



## 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

### 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.

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

How can you use what you have to help others?

### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

**SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction**  
Just for Fun  
Opening Activity

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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

### 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 & Holy Spirit Come
- Week 2 – Might Get Loud & Way Maker
- Week 3 – Real Love & Holy Spirit Come
- **Week 4 – This Is Living & Graves Into Gardens**

### LARGE GROUP

- Three kid volunteers wearing closed-toed shoes
- One tall Small Group Leader wearing closed-toed shoes
- Four helmets
- Three rides for kid volunteers (scooters, plasma cars, big wheel, bicycle, etc)
- One small racer for Small Group Leader (preschool tricycle or balance bike)
- Cones
- Prize for winner (Optional)
- Promo video for The Giving Tree (Optional; see "What You Do")

### STORY SUPPLIES

- 3 Amazon boxes
- 1 Bag of baking flour
- 1 Set of dominoes
- 1 Set of gel pens
- Table

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
NOVEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

**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 KEY QUESTION

How can you use what you have to help others?

### 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 STUDENTS ENTER.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**

## WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter

**WORSHIP LEADER:**

**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**

## WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening (Encanto), a viral video on YouTube, holiday (National Gingerbread Cookie Day, National Sardines Day, National Jukebox Day, Thanksgiving Day, National Cake Day, National French Toast Day), etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.



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## OPENER

**HOST:** "Ladies and gentleman, LET'S GET READY TO RIIIIIIIDE! You've heard of the Tour de France and . . . the . . . well that's the only bicycle race I know! [beat] But that's doesn't matter because today you face the Tour de [Name of Environment]! This race is test of speed, determination, perseverance, and heart. These riders will see sights rarely traveled and places scarcely cleaned, like that corner [referencing back corner] or this corner [referencing the other back corner]. Today our racers will feel the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat! Does anybody want to race?"

*Host selects four racers with closed-toed shoes on and brings them to the stage. The first three riders should be able to select their racing vehicle from the selection on the stage. The final ride should be the smallest and given to the tallest individual (Small Group Leader) in the room to use like a small tricycle.*

"[To the tall SGL] It seems we have run out of rides on the stage, but you're in luck. We have something backstage that should be a great fit for you! I'll be right back."

*Host exits stage and quickly returns with a small racer like a preschool tricycle or balance bike.*

"It may not look like much, but this bad boy is a fighter. It should serve you well! Let's have our racers line up on the starting line so we can get to racing."

*Host lines up the racers on the starting line. Host provides helmets for each of the riders. Host makes sure the spectators are a safe distance from the racers.*

"Our racers will need to complete three laps around the track. The first person to cross the finish line will be the TOUR DE [Name of Environment] CHAMPION! Are our racers ready? Excellent. Let's have the crowd count down with me. Three . . . Two . . . One . . . RACE!"

### AUDIO: UPBEAT GAME MUSIC

*Host facilitates the race. Host adds commentary until the race ends.*

"Wow! Wow! Wow! These racers are a picture of athletic achievement uncommonly found in any competition in this room! Our competitors should pat themselves on the back for a job well done! I am especially proud of [Name of Small Group Leader] who managed to handle their racer better than I ever could! Further, we should give a rowdy round of applause for our undisputed and undefeated TOUR DE [Name of Environment] CHAMPION! (Pause for response) Well done!"

*Racers take a seat.*



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## COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

*Communicator enters*

### INTRODUCTION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "What's up, everybody? I hope you are having a great day so far! I really do believe it's not too hard to have a great day this time of year. Decorations for Christmas are up in shopping centers. You can crank up the Christmas music without people staring at you like you're crazy! And everyone is starting to feel really generous."

*Use the following stories or choose stories that are more local to where you live. Optional: Find images on the internet of these moments (or similar ones that you want to highlight) and have them ready to accompany the stories.*

"Every year, we start hearing stories of anonymous people offering incredible gifts around this time. For example, there was a family in Ohio last Christmas who wanted to do something special for their waitress. They decided to give her a \$1,500 tip! Isn't that amazing?"

"Or have you ever noticed outside stores people ringing a bell standing next to a red Salvation Army bucket? Each year they work to raise money to help those in need of food or emergency assistance. Last year in Chicago, one Salvation Army buckets contained a gold bar and another had a \$50 American Eagle coin. The two donations combined were valued just under \$4,000! How surprising would it be to find a gold bar in your bucket?"

"Another example I heard about took place in Georgia when an Atlanta police officer heard of a mother with five kids in need. This mom needed a way to travel to her new job, and the police officer donated a vehicle to the family! Isn't that crazy?!"

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** "If you are anything like me, stories like these inspire me to become more generous! When the news cycle shares about individuals or organizations who go out of their way to give to others, I can't turn away! Some of you might be thinking, 'I can't wait to have a lot so I can give a lot' or 'when I'm older, I want to give like that!' Those are great thoughts to have, but what if you might be looking at this all wrong? What if you could make a difference in your world NOW without needing to be older age or have more?"

"For the entire month of November, we've been looking at this idea of contentment."

SLIDE: LIFE APP SLIDE

"Contentment is learning to be ok with what you have. But does contentment have anything to do with generosity? And if it does, how so?"

