does your money really come from? Who really owns all our money?
- What can you do with your money that would make God happy? What does it say in our key verse?
- Do you ever feel like you don't have much money and you can't be generous?
- Do you know of someone who doesn't have as much money as you/your family? How does that make you feel? Is there something you can do for that person?

Prayer:

Father please help us to understand that you own everything. We know you love us and you give us what we need and more. Help us to remember to use the money you give us to be generous. Help us to be generous with the right attitude. We ask this in Jesus name, Amen.

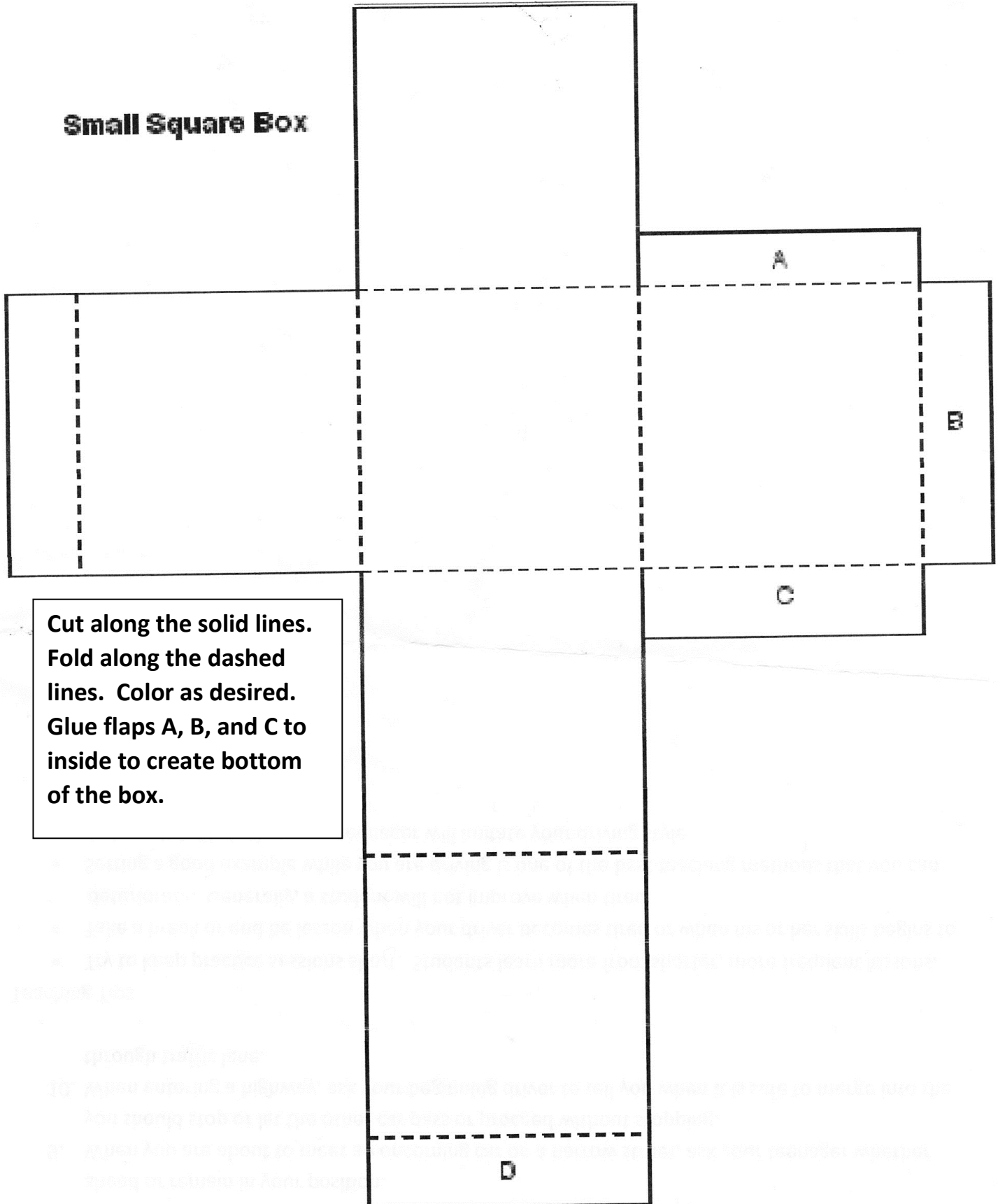
Extra Activity:

Provide coins of different denominations. Older kids can put them in different groups and try to figure out how much their pile is worth.

