

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

That's What Friends Are For
Giving Freely to the Lord's People
2 Corinthians 8:1-5

LARGE GROUP

- Index cards (one for each small group)
- Pens (one for each small group)
- Host's phone
- Football (from the Bible story)
- Bible marked at Philippians 4:13
- Promo video for The Giving Tree (optional; see "What You Do")

STORY SUPPLIES

- Table
- Three boxes:
 - Box #1 will have an envelope inside it (draw squiggle lines to look like the address and return address, and draw a stamp as well).
 - Box #2 will have a pen and clipboard inside with a paper on it that says "Reasons I Can't Help" across the top.
 - Box #3 will have several items in it: paint set, football, first-aid kit, book, and can of frosting (or you could use other similar items instead).

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**
- **Christmas is coming... don't miss JINGLE JAM**

MONTHLY WORSHIP LINEUP:

- Week 1 – The Best Is Yet To Come & The Blessing
- Week 2 – Might Get Loud & Way Maker
- Week 3 – There's Nothing That Our God Can't Do & Never Lost
- **Week 4 – This Is Living & Graves Into Gardens**

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



WEEK
FOUR
NOVEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

That's What Friends Are For
Giving Freely to the Lord's People
2 Corinthians 8:1-5

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

You can always use what you have to help someone else.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."
Luke 12:15, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Contentment—Learning to be okay with what you have

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

WORSHIP LEADER: "It's so good to see you! I just love to sing and worship God with all of you.

AUDIO: This Is Living

AUDIO: Graves Into Gardens

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, friends! It's so great to see you! This past week, I was thinking about things and people I'm thankful for, and you know what? I'm thankful for you! I love getting to hang out and have fun with you here at [your environment's name]. Being thankful is a big part of contentment.

SLIDE: LIFE APP

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

"Contentment is learning to be okay with what you have.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME



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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

"It's not always easy to be content. But it helps when we think about all the good things God has put in our lives. Maybe it's the people you love or a favorite subject at school. Maybe it's something you like to do, like dancing, singing, or playing soccer. Or maybe you're just thankful because of how much God loves you. We have SO many reasons to be grateful and content!

"I've got a fun game to kick off our time today, and it starts with a story.

SLIDE: BIKE RIDE SLIDE #1 (ALEX)

"This is Alex.

SLIDE: BIKE RIDE SLIDE #2 (ALEX AND BIKE)

"This is Alex and his bike.

SLIDE: BIKE RIDE SLIDE #3 (ALEX RIDING HIS BIKE, SIDE VIEW)

"Alex loves to ride his bike.

SLIDE: BIKE RIDE SLIDE #4 (ALEX RIDING HIS BIKE, FRONT VIEW)

"See what I mean? He LOVES riding that bike.

SLIDE: BIKE RIDE SLIDE #5 (ALEX FALLING)

"Oh, no! It looks like Alex hit a rock and fell!

SLIDE: BIKE RIDE SLIDE #6 (ALEX ON THE GROUND)

"Yikes! It looks like Alex and his bike both got pretty banged up. I think he needs some help. So here's what we're going to do.

Pass out the index cards and pens to the Small Group Leaders as you explain the game.

"I'll give you one minute to work with your small group and come up with three different ways you could help Alex. Talk it through and come up with the three most interesting, creative ideas you've got. Once every group has their list, we'll go around the room. The leader from each group will say one of the ideas from their list. If any other group has that same idea on their list, they'll have to cross it off. If all of your ideas are crossed off your list, then your group will sit down. We'll give each group a chance to share an idea, then we'll see if any groups are still standing at the end.

"Okay, two minutes on the clock. You can make your lists . . . now!

AUDIO: FUN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (60-SECOND VERSION)



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25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

If you're not using a screen countdown, set a timer on your phone for one minute.

When time's up, give each group a chance to share one idea from their list. If any other groups have that same idea, prompt them to cross it off. If any groups cross off all three ideas on their list, then they should sit down.

After you've given each group a chance to share an idea, congratulate the groups that are still standing. Let them quickly share their other ideas that they didn't already announce.

Collect the index cards and pens after everyone has shared.

"Way to go! You came up with some really great ideas of how to help Alex, so I know you're good at finding ways to help people when they need it.

SLIDE: BIKE RIDE SLIDE #7 (ALEX, SMILING)

"Look at him—he's doing great, thanks to you!

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Storyteller enters

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "Hi, everyone! We've been talking all month about how we can live with contentment. If we can learn to be content, we'll be a lot happier! But contentment isn't just about making our own lives better. There's something else that being content will lead us to do. I've got an idea to show you what I mean.

Move to box #1 on the table.

"Can I get a volunteer to help me open this box?"

Choose a kid to come on stage, open box #1, and hold up the letter.

"Let's see . . . what is that, [kid's name]? (Pause for response.) Right, it's a letter."

Thank the kid volunteer and send her back to her seat.

PAUL'S LETTER

STORYTELLER: "There was a letter written by the apostle Paul, which is right here in the Bible. (Hold up Bible.) We call it the book of 2 Corinthians. Paul wrote this letter to the people who lived in the city of Corinth. In this part of the letter, he told them about a group of churches in another place called Macedonia.

"Are you with me so far? Paul wrote to the Corinthians to tell them about the people in Macedonia. Cool! Paul explained that the Macedonians were very poor, and they were having a tough time. But get this. The people in Macedonia were so content that they helped OTHERS by giving their money generously!

