

## **Giving to Others – Middle to Older Elementary**

**Matthew 25:31-40**

**November 12, 2023**

### **GATHER**

**Ask:** Have any of you received a gift from a parent or friends? (*Encourage them to talk about some of the gifts they have received*). These gifts you just talked about, were they good gifts? What makes a gift a good gift? (*We need it. It is good for us. We can use it. We enjoy it.*)

**Say:** The gifts we just talked about are material things – things we can touch. Mostly we talked about what we get from someone else. In our story today, we're going to talk about what we can give to others and it's not all about things we can buy at a store.

### **Prayer:**

Dear God, be with us today as we talk about how to be your willing servants. Help us to remember that every time we help another person in need, we are serving you! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### **Open the Bible**

**Say:** Think about all the things you do in a day or a week. How we spend our time is as important as how we spend our money. There are only 24 hours in each day and everybody has the same amount of time to spend. We are going to look at how each of you spends your time.

*Depending on the number of students, you can either divide the class into two groups or work together as one group. Give each group a "How I spend my time" worksheet (fold over the "God's Way" part so kids are focusing on "My Way" first). Have kids work together to put the ten listed activities in order of how much time they spend at each activity (#1 would be the area where they spend the most time, and #10 would be where they spend the least amount of time). (younger kids can have a daily routine worksheet they can color and talk about the different activities they do).*

Watch the Bible Story - [YouTube](#)

*Repeat the exercise (flip the paper over), only having children decide which activity God feels would be most important and which would be least important. Discuss the differences together in the two columns.*

### **Discussion**

- What were the right things that some of the people did in this story? (*They helped other people. They gave people food, they were nice to strangers, they gave clothes to people who didn't have any money, and they visited people who were sick or in jail.*)
- What does Jesus say will happen to those people who helped others?
- What did Jesus say about those who didn't help others in need?

### **Activate Faith**

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### Goat or Sheep Magnets – In house craft from Danielle's Place.



(Older kids or those that chose not to do the craft can do a worksheet – word search, decoder or Bible research. While doing so they can discuss the questions below.)

#### SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is it easier for you to be kind and serve those you know (like family and friends) or total strangers? Why?
2. Do you think it's a part of our human nature to want to do things for others?
3. How did Jesus demonstrate a servant's heart in how he interacted with others?
4. Tell me about someone in your life who serves other people with a selfless attitude. What motivates them to act that way? (Is it their love for God? A personal mission or feeling of responsibility?)
5. Why do people do acts of service to get recognition? What is the reward for doing things to get credit?
6. How would the world change if people cared more about others than for themselves?
7. Think of one way you can serve other people by using your gifts and talents. Share it with the group.
8. How do loving God and loving others go together? Can you do one without the other?
9. As a group, brainstorm ideas of how you can serve within the church. How can you serve the community?

#### A Cheerful Giver – Story (if time)

**Supplies:** Copy of "A Cheerful Giver".

**Say:** I think a cheerful person is more pleasant to be around than a grumpy person. Let's do an experiment to see if that's true.

*Ask for two helpers. One will be the Sunny Servant, and one will be the Grumpy Griper. Ask each volunteer to do a simple task such as getting a book from across the room. Have the Grumpy Griper sigh, complain, drag his or her feet, and whine. Next have the Sunny Servant do the same task quickly and cheerfully.*

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Invite kids to vote whether they'd rather associate with a Sunny Servant or a Grumpy Griper. Then **say**: Wouldn't it be awful if everyone in our lives were grumpy and unwilling to help? Jesus is a great example of how to be a willing servant of God. He even died on the cross for us!

Fill out the "Cheerful Giver" Worksheet by asking kids for words to fill in the blanks.

- Boy's name
- Day of the week
- Month
- Girls' name
- Color
- Animal
- Boy's name
- Color
- Animal
- Silly name boy's name
- Girl's name