"Well, that's a great question! And as we jump into the Bible today, we get to see just how contentment and generosity go together. Let's check it out!"



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## TRUTH

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Many of you have heard of Paul. Paul was one of the first followers of Jesus. Jesus gave Paul the job of spreading the Good News of Jesus throughout the Roman Empire. Paul took this job seriously! During his missionary trips and travels, Paul was able to introduce Jesus to new towns and establish churches along the way! In the city of Corinth, the people were surrounded by unimaginable difficulties. Paul found it to be a great place to start a church. Just like other churches, Paul stayed in touch with the church in Corinth by visiting or writing letters.”

“In one letter written to the church in Corinth, Paul wrote about a group of churches in Macedonia. The churches were poor with few resources and were going through a hard time. Regardless, Paul invited these churches to give to the struggling Christians in Jerusalem. Paul was so impressed with the church’s generosity he wrote,”

*Open 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.”

“Isn’t that awesome? Although they were poor and going through difficulties in Macedonia, they found a way to give to others. Paul continued and said,”

*Open Bible to 2 Corinthians 8:3b-5a (NirV) and read.*

“Completely on their own, they begged us for the chance to share in serving the Lord’s people in that way. They did more than we expected.”

“The churches in Macedonia went above and beyond to show God’s love to others! Paul expressed this to the Corinthians as a way to encourage them to show their love for God and others by giving.”

“What if Paul wrote you a letter asking you to give knowing you may not have bags of money under your mattress? How would you give? What would it look like? Let’s pause for a moment to unbox several scenarios of what it might look like!”

*Communicator moves in front of table with three Amazon boxes. Communicator opens first box and pulls out a bag of baking flour.*

“Does anybody know what this is used for? (Pause for response) That’s right! This is baking flour used to create some of our favorite dishes like cookies, cakes, and cinnamon rolls! When I look at this, I am reminded of all the talents so many of you possess like baking. Imagine a close friend gets a new baby sister. A new baby is an exciting time for any family, but it can also be very tiring. Babies require lots of attention and need help all day and night! Some friends may bring the baby a brand new outfit. However, you opt to use what you already have in your kitchen to make them homemade banana bread with fresh pecans (or other baked breakfast favorite) for the family to enjoy for breakfast!”

*Communicator opens second box and pulls out a set of dominoes.*



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“Long ago, entertainment looked like these dominoes. Maybe not all entertainment, but prior to Netflix, tablets, and gaming systems, people sat down at a card table to play games. The entertainment did not involve technology or batteries. It was a simple but very meaningful form of in-person quality time. Games like Trouble, Sorry!, Scrabble, Othello, or Mancala adorned the shelves of the hallway closet. I realize many of you have never played dominoes much less owned a set. However, when I look these dominoes, I can’t help but think of grandparents. It reminds me of how much our grandparents love to spend time with us. So many times, we are too busy to give them our time. Without spending money, one way we can show love to our grandparents is by spending time with them and choosing to put away our technology for some good, old-fashioned entertainment.”

*Communicator opens third box and pulls out a set of gel pens.*

“Finally, we have gel pens! Many of you probably have gel pens lying around your house for coloring or doodling. Even if you don’t have these particular pens, you probably have other writing options such as crayons, markers, or pencils! These instruments could be some of the most powerful tools at your disposal. With one in your hand, you’ve got the power to build others up, encourage someone in need, and brighten another’s day. Think of all the people you know right now who could use a hand-written note! Imagine your big sister comes home upset after not doing too well on a test. This would be a bad day for most people. What would it look like to take the time to write a hand-written note reminding your sister how great she is regardless of how she does in school!

## APPLICATION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “So many times we don’t give because we think that we have nothing to give. However, if we can pause and look at our situations, we can quickly recognize God has given us what we have so we can help others! Don’t forget what Paul wrote to the Corinthians when he spoke of the churches in Macedonia.”

*Open 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.*”

“These Jesus followers didn’t use their hard situation as an excuse. The people in the Macedonian churches didn’t have a lot, BUT they were content. Their contentment gave way to a generous spirit to share their time, talents, and resources with others.”

“Many of us spent this time of year reflecting on all the reasons we have to be thankful, which honestly, we should do all year long. It’s a great exercise. After all, the more thankful we are for what we have, the more we will want to share it with someone else! It’s important to remember that no matter how much we have—we always have something to give!”

“God has gifted you with creativity, talents, encouraging words, and so much more. God’s gifts are not to be hoarded for your purposes. Rather, they are to be shared with others so they can see how much God loves them, too! Jesus will help you find the contentment to do this. He will give you strength!



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## LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** "Take a moment to think about your situation. Look at your life and ponder all the ways God has blessed you. Ask yourself this as you head to Small Group:"

### SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"How can you use what you have to help others? When we are able to think through this long list, we are able to find contentment! If you're quite sure how to use what you have to help others, don't worry! You'll talk more about all of this with your Small Group! Before we head out, let's pray and thank God for all He has provided and ask for God's help learning to be content."

*Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.*

*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**

**AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS STUDENTS EXIT.**

**SLIDE: THEME**

**OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP**