

Adventures with GOD!

GIVE TO OTHERS (A.2.Winter.7)

Biblical Reference	2 Corinthians 9:7, Mark 12:41-44
Key Verse	2 Corinthians 9:7
Key Concept	God wants me to give to others with thanksgiving, from the abundance of what God has given me.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tell who gives us everything we have 2. Name what they can give and share with others 3. Explain the attitude they should have when they give to God and others

Life Application

The lesson today is very practical. Talk about giving with thanksgiving and love. The children will learn that everything we have comes from God (in some way or other). Then as a result of their gratitude to God, they will learn that they can give to others from what God has given them. This week the focus is on these truths which will become an integral part of their lives as believers.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Activity	Gifts, piñata	Before class
Opening prayer	Candle	1 minute
Introduction	Illustrations, bags, candy, piñata	10 minutes
Bible exploration	Puppets, Bible, basket, coins, faces	10 minutes
Game	Soft ball	10 minutes
Craft	Paper, crayons, glue, scissors, puppets, metal fastener	10 minutes
Bible verse and snack	Fruit	10 minutes
Closing prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

NOTE: Some children tend to arrive earlier than others to the class. Use this time in a very creative way. Receive each child with love as a concrete way of showing how God receives them. Even these subtle messages speak volumes to their life. When the first children arrive, have them help you to fill the piñata that you will use as part of your class introduction. Have the candy ready to go in small paper bags that they can help you put in the piñata; that way it won't lose the element of surprise. Another thing you can do while you wait for others to arrive is to make puppets. They can be finger puppets or sock puppets. Then they can use these puppets during the class.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Light the candle.

Prayer: “God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen.” (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

Introduction: An excellent introduction for the class today will be to use a piñata. Children love piñatas. Ask them to help you hang it and explain to them how you play. Give them a chance to break it. You can have different things in the piñata like candy, cookies, little toys, etc. Have them in little brown bags (enough for each child plus a few extra) tied with ribbons. Play until the piñata is broken and all of the bags have been claimed.

Invite them to sit in a circle and ask them about where the piñata came from. They will recognize that you brought it. They you can say, “What is an appropriate response when someone gives you a gift?” Give them the opportunity to express gratitude. After they have answered, show some pictures that you have found in magazines. They should be pictures of things like food, houses, families, schools, animals, etc. Ask them where these things come from? If they remember last week’s lesson they will remember that God is the giver of all good things. What do we say to God for all of the good things God gives us? When we have good things what do we want to do? Share them with others. God wants us to share with others the things he has shared with us.

Have them look at what they got from the piñata. Maybe some children got more than others, so ask them if they want to share what they have with someone who didn’t get as much. Allow them time to share with their friends.

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Bible exploration: This would be a good time to move to another part of the room. Introduce them to the puppet and establish a conversation between them and the puppet. The puppet can give a hug to each child and tell them how happy she is to be with them, to have new friends, and that she wants to show them her thankfulness with a hug.

Share the story of the widow found in Mark 12:41-44 (using coins and a basket to represent the offering). Tell about how one day something very interesting happened when people went to give their offerings. Many people went up to give their and some of them gave a lot of money. In this moment, a woman came who was very poor and she put 2 copper coins (they weren't worth much, but it was all that she had). Jesus was watching this and called his disciples and told them that the woman had given everything she had, while the others were just giving what was left over. Jesus made her an example of how we are to give. We shouldn't give just what's left over, but we give what we have because God has given it to us and God is happy when we share. When we give to others, it's as if we are giving to God.

At the end of the story time you can show some of the faces that are found in this lesson, to talk about the attitude God wants us to have when we give to others.

Game: Give each child the name of a fruit. Have them form a circle and have one child inside the circle. Give the child inside the circle something soft to throw. This child says, "There was a ship, and this ship was carrying (say the name of one of the fruit)." And at this moment the child throws the soft ball to the person with the name of this fruit. The child who catches the ball should say something that they can give another person as a way of showing God's love (give my mom a hug, give a toy to another child, etc). Then this child goes to the center and the child in the center goes back into the circle. Repeat the process until all have participated.

Craft: Prepare the materials and the patterns of the children (in the following pages). Give them to the children already cut out and let them color the illustrations.

Snack and Verse: Use the last part of the class to give a snack. Have them repeat the Bible verse and sing some songs together. Also it's a good time to talk about the practice of giving offerings and why we give an offering each week at church.

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle.

Prayer: Thank you God for making us, Thank you God for making the world. Amen

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CRAFT

Materials: copy of the illustration for each child, crayons, scissors, metal fastener

Instructions:

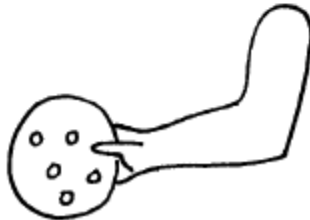
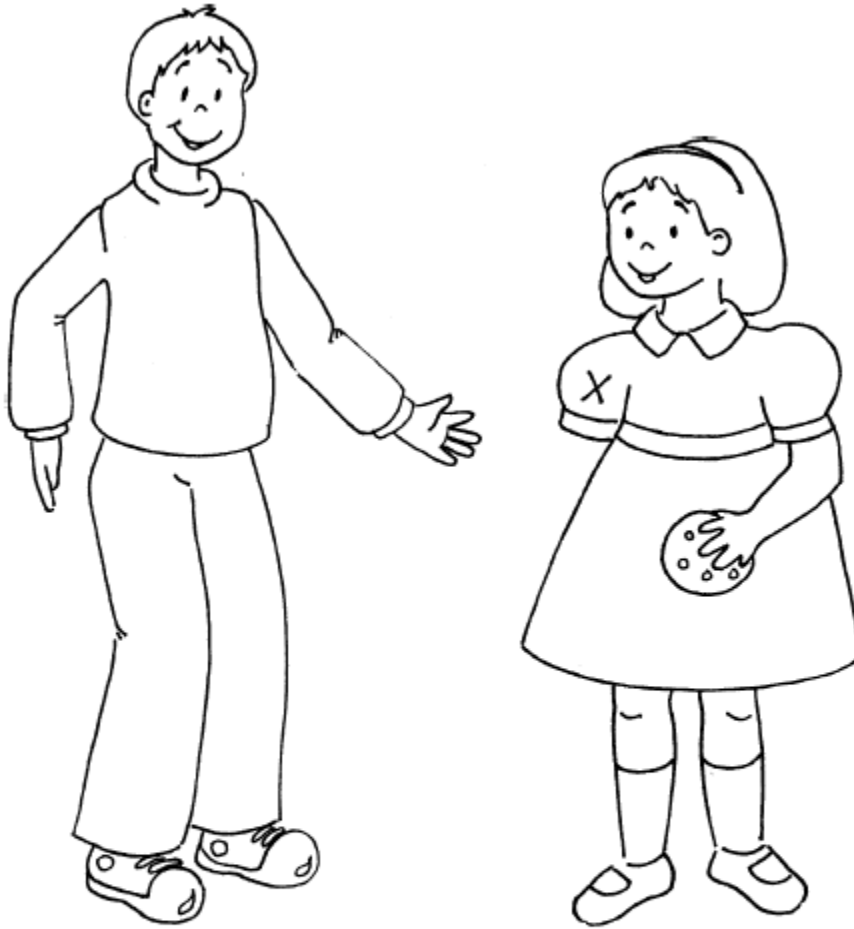
1. Make a copy of the pattern below (one for each child). If possible glue them to a sturdier type of card stock or poster board.
2. Give them to the children already cut out and give them time to color the pictures.
3. Make a hole in the X and show them how to put the metal fastener in the picture (see illustration).
4. Help them to move the arm one or two times so that they don't rip the paper.
5. Talk about that when this girl is sharing a cookie with the boy, it is a way of showing God's love and that sharing with others what we have makes us joyful.