"Here's what Paul wrote.

Open the Bible to 2 Corinthians 8:1-3 (NIRV) and read.

"Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given to the churches in Macedonia. They have suffered a great deal. But in their suffering, their joy was more than full. Even though they were very poor, they gave very freely. I tell you that they gave as much as they could. In fact, they gave even more than they could. Completely on their own, they begged us for the chance to share in serving the Lord's people in that way.

"That's pretty amazing! The Macedonians gave money to help other Jesus-followers who lived in Jerusalem. They gave what they had . . . and they did it with joy!

Move to box #2 on the table.

"Let's see. We've got another box to open. Can I get a volunteer to help me open this box and see what's inside?"



PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

25 MINUTES

Choose a kid to come on stage, open box #2, and hold up the clipboard.

“What do you have there, [kid’s name]? (Pause for response.) Yep! A clipboard.”

Thank the kid volunteer and send him back to his seat.

REASONS I CAN’T HELP

STORYTELLER: *(Hold up the clipboard.)* “If you can’t see this in the back of the room, this paper says ‘Reasons I Can’t Help’ right across the top. Of course, we would never sit down and make a list like this—of reasons we couldn’t help someone. But there are times that we might THINK we can’t help. Or maybe we’re just not sure what to do. What are some reasons we might miss the chance to help someone?”

“Well . . . we might forget.

Write “forget” on the clipboard. (The kids won’t be able to see this, so you scribble it very quickly or just pretend.)

“That can happen pretty easily, right? We get wrapped up in what we’re doing, and we forget to think about other people and what they might need.

“How about this one? ‘I’m just a kid.’

Write “kid” on the clipboard.

“The truth is, even though you’re young, you can do big things to help others! You might not always know WHAT to do, but you can ask an adult for help.

“How about this: ‘I don’t have much to give.’

Write “don’t have much” on the clipboard.

“This is the really cool part. We might not feel like we have a lot of money to give. But we can give our time. We can give our talents. We can share our creativity. We can use what we have to help others—just like Paul said about the people in Macedonia.

Move to box #3 on the table.

“Okay, this is our last box! Who wants to open it?”

Choose a kid to come on stage and open box #3.

“[Kid’s name], there are quite a few items in this box. Why don’t you stay up here and help me out for this part?”

WHAT I’VE GOT

STORYTELLER: “[Kid’s name] will take the items out of this box, one at a time. When [he/she] holds up an item, I want you to raise your hand if you can tell me a way we could use that item to help someone else! Ready? Let’s try it.”



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

Cue the kid volunteer to hold up one of the five items (paint set, football, first-aid kit, book, frosting). Each time, ask the kids to share some ideas of how they could use that item to help someone else. If the kids are stuck, you can always ask adults in the audience for ideas or give them some ideas yourself.

Go through each of the items, one by one. Then thank the kid volunteer and dismiss them to their seat.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "It's pretty cool to think about all the different things God has given us . . . like our time, our talents, and even our creative ideas. We can USE those things to help others. We can be like the people of Macedonia, who freely gave what they had and made a difference for other people.

"And here's the thing. This all starts with contentment. When we're content because of our relationship with God—when we know how much God loves us and remember that God is always with us—then we'll want to share God's love with others. We'll want to use what God has given us to help the people around us.

"Here's a great thought to remember.

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

"You can always use what you have to help someone else.

"Let's pray and ask God to help us do that."

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

PRAY

STORYTELLER: "God, thank You for the example of the people who lived in Macedonia. They used what they had to help others. Please help us think of ways that we can do that, too. We are so content and thankful for Your love, and we want to share Your love with the people around us. Show us how we can use what we have to help someone else. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

CLOSER

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Pick up the football. Toss it in the air and catch it.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

25 MINUTES

HOST: “It’s true. God has given us the things we have—like our talents, our interests, and even just our time. We can be content and thankful for those things. But it doesn’t have to stop there. We can SHARE what we have with someone else.

Toss the football to one of the adult leaders in the audience. Then cue him/her to toss it back.

“For example, I might love to play football. It really makes me happy to toss the ball around or watch a game on TV. But how much better would it be if I took the time to toss the ball with a friend? It could be a really simple way for me to make my friend feel special. I know I’d love it if someone did that for me. And after all, **[Basic Truth] we should treat others the way we want to treated!**

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

“You can always use what you have to help someone else.

“That’s what Paul noticed about the people in the Macedonian churches. They didn’t have a lot, but they were content. Because of that, they wanted to share what they had with others.

“Paul once said that he had found the secret of being content. He wrote . . .

Open the Bible to Philippians 4:13 (NIV) and read.

“I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength.

“When you put your trust in Jesus, He can give you that kind of strength and contentment, too. So let’s think about what we have to give, and be thankful. The more grateful you are for what you have, the more you’ll want to share it with someone else!

If your church is partnering with Orange and Compassion International in supporting The Giving Tree, we suggest using the time before dismissal to promote the initiative to your kids. (Please see the “Getting Ready” section for more information about this partnership.) Consider showing one of the available promo videos here to get your kids excited about providing life-changing gifts for critically vulnerable kids and families all around the world. From now through the end of December, share how much money you’ve raised and how that money can help.

OPTIONAL VIDEO: PROMO FOR THE GIVING TREE

“You can head to Small Group now and talk about how we can use what we have to help others. Have fun!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP