

Alley Rundown—November 28th-29th, 2021

Today's Bible Story: That's What Friends Are For (Giving Freely to the Lord's People) •
2 Corinthians 8:1-5

Today's Key Question: How can you use what you have to help others?

Today's Bottom Line: You can always use what you have to help someone else.

Monthly Memory Verse: Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." (Luke 12:15 NIV)

CG: Dude Perfect Filler Videos

ICE-BREAKER ACTIVITY: Only 1 // Fall Edition

SLIDES on Computer

How to Play: Invite 1 Kid up Front, have them pick one option of the 2 options per Slide, any Kids that pick the opposite are out. Repeat with different kids for different rounds.

"What's up, everybody? I hope you are having a great day so far! I really do believe it's not too hard to have a great day this time of year. Decorations for Christmas are up in shopping centers. You can crank up the Christmas music without people staring at you like you're crazy! And everyone is starting to feel really generous."

Use the following stories or choose stories that you know of personally.

"Every year, we start hearing stories of anonymous people offering incredible gifts around this time. For example, there was a family in Ohio last Christmas who wanted to do something special for their waitress. They decided to give her a \$1,500 tip! Isn't that amazing?"

SLIDE: \$1,500 Tip

"Or have you ever noticed outside stores people ringing a bell standing next to a red Salvation Army bucket? Each year they work to raise money to help those in need of food or emergency assistance. Last year in Chicago, one Salvation Army bucket contained a gold bar and another had a \$50 American Eagle coin. The two donations combined were valued just under \$4,000! How surprising would it be to find a gold bar in your bucket?"

SLIDE: Gold Bar Salvation Army Bucket

"Another example I heard about took place in Georgia when an Atlanta police officer heard of a mother with five kids in need. This mom needed a way to travel to her new job, and the police officer donated a vehicle to the family! Isn't that crazy?!"

SLIDE: New Car

"If you are anything like me, stories like these inspire me to become more generous! When the news cycle shares about individuals or organizations who go out of their way to give to others, I can't turn away! Some of you might be thinking, 'I can't wait to have a lot so I can give a lot' or 'when I'm older, I want to give like that!' Those are great thoughts to have, but what if you might be looking at this all wrong? What if you could make a difference in your world NOW without needing to be older or have more?"

"For the entire month of November, we've been looking at this idea of contentment."

SLIDE: Contentment

"Contentment is learning to be ok with what you have. But does contentment have anything to do with generosity? And if it does, how so?"

"Well, that's a great question! And as we jump into the Bible today, we get to see just how contentment and generosity go together. Let's check it out with the help of this week's Episode!"

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 11:00)

"So many times we don't give because we think that we have nothing to give. However, if we can pause and look at our situations, we can quickly recognize God has given us what we have so we can help others! Don't forget what Paul wrote to the Corinthians when he spoke of the churches in Macedonia."

Open Bible to 2 Corinthians 8:1-3 (NirV) and read.

"Brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given to the churches in Macedonia. They have suffered a great deal. But in their suffering, their joy was more than full. Even though they were very poor, they gave very freely. I tell you that they gave as much as they could. In fact, they gave even more than they could."

"These Jesus followers didn't use their hard situation as an excuse. The people in the Macedonian churches didn't have a lot, BUT they were content. Their contentment gave way to a generous spirit to share their time, talents, and resources with others."

"Many of us spent this time of year reflecting on all the reasons we have to be thankful, which honestly, we should do all year long. It's a great exercise. After all, the more thankful we are for what we have, the more we will want to share it with someone else! It's important to remember that no matter how much we have—we always have something to give!"

"God has gifted you with creativity, talents, encouraging words, and so much more. God's gifts are not to be hoarded for your purposes. Rather, they are to be shared with others so they can see how much God loves them, too! Jesus will help you find the contentment to do this. He will give you strength!"

"Take a moment to think about your situation. Look at your life and ponder all the ways God has blessed you. Ask yourself this as you head to Small Group:"

SLIDE: Key Question

"How can you use what you have to help others?" When we are able to think through this long list, we are able to find contentment! If you're quite sure how to use what you have to help others, don't worry! You'll talk more about all of this with your Small Group! Before we head out, let's pray and thank God for all He has provided and ask for God's help learning to be content."

Lead group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, lead offering and dismiss kids to Small Group.

OFFERING:

Here in Parkview Kids, we bring our offering each week to help support (your Campus Child) learn more about Jesus just like we do here in Parkview Kids. Here's a picture of (your Campus Child)! If you brought your offering you can bring it up now as we dismiss to Small Groups.

Orland Park: Michael and Valeri, New Lenox: Daniel, Homer Glen: Victor