



MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE

Gospel-Centered Life: Session 12

Giving

Key Statement: God 1) calls us to be generous as He has been generous, 2) gives us wealth that we might share it with others, and 3) calls us to give cheerfully out of gratitude.

::CONNECT::

Activity 1: The Garden of Generosity

- Tell your students they are popular and talented artists (drawers, painters, sculptors). A wealthy Christian has read this lesson and wants to throw a fund-raising party for many of her wealthy friends in hopes of sharing this call to generosity with them. Where your students come in is that she has commissioned them to produce art for this event to support the three points in the lesson.
- One possibility she'd consider is for your group to create three statues to go in different parts of her garden. The other possibility is for your group to create three paintings or drawings to put in her entertaining hall, one for each of the three points. Either way, here's what she wants:
- The first piece should be entitled "The Root of Generosity." She wants it to remind or show her guests that we are to be generous because God himself is generous.
- The second piece is "Proportional Generosity." It should warn against both legalism and license, but point out that we are to give proportionately as stewards.
- The third piece is "The Harvest of Generosity." It should call people to give by reminding them of the harvest of souls and joy that comes with giving.
- If your kids choose to do statues, they should be classy statues that can go in a fancy garden (your students can themselves enact the statue and then explain it, or they can draw what their statue could be. If you're really fancy, you could give them Legos or Play-Doh to work with).
- If your students do the drawings, they should be classy, high-themed drawings (or paintings).
- Either way, give you students time to consider and produce their work, and then have them share it and explain it.
- Use the debrief time to clarify what needs clarified and to praise what they captured. Remind them of the incessant need for the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts to make this grace happen.

Activity 2: Sunday Comics

- Give each student a writing utensil and paper. Have them write their favorite comic character at the top of their paper. I'm thinking Sunday comics, like Archie or Garfield or Calvin and Hobbes.
- Then instruct them that they should pretend that the character they wrote on the top has become a Christian. They're now going to draw a comic strip (at least three panels) showing that character exemplifying the lesson on generosity. They should have at least one panel for each point.
- For example, they might draw Garfield with a thought cloud about how God has been generous in giving him lasagna. Then several panels might show Garfield being too legalistic (I'll share 10% of my lasagna with Odie) or too licentious (I'll keep all the lasagna) but then getting it right (it'd make me happy to share my lasagna with Odie). A final panel might show Garfield surrounded by friends with whom he has shared his lasagna and Garfield's happiness in having so many companions.
- Give them time to create their Sunday comics, then have them share with the group. If they are good, you might consider using them as a bulletin insert or putting them on a bulletin board in the church somewhere. Students love having their work shown off, and it'll let the rest of the church know what's going on in your group.

::CONVEY::

If you are pressed for time this week, consider spending the majority of your Convey time by focusing on points one and two of the session.

Remember, this is merely a suggested outline adaptation for a middle school group. If you decide to incorporate one or more option into your group time, you will likely have to be very selective on the material you decide to teach through. Keep in mind that each class is different, and as the leader guide suggests, personalize the lesson content for your class by determining what elements are most applicable. Don't feel pressured to teach through all of the content in a single meeting, but instead help middle school students to see the main overall point and big picture the lesson is conveying.

::COLLIDE::

See Leader Guide