



## Older IK Groups- 2nd - 5th Grades

**April 2, 2025**

**Bible Story:** Giving- Matthew 6:1-4

**Big Idea:** God loves a giving heart.

**The Win:** Kids who can identify and take their next step of discipleship by embracing a preschooler's physical needs or engaging an elementary kid in things that interest them.

### Wednesday Share:

Tonight during Impact Kids, we looked at Matthew 6:1-4. In this section of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warns about doing good things like giving just to be noticed by other people. Hypocrites call attention to their gifts, but Jesus wants us to give privately so that our hearts are about giving...not about looking impressive. Ask God to show you if there's anything you need to do differently when it comes to giving. Is your heart coming from the wrong place? Do you need to give more sacrificially or more regularly? Pray as a family and ask God to help you know how everyone in your family can be part of the plan for how and when you give to the Lord.

### Leader Devo:

<https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2025/03/26/apr-2>

### Dig In to Prayer:

Ask God to help you create a culture where kids are excited about giving.

### Quick Tip:

A lot of churches incentivize kids' giving to make it more fun. So you might offer a pizza party if they hit a certain dollar amount, or maybe you'll dye your hair neon green if they hit a goal. This may seem fun, and it certainly can be effective at getting kids to give more money. But when kids are offered rewards for giving, they lose the heart for why they're really giving. Instead, try talking regularly about where your offering money goes. Get kids excited about the mission. You'll have a chance to do that if you use the elementary-aged Deeper Bible for this lesson. (P.S. Children's Ministry Directors, make sure you check out that Deeper Bible so you can personalize it for your ministry! Then your teachers will be prepared to talk about where your offering goes.)

### Wednesday Group Schedule

Leaders Arrive: 6:15 PM  
Family Dinner: 6:30 PM – 6:50 PM  
K-3rd Outside Play: 6:50 PM- 7:20 PM  
4th & 5th Small Group: 6:50 PM- 7:30 PM  
K-3rd Small Group: 7:25 PM- 8:00 PM  
4th & 5th Outside Play: 7:30 PM- 8:00 PM  
Dismiss: 8:00 PM- 8:05 PM

## Low Energy Game:

### Supplies

- index cards (1 per child)
- nickels (1 per child) (kids will keep them)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

### Attempt to Balance Nickels

**Say:** Today we're talking about how God loves a giving heart. Let's play a game that helps us explore that truth and make a little money at the same time!

- Give each child an index card and a nickel.
- Explain that kids will each balance the index card on one of their pointer fingers while the finger is extended and parallel with the floor. Then they'll place a nickel on the card over the finger—it will balance nicely there.
- The goal is for kids to pull away the card without touching the nickel and have the nickel remain on the finger. It's not easy!
- Tell kids you have a giving heart, so if they can keep the nickels from falling, they can keep the nickels.
- Allow kids to try several times, and then have them extend their middle fingers alongside their pointer fingers and try again. The nickels are less likely to fall. Gradually have kids add additional fingers until the card and coin are balanced across their hands.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.

### Talk About It

Have kids call out how many fingers it took before they could keep their nickels from falling.

**Ask:** • When you realized how hard it would be to earn a nickel, what did you think of this activity—and me?

**Say:** Good news! You all get to keep your nickels because, in the end, you all were successful.

My giving heart wouldn't be all that giving if I made it so hard for you to receive a nickel that you go home empty-handed. Giving hearts reach out and help others.

**Ask:** • What has God done to show he has a giving heart?

**Say:** One reason God loves a giving heart is that God has one, too. God offers us a forever life with him through the gift of his Son, Jesus.

## Talk About Video:

### Discuss and Watch “Kids Who Give”

**Say:** We're learning that God loves a giving heart.

**Ask:** • What are some ways people can give?

**Say:** Let's watch a video about kids who saved up money to give to something important.

### Watch “Kids Who Give.”

**Ask:** • Of all the ways kids raised money to give, which do you think you could do?

• One of the kids said that she “wanted to make a difference and be part of something so big.” Why do you think it's important to give?

• What inspired you most about this video?

**Say:** God loves a giving heart. These kids all gave up something they wanted in order to give money that would help build new churches. They knew their gift would make a big difference. When you give to church, you make a big difference, too!

## Deeper Bible:

### Supplies

- Bibles
- paper
- markers\*
- pictures of how your offering is used (optional)

**Easy Prep:** Children's Ministry Directors, you'll need to take the lead on this prep! Gather stories and pictures, if possible, to show how your kids' offering is used. This lesson includes a lot of possible ways your church might use offerings, but you'll need to edit it to make it accurate for your setting.

### Dig In to the Bible

**Say:** Have you ever wondered what happens when you give money to church? Let's look at how offering money from a church in the Bible was used!

This is a letter from Paul to the church in the city of Corinth.

**Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-2, 12.**

**Say:** Paul was collecting money from the church in Corinth to help poor people in Jerusalem so their needs could be met. But he didn't want anyone to give just because they felt like they had to.

**Read 2 Corinthians 9:7.**

**Ask:** • Why do you think it matters if they felt like they had to give?

Wouldn't it still help the poor people in Jerusalem?

**Say:** So we know Paul collected an offering that helped poor people in Jerusalem. But what about when our church collects offerings? When you give money to church, where does it go? Let's dig in to that.

### Share Your Church's Stories

**Ask:** • What, if anything, do you know about where our offering money goes?

Be prepared to share stories about where your kids' offering money goes. If you have a special fund for your children's ministry offering, share about that. If your kids' offering is collected with the adults' offering or goes to the same general fund, share about some of the ways it's used. Below are some suggestions, but tailor this as needed and be ready to share specific stories and pictures.

### GROW IN GENEROSITY

A part of trusting the Lord is learning to live faithfully and give generously. This is an act of worship where you give based on what God has given you. Giving money to Parkway helps make groups for kids and adults possible. Every time the church gathers, there are groups for kids and teenagers. The leaders in these groups are volunteers but the activities and spaces we use take time and money to keep up with. When you eat pizza and enjoy fun snacks, those are part of the monies given to support the church. The yearly budget for all campuses is decided by the leadership of the church and money given to the church allows us to pay for staff and buildings to be used and weekly church services and yearly activities to be planned and implemented.

Parkway is very generous in our communities. We give money to The Food Bank of the Golden Crescent to purchase backpack food. Christ's Kitchen, Gideons, South Texas Children's Home, VCAM, Pregnancy Help Center, Prison Ministry and Calhoun County Ministries and Young Life get money from Parkway yearly to help support them in their mission. We have some money monthly to assist some families in need and we plan every year to support Operation Christmas Child with the purchase of boxes that are filled by you. Children's Ministry at all campuses help support children with Compassion International. In fact now is a good time to send your sponsored child a note.

**Say:** Wow! When you give, it makes a big difference! Just think of everything God has done with your money. And the stories we just heard are only a little glimpse into everything God is doing. No wonder God loves a giving heart!

### Make Cards

If you have time, let kids give an additional gift this week by making cards.

**Say:** And it's not just money we can give! Let's make some cards to give along with our offering money this week. These cards will go to [name the recipients of your offering money, such as our sponsored kids, clients of an agency you partner with, church staff, or even each other]. Set out paper and markers, and have kids make cards. Collect them to give to the recipients of your kids' offering.

## Life Application:

### Supplies

- slips of green paper (1 per child)
- pens
- basket

### Pray for Giving Hearts

**Say:** God loves a giving heart. But sometimes it's hard for us to have giving hearts! For most people, it's more natural to want to take than to want to give. So let's ask God to help us have giving hearts.

- Have kids write prayers asking God for giving hearts, using the green paper slips to write on.
- Pass the basket like an offering basket to collect the paper slips.
- Pray: God, we don't always have giving hearts. But we want to be more giving! Help us have hearts that give cheerfully and willingly. In Jesus' name, amen.
- Thank kids for coming, and encourage them to come back next week.

## Activity Page with a Point:

### Younger Kids: Color a Coloring Page

Distribute the coloring pages and crayons.

**Say:** We're learning about a time Jesus stood up on a hill to teach a big crowd of people! He taught that God loves a giving heart. Let's color a woman generously giving her money. Allow time for kids to color.

### Older Kids: Do an Activity Page

**Say:** In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that God loves a giving heart. Let's play a game and see what we can learn about that.

Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Kids will find partners and take turns connecting two dots side by side or up and down. If a child can connect the fourth wall on a square, he or she will write initials inside the box. The goal is to get the most boxes.

**Ask:** • When you saw the chance to finish a square, how did you decide whether to take it or let your opponent take it?

• If you let your opponent finish a square, you would have given up possible points. What are some things we might give up to show a giving heart? This is a thinking question, so help kids explore things we sacrifice out of loving care for others or obedience to God.

**Say:** God loves a giving heart. Let's give generously, even if it means we miss out on something!