



God is Giving

Matthew 25:35-40

God Statement: Jesus Is Our Hope

KEY VERSE: “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
(John 14:6, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God is Giving

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God is giving.

SAY:

Today, we’re going to learn about how God is giving. That’s a pretty big word. What do you think that means? *Let kids respond.* God gives so much to each of us. Let’s think about something God has given to us. (i.e. a family, a house, nice weather, friends, His Son, love, etc.) Think about the last time you got a gift – maybe for your birthday or a special holiday. How did that make you feel? *Let kids respond.* When we get gifts, big or small, we feel happy and excited. What about the last time you gave a gift – how did that make you feel? *Let kids respond.* Giving a gift can be just as exciting and joyful

because we get to help make others feel good too. We're going to learn more later about how God calls us to give just like He has given so much to us, but first, let's play a game!

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Giving Globe Hot Potato

Supplies: globe ball

***Say:** Today we get to talk about how God is giving to everyone because He loves everyone. Did you know that we are all God's children? Even if we don't all live in the same place – we are ALL children of God whom He loves. God gives so much to each of us, and we can do the same for others! As we play this game, if you're the one holding the globe when the music stops, share one way you can be giving to someone else – in our city or around the world.*

Directions: Have children stand in a circle. Play music from kids music playlists, Plex or Spotify, pausing the music as the children pass or toss the globe to others in the circle. When the music stops, the child holding the globe can share one way they can show kindness/be giving and then he/she is out. Play until you have a winner.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the Bible Challenge slide.****

BIBLE CHALLENGE

Host

Use this time to get kids engaged in large group and introduce/review the current Bible Challenge.

Spiritual Discipline – Fasting**Share with the kids about our current Bible Challenge:**

Throughout the Old and New Testament, the Bible teaches that there are times we should give up something important to focus our hearts on prayer and listening to God. Although for children, this may not look like fasting from food, the idea of giving up something important to us in order to devote that time to God is important to our spiritual walk. Encourage kids to talk to their families and think of things they can “give up” to focus on God more – i.e. video games, watching tv, etc.

As the kids take on the challenge, encourage them to share with their class in small group time how their family is learning about and engaging with the idea of fasting.

******After Bible Challenge, transition the power point to the “Key Verse” slide.******

KEY VERSE**Host**

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God’s Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

(John 14:6, NIRV)

****** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.******

OPENING WORSHIP**Worship Leader**

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it’s not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Is Giving

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: small paper, twine and/or wire WRS board, markers/pens

Before we do our worship response activity for today, I want to share some verses from the Bible with you. What's the other name we call the Bible sometimes? The Big God Story – that's right! When we read out of the Bible, we are reading God's Word and Truth.

I'm going to read Matthew 25:35-40. As I read this, I want you all to lay down and close your eyes. As you close them, imagine you are standing next to Jesus with a group of people and He's saying these words.

Read Matthew 25:35-40 from an NIRV Bible. As you read, read slowly emphasizing the important words and repeating phrases as needed. Reread verse 40 one final time before discussing the passage.

Jesus tells us here that when we serve others, it is as if we are serving Jesus Himself. What were some of the ways of serving Jesus talked about? ***Pause for responses.*** Feeding the hungry, giving someone that is thirsty a drink, being kind to a stranger, giving clothes to someone without very many, or caring for those who are sick or hurting.

Jesus loves all of us – even those that the world considers the “least important.” Can you think of a time in the Bible when Jesus showed kindness and love towards someone

who others didn't think was important? (*i.e. the lepers, the blind man, the woman at the well, etc.*) Now, think about your life. Are there people that the world says aren't important? What does Jesus say about them? **Pause for response.**

God has given us so much because He loves us and He is giving and generous.

- Can you think of some things God has given you?
- Shout out all the things you can think of.
 - ***Give kids a good chance to name things they have been given. Family, friends, school, shoes, coat, brains, money, so many things, encourage them to keep naming things.***
- Think about how that makes you feel, remembering all God has given you.