Younger kids can sort them or make coin rubbings with paper and crayons.

Share coins from different countries.

Draw a picture of a time when you did something generous for someone. Share your pictures with the class.

Small Square Box

Cut along the solid lines.
Fold along the dashed
lines. Color as desired.
Glue flaps A, B, and C to
inside to create bottom
of the box.

Lesson 2: Giving more than money

Opening:

- Do you have a talent? What is something that you are good at?
- Does it matter how big or tall you are? Do bigger people have more talent than smaller people? Can bigger people do more things than smaller people?
- Who do you think is the tallest and the smallest person in our class? *After everyone has guessed, have them stand up to find out the answer.*
- It doesn't matter your size or age. God has given all of us a talent.

Bible Time:

- Last week we started talking about generosity. What does it mean to be generous? (Sharing what you have with others as a way to say thank you to God)
- One way to be generous is to use your money to help others. But what if you don't have money. Can you still be generous?
- Let's look at a story. Read John 6:5-13.

⁵ Jesus looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him. So he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ He asked this only to test Philip. He already knew what he was going to do.

⁷ Philip answered him, "Suppose we were able to buy enough bread for each person to have just a bite. That would take more than half a year's pay!"

⁸ Another of his disciples spoke up. It was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He said, ⁹ "Here is a boy with five small loaves of barley bread. He also has two small fish. But how far will that go in such a large crowd?"

¹⁰ Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down. About 5,000 men were there. ¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks. He handed out the bread to those who were seated. He gave them as much as they wanted. And he did the same with the fish.

¹² When all of them had enough to eat, Jesus spoke to his disciples. "Gather the leftover pieces," he said. "Don't waste anything." ¹³ So they gathered what was left over from the five barley loaves. They filled 12 baskets with the pieces left by those who had eaten.

- How many people came to hear Jesus? (over 5000 people)
- What did Jesus and his disciples bring to feed the people? (nothing)
- Did anyone bring food? What did the disciples find? (5 loaves of bread and 2 small fish)
- Who did this food belong to? (a boy)
- Was this boy being generous? Why do you say that?
- What does it mean to be generous? (sharing what you have with others as a way to thank you to God)
- Do you have to have a lot of money or any money to be generous?

Small Group:

- What does a generous person look like? I'm going to give you some descriptions. Tell me if they are true or false.
 - You have to give a lot of money to be generous. (false)
 - Kids can't be generous. (false)
 - Generous people are always adults. (false)
 - I can't be generous if I don't have money. (false)
 - I can't be generous if I don't have much. (false)
 - God uses our generosity to help others. (true)
- What other things do you have to give others than money? How can you be generous without money? Think about some things you can do. (giving away toys you don't need any more, sharing your toys with others, helping your mom make a meal for someone, sharing clothing you don't need, or maybe not buying something new so that you can give that money to others- do you really need it, spending time with someone, helping someone.)
- There is one more thing you can share that does not cost any money. You can share about the Good News of Jesus. That is something that everyone needs!

Key Verse:

1 Timothy 6:18

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

- According to our verse, what are some other ways to be generous?
- Have the kids walk as they say the verse, one step for each word.

Craft time:

Coupon Book

1 Peter 4:10 says "God has given each of you a special talent; make sure to use that talent to help others. This is how we share God's blessings with others."

Each of you are able to do something, no matter how young or old, how big or small. It doesn't mean we can all do the same things well because we are all different. But no matter what we are able to do, God wants us to be generous with our talents and share them with others. As you make the coupon books, talk about situations where the kids can be generous without having money.

- Items needed: colored construction paper, copies of the Coupon sheet at the end of the lesson, scissors, markers, or crayons, hole punch, decorative stickers, ribbon.
- Make coupons for things the kids can do for others such as free hugs, helping to set the table, help rake leaves, play games with a sibling, reading, free smiles, etc..... They can write or draw the activity.
- Cut out the coupons and add a cover of construction paper.

- Hole punch and put together with ribbon. Decorate with stickers.

Application:

- Have you had an opportunity to use your gifts/talents be generous to someone else?
- You might not think you have a talent, but talent can be more than being good at music, sports, or art. Are you a friendly person? Are you kind? Do you like to help? Can you help someone who has fallen off their bike? Do you like to smile or give hugs? These are all talents too!
- How can you use these talents to be generous?

Small Group Prayer:

Father, you made me special. You say that you give everyone a talent but sometimes I'm not sure how to share my talent. This week, help me to see how I can be generous with others. I ask this in Jesus name, Amen.

Extra Activity:

Have the kids perform their talent for the others.

Optional story with questions if you have time: Mark 12:41-44-the widow with two coins

⁴¹ Jesus sat down across from the place where people put their temple offerings. He watched the crowd putting their money into the offering boxes. Many rich people threw large amounts into them. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins. They were worth only a few pennies. ⁴³ Jesus asked his disciples to come to him. He said, "What I'm about to tell you is true. That poor widow has put more into the offering box than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave a lot because they are rich. But she gave even though she is poor. She put in everything she had. That was all she had to live on."

- What was Jesus and his disciples doing? (watching people give their offering)
- Who were the people giving their money to? (the temple/church, God)
- How much did the rich people give? (a lot)
- How much did the widow give? (2 small coins)
- Why didn't she give more money? (she didn't have any more)
- Jesus said the widow was more generous than the rich people. How could Jesus that be? Did she give more money? (The rich people gave a lot of money away but they still had some left. When the poor woman gave her coins, it was all she had.)
- Why do you think she gave all her money to God?
- What do you think made God happier, getting a lot of money for his church or getting the two coins from the widow?

This Coupon is Good

This Coupon is Good

This Coupon is Good

Lesson 3: What are you saving it for

Opening:

- Stacking items like cups or blocks or other things that can be built up.

Bible Times:

- When you were stacking the cups (or other items). How high did you want to go? What was the highest you got them?
- I have a story about a manger but it isn't a Christmas story.

It seems there was a dog who was looking for a place to sleep. He found a manger full of hay. The hay was scratchy but he thought he would try it. He turned this way and he turned that way, but he couldn't get comfortable. Just as he was about to leave to find another place to stay a cow came to feed at the manger. The hay that was uncomfortable for the dog to lay on was a tasty treat to the cow.

"May I feed on some of the hay in the manger?" asked the cow.

Surprisingly, the dog growled at the cow, "Keep away! This is my manger."

The cow tried to reason with the dog, "This hay was put here by the farmer for my dinner. I am hungry and wish to eat. But the dog wouldn't listen. The cow continued to try to reason with the dog. "What good is hay to you?" You can't eat it, what do you want with it? But, the dog would not leave and every time the cow came near, the dog growled meanly and threatened to bite the cow so the cow sadly went away hungry.

- This story was written by a man named Aesop. He wrote stories to teach a lesson. What do you think Aesop wanted people to learn? (Sometimes people keep things that they cannot use just because they do not want others to have them.)
- Jesus liked to tell stories that had meaning as well. We call them parables. Let's read a parable found in Luke 12:16-21.

¹⁶ Then Jesus told them a story. He said, "A certain rich man's land produced a very large crop. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have any place to store my crops.'

¹⁸ "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones. I will store my extra grain in them. ¹⁹ I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain stored away for many years. Take life easy. Eat, drink and have a good time."'

²⁰ "But God said to him, 'You foolish man! Tonight I will take your life away from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

²¹ "That is how it will be for whoever stores things away for themselves but is not rich in the sight of God."

- Jesus said the man was rich. What did he have that made him rich? (lots of grain)
- Where did he keep his treasure? (in barns)
- What did the man want to build? (bigger barns)
- Why build bigger barns? (he had a great harvest and needed more room to store his extra grain.)
- Why did he plan to do with all the extra grain? (keep it so he could live an easy life)
- Did he get to enjoy his abundance? Why? (no, he died)

- Why did Jesus say he was foolish? (he kept it so he could enjoy it, but instead, others would get to enjoy what he saved up)
- What is the main idea this month? (generosity)
- What does it mean to be generous? (Being willing to give something away to make someone's day as a way to say thank you to GOD.)
- Where did this man's treasure come from?
- Jesus never said you shouldn't have stuff. Everything you have now to enjoy comes from GOD. But, it is more important to remember that God gives us treasures so we can be generous/share with others.

Small Group:

- What is something you have that means a lot to you?
- Why is it important to you?
- Do you think it will be important to you in 10 years/ when you go to college/when you are an adult?
- Think about something you like to eat. Tell your neighbor what you are thinking of.
- Let's say someone gave you a lot of it -10 pizzas or 1 whole chocolate cake or a huge pan of spaghetti, for example.
- You are thinking of how much you will enjoy this treat. So you decide you are going to save it so you can keep enjoying it. You save it for a week, then a month, and a year, and then 10 years. What will happen to your "treasure"?
- Just like the rich man in Jesus' parable/story, keeping your treasure to yourself will mean that in the end, you will not be able to enjoy it!
- What is our generosity verse? **Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 1 Timothy 6:18**
- If you shared some of the delicious treat with someone else, would that mean that you couldn't enjoy it too?
- How many people would get to enjoy when you share?
- Let's look at Matthew 6:19-21.

19 "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. **20** But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

- What can happen to treasures that we keep for ourselves? Has that ever happened to you?
- What happens when you are generous with your treasure?
- What do you think "treasures in heaven" mean?
- How does that make you feel knowing that you can store up treasures that will last forever and ever?

Craft:

Make something that the kids can share with others: paper flower bouquet, friendship bracelets/pins,

no bake cookies, or other ideas. Talk about who they plan to share with and how that can make everyone involved feel. The friendships and good deeds are part of their treasures in heaven!

Application:

- When do you find it hard to be generous and share with others?
- Do you have treasure you can be generous with?
- Do you have more than one shirt or pants, school supplies, more than one toy or book, a bed to sleep in, more than one TV in your house? Do any of you eat breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks?
- All those things are treasures given by God.
- Are you like the rich man/dog in the manger? Do you find it hard to share a favorite toy with others? Do you keep all the candy you get for yourself?
- What can help you be generous with your treasures?
- Can you think of something that you can be generous with? (Do you have toys or clothing you no longer play with that still look good that you could donate?)
- Talk to your parents about how you can be generous with your treasure.

Prayer:

Help the children think of one thing they could be more generous with, time, sharing things, talents. Have them repeat their thing in the prayer. "Father, I know that you have given me a generous heart. Please help me to be generous with my _____ that you have given me. Thank you in Jesus name, amen."

Game:

Give it or Keep it

Items needed : variety of objects so that there is one for each child in the room. Media player to play music or use phone, DVD, pieces of paper.

Write down each object on a piece of paper and put the papers in a container. Stand in a circle and pass out all the objects. Have the leader start the music. When the music plays, everyone passes and object to the others in a circle. Everyone should have an object in their hand. When the music stops call out an object and the person holding that object is out and will wait until the next game. For younger students you don't have to remove them from the game.

Lesson 4: Generosity is how we say Thank You to God

Opening:

Bring a large piece of paper and have everyone draw or write what they are thankful for.

Optional: Write the letters of the alphabet and have the kids come up with something for every letter that they can be thankful for.

Bible Story:

- We have learned that being generous means **being willing to give something away to make someone's day as a way to say thank you to God.** How does our generosity thank God? Let's look at a story in the Bible from Exodus 25 and 36.

God had rescued the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. He sent Moses to lead them to a land He had promised to give them. Getting to the Promised Land was not just a short trip, it was a long walk. It took many days, months, and years. Along the way, God took care of the Israelites. He showed them where to go by sending a cloud in the day and a pillar of fire at night. He gave them manna for food and water to drink. He kept them safe from their enemies. He also taught them many things and gave them rules to know how to live. One of the things God asked the people to do was to build him a house. Not a strong house that would last forever but a movable house.

