

# City SG—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 (NIRV)

## 1. Opening Activity

**What You Need:** Colored straws (25 per Group)

### What You Do:

- Direct the kids to form a circle.
- Hold the multi-colored straws in your hand and drop them so they fall randomly.
- Instruct the kids to go around the circle, taking turns pulling a straw from the pile without making another straw move.
- If a kid makes a straw move, they lose a turn.
- Play three rounds.
- After three rounds, invite the kids to take turns sharing what they are thankful for based on the color of the straws they collected. (Try to guide the group so that each kid has a chance to answer a question instead of allowing one kid with several colors to give a lot of answers.)
- Adjust the colors below based on what you have available.
  - Red: Name a person you are thankful for.
  - Green: Name a food you are thankful for.
  - Blue: Name a place you are thankful for.
  - Purple: Name anything you are thankful for.

### What You Say:

"That was a fun game! I loved hearing about the things, people, places, and foods you are thankful for. A thankful heart helps us be content."

## 2. Give What I Have

**What You Need:** "Coupons" Page (1 per kid), "Coupon Cover (1 per kid), pens, stapler (1 per Group), and markers, scissors

### What You Do:

- Give each kid a "Coupons" page and a Coupon Cover.
- Set out the markers.
- Tell kids they get to make a coupon book with five coupons to give to anyone they choose—parents, grandparents, a teacher, a neighbor, etc.
- Encourage the kids to think of some unique skills they have and enjoy using, then think of someone in their life who they would like to help.
- Prompt them to fill in the blanks of each coupon, using their ideas. Some suggestions:
  - One hour of organizing, decorating, cleaning, etc.
  - One hour of yard help
  - One hour of help around the house
  - One extra chore
  - Straighten up the garage
  - Help with dinner
  - Carry groceries
  - Assist with laundry

- Wash the car
- Help decorate the house for Christmas
- Read a story to . . .
- Spend time together by . . .
- Go through clothes and toys to find items to give away
- Once the kids have filled in five coupons, get out the stapler, and assemble the books for the kids with a staple.
- Direct each kid to place the cover on top of the five coupons so that you can come around and staple it on the sides.
- Encourage the kids to color and decorate the cover.

### What You Say:

“Last month, we talked about ways you can use the gifts and talents God has given you to make a difference in this world. I love that you’ll use your talents and time to bless your parent, grandparent, teacher, or neighbor—whomever you plan on giving the book.

“What are some of the ways you plan on helping them? *(Pause for responses.)* **[Bottom Line]** You can **always use what you have to help someone else.** God has given each of us a unique set of talents. Not only that, but we all own things like clothing, toys, shoes, food, art supplies—stuff that we can share with others to help them. Maybe you’re great at making others feel welcome, comfortable, or good. Or maybe you have some mad math skills you can use to help your classmate or brother with their homework.

“Every time you use what you have to help others, you not only honor God, but you become part of God’s story. Helping others changes you on the inside and makes your heart content. You also change the world around you by making it look more like God’s kingdom, and that’s amazing!”

## 3. Freely Give

**What You Need:** “My Upcycle Ideas” Page (1 per kid), Bible, markers, and pens

### What You Do:

- Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 to the group.
- Explain that when the church was just getting started, there were some churches in Macedonia who gave freely and shared everything they had to help other followers of Jesus.
- Give each kid a “My Upcycle Ideas” Activity Page.
- Prompt the kids to think of ways they can upcycle something they have then use it to help others. Here are some suggestions:
  - Save money and use that money to help others.
  - Swap an item with a friend who needs what you have. (with parents’ permission)
  - Give some of your school supplies, clothes, toys, time, etc., to someone who needs it.
  - Upcycle items that would otherwise land in the trash to make a gift for someone.
- To spark ideas, consider showing the kids pictures of how others have upcycled soup cans, cereal boxes, bottles, clothing, etc.
- Set out the pens.
- Invite the kids to complete the “My Upcycle Ideas” Activity Page.

### What You Say:

“What are some of your upcycling ideas? *(Pause for responses.)* So many things—from empty cans and old school supplies to our favorite things—can be upcycled to help others. The people in the Macedonian churches didn’t have a lot. Yet somehow, they were okay with that. They were content. And it was that contentment that made them want to share their time, talents, and possessions with others.

“Let’s get creative this week by looking at the stuff we own or that we’re good at and asking, ‘What can I do with it or how can I share it with someone to help them?’ You’ll be amazed at how God will take your unique ideas and turn them into opportunities to help someone else. **[Bottom Line] You can always use what you have to help someone else.**”

***[Make It Personal] (Give an example of a time you used your things, time, or talent to help someone else. Maybe you baked someone some cookies or sat with someone and listened to them talk. Maybe you used your car to take someone to an appointment or donated some of your items to someone who really needed them. How did it make you content?)***

#### **4. Pray and Dismiss**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed.

**What You Do:**

- Close your group time with the prayer below.
- Invite the kids to repeat the words you pray.
- Pause after every phrase so the kids have a chance to repeat what you say.

**What You Say:**

“God, You want us to use what we have to help others. *(Pause.)* Please help us see what those things and talents are. *(Pause.)* Show us ways to use them to encourage others, to make a difference, and to show others how much You love them and us. *(Pause.)* Help us remember **[Bottom Line] you can always use what you have to help someone else.** *(Pause.)* We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen!”