

Giving Cheerfully

Lesson Scripture: Exodus 35:4-29; 36:1-7

Bible Truth: I will give to God cheerfully.

Bible Story: Exodus 35:4-29; 36:1-7

Bible Verse: “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:7, NIV)

FOCUS

Learning Activity: “Sharing the Treat”

Preparation

Ask two children to help you pass out a small treat to the other children. One of the children should be excited about sharing the treat and cheerfully pass it out. The other child should whine, complain, and ask if they can just keep it all for themselves.

Materials
a small treat for each child in the class

Presentation

Say: **Today, I have asked _____ and _____ (insert names of your helpers) to help me pass out a treat to you. Raise your hand if you would like one, and my helpers will bring it to you.**

Have the helpers pass out the treat. Be sure that your helpers over-emphasize their attitude about giving away the treats.

Once the treats have been passed out, say: **“Did you notice any difference in the way _____ and _____ gave you your treat?”** Allow children to answer. **Well, they were really just pretending. Both of them were happy to share with you. I asked (child who had a bad attitude) to complain about giving the treat away to help you understand today’s lesson. Your attitude about giving is just as important as what you give. When we give to God, He wants us to do it cheerfully and without complaining!**

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION: 2 Corinthians 9:7

Preparation

Write 2 Corinthians 9:7 on a poster board or whiteboard.

Write each of these phrases on four of the large pieces of paper:

- Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give
- not reluctantly
- or under compulsion
- for God loves a cheerful giver

Materials
poster board
markers
8 large pieces of paper

Explanation

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 with the children.

Say: **What does the phrase “decide in their hearts” mean?** Allow children time to respond. **Yes, it means to decide how much to give. What phrases in this verse describe the attitude we should not have when giving to God?** Choose a child to underline those words or phrases.

What does it mean to give “reluctantly”? Allow the children to answer. **Yes, it means to give when you don’t really feel like doing so. What does it mean to “give under compulsion”?** Allow the children to answer. **Yes, it means to give because you were forced to give, not because you want to give.**

Can you tell me of a time when you gave “reluctantly” to someone? Allow the children to answer. **Can you tell me of a time when you gave “under compulsion”?** Allow the children to answer.

How does this verse say God wants us to give? Allow children to answer. **Yes, God wants us to give cheerfully! Can you tell me of a time when you gave cheerfully from your heart?** Allow the children to answer.

Memorization Activity

Divide the class into four groups. Give each group one of the phrases you wrote on a piece of paper and a blank piece of paper. Tell the group they have five minutes to illustrate their phrases on the blank piece of paper. When their time is up, allow each group to share their illustration. Place the illustrations and phrases on the wall, in the correct order. Ask the children to read the verse several times. Then take out the phrases. Choose different children to repeat the verse using only the illustrations.

INSTRUCT

Bible Story: "Giving for the House of God," Exodus 35:4-29; 36:1-7

Preparation

Read and study Exodus 35:4-29; 36:1-7.

Presentation

Use the pictures or items from the materials list to tell the Bible story.

God told Moses that He wanted the people of Israel, His chosen people, to build a place for worship. They would bring their offerings and praises to God to that place of worship.

Since the people of Israel were camping in the desert, traveling from place to place, the place of worship was going to be similar to a tent. It was called a tabernacle. Each one of its parts was going to be made in such a way that it would be easy to take apart, pack, and take wherever they would be camping.

God gave Moses the instructions to build the tabernacle and all its interior furnishings. Then Moses told the people exactly what God wanted to use for the construction of the tabernacle and all the furnishings. Moses knew they were going to need a lot of costly materials—gold, silver, bronze, yarn, linen, goat skin, wood, oil, spices, and pretty stones. (Show these items or pictures of these items.) He didn't order the people to bring a certain amount of each one of these materials. Instead, he told the people to give according to what they felt they were able to give to build the house of God.

The people wanted to have a place where they could praise God. They all started to bring their gifts to the tabernacle. In a short amount of time they brought so much gold, silver, bronze, precious stones, and other materials that Moses had to ask them not to bring any more.

They not only gave materials for the building of the house of worship, but they also gave their time. Some of them built the tabernacle frame. Others knitted the curtains. Others molded the metals. Some others sewed the robes for the priests, while others carved wood and metal figures. There were also some people that embroidered beautiful designs in linen. For almost an entire year, the Israelites were busy building the tabernacle. When the tabernacle was completed and the last curtain was hung, the presence of the Lord filled the place. How happy the people must have been after giving all they had to build the house of God.

Show picture of the completed tabernacle.

Materials
(actual items or pictures of these items)
gold
silver
bronze
blue, purple, red yarn
linen
goat hair
animal skins
wood
olive oil
spices
precious stones or gems
picture of the completed tabernacle
Bible

APPLICATION

Learning Activity: Role Play, "How's My Attitude?"

Preparation

None

Materials

none

Presentation

Say: We all have many opportunities to give to God. For example, you can give your tithes; you can give in the offering; and you can give to someone in need. You are going to work in groups to create a skit where a child has the opportunity to give away some money to God. I want you to first create a skit with someone giving cheerfully. Then show us the same skit with the person giving reluctantly, out of compulsion, or not at all.

Divide children into groups and give them time to prepare their skits. When everyone is ready, allow them to share with the class. After each skit, discuss the difference between the cheerful and not cheerful way of giving to God.

MINISTRY TIME

Preparation

None

Materials

paper
pencils
crayons or markers

Presentation

Give each child a piece of paper. Ask them to fold their paper in half. On one side, they should draw a cheerful face. On the other side, they should draw a picture of something they can give to God (money, toys, a special talent, etc.) Once each child has prepared their paper, ask them to gather in a circle for prayer. Pray together that the children will always give to God with a cheerful attitude.