Let's take a moment and thank God for all He has given us. On the count of three, let's say, "Thank you, God!" Ready – one, two, three.

- We have so much that God has given to us. When we have much, we can give much.
- Because God loves us and is so giving, we want to help others feel loved and joyful too. How can you help others feel loved by God?

We all need help sometimes, right? Maybe we need food, clothes, money. Or maybe we need help doing our homework or making dinner. When people have helped by giving their time or resources to us, it makes us feel so thankful!

Think about the video we watched. What did the little girl in the video do? She asked her mom to help her buy food for Feeding Families, and then what?

- Her small act of giving meant that another little kid was able to have a snack to eat at school that day.
- She probably didn't know that by giving as Jesus did, she would be impacting someone that went to her school.
- But guess what? We can have the same impact to our friends, our neighbors, and people at our school too.
- Whether it's bringing food for Feeding Families or holding the door for someone as you go to class, or making cookies for your elderly neighbor, we ALL can find little ways to give to others right here and now.
- We don't always have to give money or canned food. We can help by praying too!
 - God is so mighty and He hears our prayers. That's why we do things like pray for our Compassion Child every week or pray for the people in South Asia. But, we can also pray for our friends and neighbors too!
 - Prayer is a powerful tool!

How can you serve this week by giving some food, or a kind word or our time, or simply praying for someone in need this week?

Turn on soft worship music and explain to kids that they can participate in this activity by asking God how they can give this week and responding on the boards around the room.

Let's sit quietly and ask God how we can give. When you're ready, draw a picture or write down who you want to give to this week. Then put it on the board.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

******After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the "Compassion International" slide.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

******After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.******

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – South Asia & Empart

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Say: Right now, we're learning about one of our partner ministries in South Asia called Empart. You remember how we just spent last month raising money to help kids around the world receive Bibles? Well, just like the kids receiving those may have never seen God's Word before, many people in South Asia do not have access to the Bible either! Not only that, but many people in South Asia have never even heard the name of Jesus before. Imagine what your life would be like if you didn't know Jesus... *Let kids describe what it might be like – sad, lonely, dark, etc.* Empart Ministry works to train and support local workers in South Asia to reach their own community with God's Word. Just like we always talk about how important it is for us to love our neighbors, the believers in South Asia are working to love their neighbors well, and we can support those workers in the most important way – through prayer!

Highlight a few specific prayer points provided on the Missions card. Encourage kids to take home a Missions card and continue to pray for Empart and the people of South Asia throughout the week.

*****After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.*****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Friends, as you think about all that God has given you, gratefully be generous to give to others.

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Have the kids share what happened in the Feeding Families video.**
2. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
3. **God calls us to serve others as a way to share His love. How can you share God's love with someone this week?**
4. **What is one way you can be giving to your family this week?**

Spend time sharing prayer requests before finishing small group. Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **Have the kids share what happened in the Feeding Families video.**
2. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
3. **Read Matthew 25:35-40.**

What does this passage teach us about Jesus? What does it teach us about being a follower of Jesus?

4. **God calls us to serve others as a way to share His love. How can you share God's love with someone this week?**
5. **What is one way you can be giving to your family this week?**

Spend time sharing prayer requests before finishing small group. Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE – Jesus Loves Me Key Chain

Supplies: one key chain kit per child – key ring, beads, string, small bag

Directions: Pass out one keychain kit per child. Allow children to create a *Jesus Loves Me* Key chain. Assist children as needed to attach the string to the keychain, etc. This can be sent home for the children to do later on, if time does not allow for it to be done in class.

Say: *One of the most important things we can remember about Jesus is that He loves each of us. Because of His love for us, we can share that good news with those around us through our actions and our words. Let's make this keychain as a reminder for us of that truth, and as a way to talk to others about God's love for them.*



CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.