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CRAFT

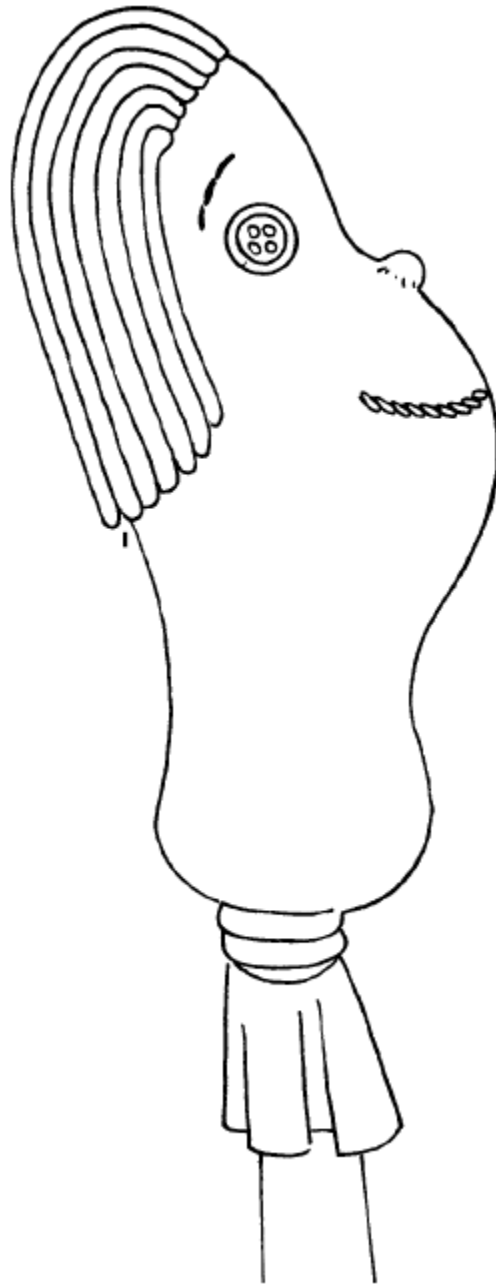
Pattern



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SOCK PUPPET

Make a puppet out of a sock. For hair use yarn. Draw a face on with a marker, or use buttons for the eyes and nose.



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ILLUSTRATION

Scared face



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ILLUSTRATION

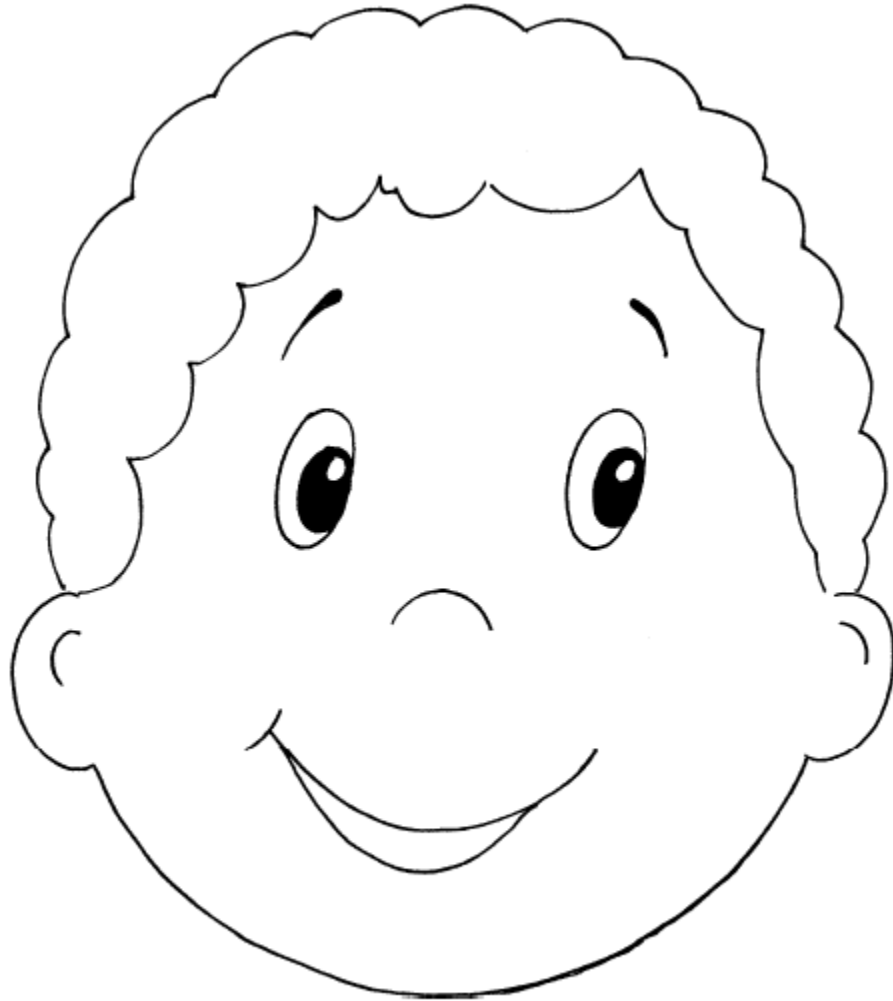
Sad face



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ILLUSTRATION

Happy face



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ILLUSTRATION

Angry face

