

Elementary and Preschool
Week 3: Becoming a Cheerful Giver

Lesson Overview:

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Key Passage to Memorize: “Each person should do as he has decided in his heart—not reluctantly or out of compulsion since God loves a cheerful giver.”
2 Corinthians 9:7 Preschoolers will memorize the underlined portion while elementary-aged children will memorize the whole passage above.

Main Point: We can be cheerfully generous.

Why can we be generous? We can give cheerfully and be generous because God takes care of us. Thank you, God!

Lesson time: 60 Minutes

Ice Breaker: 10 minutes while students arrive.

Introduction: 10 minutes to get students' attention and to introduce the topic.

Bible Reading: 5 minutes, read verses from the Bible and explain how to find them.

Application Activity: 10 minutes

Review and Pray: 15 minutes

Closing Activity: 10 minutes

Items Needed:

Ice Breaker: Week 2 *God Loves a Cheerful Giver Coloring Sheet* (one per child) and Crayons (elementary and preschool).

Introductory Activity: Two baskets and one fruit per child. The “fruit” can be fruit or vegetables (real or plastic). It can also be small ball pit balls, paper wads, ping pong balls, or whatever is on hand.

Application Activity: Elementary- *Code Breaker Page* and a pencil (one per child).

Preschool- *Cheerful Activity Sheet*, crayons, and a pencil (one per child).

Review and Pray: Elementary- *Reflection page for week one sheet*, pencil, and crayons—preschool-*letter tracing activity sheet* one per child, playdough, and dab-and-dot markers.

Closing Activity: *Tracing God's Pattern Activity Sheet* (one per child) and crayons (elementary and preschool).

Ice Breaker-10 minutes: *Designed to get kids ready to learn, create a welcoming atmosphere, get their attention, and allow them to focus while others arrive. The icebreaker activity begins when your classroom opens, not when class officially starts. Do this activity as the children arrive.*

- Before children arrive, put out the *Week 3 God Loves a Cheerful Giver Coloring Sheet* (elementary and preschool) at each seat and some crayons in the center of each table.
- As children arrive, greet them and ask them to find a spot at each table. Then, have them choose a place to sit and begin coloring their coloring sheet.

After about 5-6 minutes of coloring, say: **The Bible teaches us that God loves a cheerful giver.** Let kids continue to color and keep welcoming new arrivers. Walk around and admire each child's work.

Say: **You all did a great job working on your coloring sheet. Today we are learning that we can be cheerfully generous.**

Ask: **Why can we be generous?** We can give cheerfully and be generous because God takes care of us. Thank you, God!

Say: **God loves a cheerful giver!**

Introduction- 10 minutes: *The introduction is designed to lay the foundation for what you teach and where you will be in scripture.*

Say: (Elementary and Preschool) We are playing a game called first fruits relay. Divide the class into two teams. Place the baskets on one side of the room. Line the teams up parallel to each other, facing the baskets on the opposite side of the room. Give each child a "first fruit" to hold.

Explain: The game's object is to be the first team to give all their first fruits. When you say go, the child in the front of the line will run to their basket and cheerfully give their first fruit. Then they will run back and sit in the back of the line, and the next child will go. Go until one team has all their first fruits given cheerfully and is seated.

- Facilitate gameplay for as long as children are interested. You can play several times and change the way kids run by having them crawl, crabwalk, roll, or anything like that will make it fun.
- After the game, have everyone return to the rug or table to discuss the game.

Explain: Today, we played a game about cheerfully giving! It was so fun; you had the opportunity to give your first fruits cheerfully. First fruits are the things we earn, grow, or receive that are the best we can give God. We are reading in the New Testament about how God loves a cheerful giver.