Because the people traveled from place to place to get to the Promised Land, they needed a house for God that could move with them. God gave Moses the instructions on how to build this house that He called a Tabernacle. It would be like a big tent with beautiful things inside to help the people worship God. Moses gathered people to help build the Tabernacle. He needed people that were good at making things-people who could weave cloth and people who could dye it into many colors. He needed people who could make things out of metal and people who could make those things look beautiful. He needed people who could work with wood and people who were good carvers. Many people were needed for this project, but not everyone was good at making things. How could other people help?

God wanted everyone to be involved. God told Moses to ask the people to bring offerings to help build the Tabernacle. They brought yarns to make cloth. They brought metal and beautiful jewels to make the things that would go in the Tabernacle. They brought money and spices and whatever they had. The Bible tells us the people chose what to give and how much. No one made them give offerings. No one told them how much to give. The people only gave what they wanted to give.

Day after day they brought their offerings.

One day, the people who were making the Tabernacle stopped working. They went to Moses. "Moses, please tell the people to stop bringing their offerings."

Stop? Why would they want the people to stop bringing their gifts for the Tabernacle?

Everyone was so generous that there was more than enough supplies and offerings to do the work. The people were giving too much!

- What does it mean to be generous? (to share what you have with someone else as a way to say thank you to God)
- Who was being generous in our story? (the Israelites)
- Who were they being generous with? (God)
- How did they share what they had with God? Did they see God? Could they talk to Him? (the Israelites gave supplies and the work to build a moveable house for God, a tabernacle)
- How much was everyone supposed to give? (it was up to them, they gave what they wanted to give)
- We said being generous is a way to say thank you to God. What did the Israelites have to be thankful for? (He sent Moses to free them from slavery in Egypt, He took care of them as they traveled-protection from enemies, food to eat, water to drink, showed them where to go)
- How thankful were the Israelites? How do you know? (Moses had to tell the people to stop giving because they gave so much)
- Where did they get the stuff to give to God? Let's look at 2 Corinthians 9:11.

"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."

- God gives the Israelites what they needed to be generous. He provided the things they needed and they were able to give them back to God in thanks.
- Who gives you what you need to be generous and say thank you to God?

Small group:

- When someone gives you something, how do you feel?
- What do you say to them? (thank you)
- When God gives you something, what should you say? (thank you)
- One way to say thank you is to be generous and share. How can you share with God?
- Each Sunday we take an offering. This is a time for you to give to God to say thank you.
- What do you have to be thankful for? (you can refer to the pictures they drew at the beginning of class)
- How does that make you feel, knowing you have been given so much by God?
- What does the church do with our offering? (talk about things the church needs to function)
- We are taking a special offering in the Hangar. What is the money being used for? (to help Bridgehaven/new parents by buying stuff for babies-diapers, wipes, baby bottles, baby clothes)
- How is buying baby things giving to God? (when our church helps others, we are sharing God's love and letting other people know about God,)
- How much do you think baby things cost? (parents spend an average of \$900 per year on diapers)
- That is an awful lot of money! Can you be that generous?
- God doesn't expect you to do it alone. When we all give, just like the Israelites, our generosity can overflow so that together we can help many families.
- If you don't have money, are there other ways you can be generous and help our church show God's love to others? (have kids think of ideas like volunteering with your parents at some of the

places our church supports, praying for these places-i.e. parents and new babies at Bridgehaven, writing encouraging letters to missionaries, inviting friends to fall fest)

Application:

- Does God need your money and stuff?
- No, God owns everything! But He is pleased when we want to share our things with Him to help others.
- There is one thing that God wants more than anything. Do you know what that is? (your heart)
- When we are generous with others, we are doing what God wants us to do. But when we share our heart with God, it makes him happy!
- How do we give our heart to God? (You can share this video about salvation https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=158&v=89p_bRo2ZU8)

Prayer:

"God you are an awesome God. You ask us to be generous, and then you give us everything we need to be generous. So we want to thank you. Thank you for all the things we have that we can share with others. Most of all, we want to thank you for your gift of salvation, the free gift that will give us life forever with you, a life as part of your family. We want to pray for people in our lives who do not have this gift. Help us to be generous with those people and to share your love with them. Amen.

Game:

Play "Going to Grandma's House", the alphabet game but instead say, "I'm going to God's house and I'm going to share my"

Craft:

Have the kids make "welcome baby" cards for the Bridgehaven baskets.