

City LG—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 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 wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."* Luke 12:15 (NIV)

WORSHIP: Chasing Me and Fireblazin'

ICE-BREAKER: Helping Others Exercise

NOTE: This activity will be done in Small Groups. Have kids get into their Small Groups with their Leaders to start Service.

Supplies Needed: Dry Erase Board and Marker (1 set per Small Group) and Envelope with Letter Inside (1 per Campus)

"Hi, friends! It's so great to see you! How was your Thanksgiving? Did you do anything FUN? (Allow a few responses) That's awesome! This past week, I was thinking about things and people I'm thankful for, and you know what? I'm thankful for you! I love getting to hang out and have fun with you here in The City. Being thankful is a big part of contentment.

SLIDE: Contentment

"Contentment is learning to be okay with what you have.

"It's not always easy to be content. But it helps when we think about all the good things God has put in our lives. Maybe it's the people you love or a favorite subject at school. Maybe it's something you like to do, like dancing, singing, or playing soccer. Or maybe you're just thankful because of how much God loves you. We have SO many reasons to be grateful and content!

"I've got a fun game to kick off our time today, and it starts with a story.

SLIDE: Bike Ride Slide #1 (Alex)

"This is Alex.

SLIDE: Bike Ride Slide #2 (Alex and bike)

"This is Alex and his bike.

SLIDE: Bike Ride Slide #3 (Alex riding his bike, side view)

"Alex loves to ride his bike.

SLIDE: Bike Ride Slide #4 (Alex riding his bike, front view)

"See what I mean? He LOVES riding that bike.

SLIDE: Bike Ride Slide #5 (Alex falling)

“Oh, no! It looks like Alex hit a rock and fell!

SLIDE: Bike Ride Slide #6 (Alex on the ground)

“Yikes! It looks like Alex and his bike both got pretty banged up. I think he needs some help. So here’s what we’re going to do.

Pass out the dry erase boards and markers to the Small Group Leaders as you explain the game.

“I’ll give you one minute to work with your small group and come up with three different ways you could help Alex. Talk it through and come up with the three most interesting, creative ideas you’ve got. Once every group has their list, we’ll go around the room. The leader from each group will say one of the ideas from their list. If any other group has that same idea on their list, they’ll have to cross it off. If all of your ideas are crossed off your list, then your group will sit down. We’ll give each group a chance to share an idea, then we’ll see if any groups are still standing at the end.

“Okay, one minute on the clock. You can make your lists . . . now!

Video: Countdown (60-second version)

When time’s up, give each group a chance to share one idea from their list. If any other groups have that same idea, prompt them to cross it off. If any groups cross off all three ideas on their list, then they should sit down.

After you’ve given each group a chance to share an idea, congratulate the groups that are still standing. Let them quickly share their other ideas that they didn’t already announce.

“Way to go! You came up with some really great ideas of how to help Alex, so I know you’re good at finding ways to help people when they need it.

SLIDE: Bike Ride Slide #7 (Alex, smiling)

“Look at him—he’s doing great, thanks to you!

“Now, let’s all jump to our feet and get ready to sing, dance, and worship God together.”

“Hi, everyone! We’ve been talking all month about how we can live with contentment. If we can learn to be content, we’ll be a lot happier! But contentment isn’t just about making our own lives better. There’s something else that being content will lead us to do. **(Hold up Envelope, and pull out the folded paper)**. Let’s see . . . what is this? *(Pause for response.)* Right, it’s an envelope with a letter inside.”

“There was a letter written by the apostle Paul, which is right here in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)* We call it the book of 2 Corinthians. Paul wrote this letter to the people who lived in the city of Corinth. In this part of the letter, he told them about a group of churches in another place called Macedonia.

“Are you with me so far? Paul wrote to the Corinthians to tell them about the people in Macedonia. Cool! Paul explained that the Macedonians were very poor, and they were having a tough time. But get this. The people in Macedonia were so content that they helped OTHERS by giving their money generously!

“Here’s what Paul wrote.

Open the 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. Completely on their own, they begged us for the chance to share in serving the Lord’s people in that way.

“That’s pretty amazing! The Macedonians gave money to help other Jesus-followers who lived in Jerusalem. They gave what they had . . . and they did it with joy! That’s what we’ll learn more about today with the help of our video. Let’s take a look!”

CG: Lesson Video (Runtime: 6:00)

“It’s pretty cool to think about all the different things God has given us . . . like our time, our talents, and even our creative ideas. We can USE those things to help others. We can be like the people of Macedonia, who freely gave what they had and made a difference for other people.

“And here’s the thing. This all starts with contentment. When we’re content because of our relationship with God—when we know how much God loves us and remember that God is always with us—then we’ll want to share God’s love with others. We’ll want to use what God has given us to help the people around us.

“Here’s a great thought to remember.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “You can always use what you have to help someone else.

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us do that.”

PRAY: “God, thank You for the example of the people who lived in Macedonia. They used what they had to help others. Please help us think of ways that we can do that, too. We are so content and thankful for Your love, and we want to share Your love with the people around us. Show us how we can use what we have to help someone else. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

“Remember . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “You can always use what you have to help someone else.

“That’s what Paul noticed about the people in the Macedonian churches. They didn’t have a lot, but they were content. Because of that, they wanted to share what they had with others.

“Paul once said that he had found the secret of being content. He wrote . . .

Open the Bible to Philippians 4:13 (NIV) and read.

“I can do all this by the power of Christ. He gives me strength.

“When you put your trust in Jesus, He can give you that kind of strength and contentment, too. So let’s think about what we have to give, and be thankful. The more grateful you are for what you have, the more you’ll want to share it with someone else!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups after offering.

CG: Austin Fash Offering Video

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!”

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