For Preschool, say: **Let's read from the Bible, God's special book, and see what it says about how God loves a cheerful giver.**

For Elementary-age kids, Let's **look at God's Word and the Bible and see what it says about giving cheerfully. When we give cheerfully, we are showing thanks to God for his inexpressible gift- His son Jesus. We also show that we trust God to provide and meet our needs.**

Bible Reading- 5 minutes:

Hold your Bible and say: **This is God's special book, the Bible. When we read from it, we get to hear what God is saying to us. Today we are reading from 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. The Bible is divided into two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament has 39 books, and the New Testament has 27 books. The Bible is made up of 66 books that tell one big story about how Jesus came to save people. 2 Corinthians is a book of the Bible in the New Testament. Paul wrote 2 Corinthians as a letter to the church of Corinth. He wanted to encourage them to live generously, trust God, and love others like Jesus modeled. Today we will learn how God is able and trustworthy in everything.**

Find 2 Corinthians in your Bible, and explain how 9 is the chapter. It is the big number, and after you find the big 9, you read the verse. The verses are the sentences after the little 6. Ask elementary-aged kids to get their Bibles out and find the passage (help them as needed) and have them follow along as it is read. Read 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 out loud. If you are teaching elementary-aged kids and someone wants to read out loud, give them that opportunity.

Reread verses 8-15 and talk about how God enriches and equips us so that we can be generous. It is because of God that we can give cheerfully.

Application Activity- 10 minutes: *Designed to get your kids thinking, moving, and driving the main point home.*

Elementary: Pass out *code breaker pages* and pencils to each child. Explain that they will use the key at the top of the page to write the corresponding letter above the line so they can decode the message.

After they all decode the message, explain that this is part of the verse you will memorize this week. Then, say it together a few times.

Preschool: Pass out the *cheerful giver activity pages* with crayons and pencils to each child. Explain that they will draw a cheerful face on the first face and trace the letters below it. Then they will draw a sad face on the second face and trace the letters below it. Then they will draw an afraid face on the third face and trace the letters below it. Then they will draw an excited face on the fourth face and then trace the letters below it. Then they will draw an angry or mad face on the fifth face and trace the letters below it. Finally, they will draw a silly face on the sixth face and trace the letters below it.

Review and Pray- 15 Minutes: *Designed to review the main point, reflect on the lesson and spend time talking to God.*

Elementary- Pass out *reflection pages for week 3*, pencils, and crayons. Explain that you will do a weekly reflection page to help each child process what you are learning and help them spend a little time talking to God. Explain that they will retell or draw what they learned from God's word today on their paper. Then they will write out or illustrate how what they learn applies to their lives and write or draw a prayer to God. Then, finally, they will use the word bank at the bottom of the page to finish the memory verse.

After everyone has finished their reflection page, gather their pencils and crayons and tell them you will pray together as a group.

Dear God, thank You that You give generously. Thank You that You gave Your son Jesus to die for our sins. Thank you for giving us a chance to give and be generous so we can cheerfully show our gratitude to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Preschool- Give each child a copy of the letter *tracing activity sheet*, a ball of playdough, and dab-and-dot markers (crayons or markers if dab-and-dot markers are unavailable).

Explain that each child will get a sheet of paper and it says God is able! First, have your group trace each letter with their finger, saying it out loud if they can, and then when they finish, have them say, "God loves a cheerful giver!"

Second, have your group take their playdough and form each letter on the page with the playdough, saying the letter out loud if they can, and then when they finish, have them say, "God loves a cheerful giver!"

Third, have your group take their dab-and-dot makers and dot out each letter saying the letter out loud if they can, and then when they finish, have them say, "God loves a cheerful giver!"

You can do this as many times as your group wants to. Then take up the playdough and makers and pray together as a group.

Say: We will talk to God now; that is called praying. God can hear us all the time. Let's get our bodies ready to pray. Ask: Are you sitting down on the ground? Are your feet still? Are your hands where you can be still and focus on God? Then ask if their eyes are closed so they can focus on God. Then tell them you will pray out loud, and they can talk to God in their head and hearts.

Dear God, thank You that You give generously. Thank You that You gave Your son Jesus to die for our sins. Thank you for giving us a chance to give and be generous so we can cheerfully show our gratitude to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Closing Activity: 5 minutes

Elementary and Preschool: Pass out *tracing God's pattern pages* and crayons to each child. Explain that God loves a cheerful giver. God is trustworthy and meets our needs. He gives generously and wants us to give generously. We give out of love and thankfulness to God. We serve God and give God our money, talents, and time. Take three crayons and color each line to "unknot" it and connect it to the picture that goes with each word.

Send the take-home page with each child. Copy it front and back and cut the sheets into fourths. Each child will take a 1/4th sheet home. Please point out the memory verse to their parents.