

SOUTH CAROLINA
BAPTIST CONVENTION

Cooperative Program/Stewardship Development Group

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Stewardship... God's Way

Preschool Edition

Look at a Picture:

Locate a picture of a temple and your church, if possible. Allow children to discover the differences. Are there any things that are similar?



Pray:

Provide an opportunity for preschoolers to voice a prayer, if they choose. Ask another teacher to pray at the end of prayer time.

Sort Coins:

Use the coins from Bible Learning Activities. Place them in a small bag. Instruct a child to reach in and choose a coin. Can he identify it just by the feel, without looking at it? Sort them into the muffin tins.



Continue

Continue Group Time as parents pick up their children for worship. Give the children their Take-Home piece and any other items they have to take with them.

If there were guest today, be sure to let them know you were glad to have their child in Sunday School today. Get important information such as parent's names, address, phone number, and child's birthday.

Follow-up

Use coin stickers and blank post cards to mail to every child this week. Either thank them for coming to Sunday School and mention something specific they had enjoyed or tell them they were missed, if they were not there. Be sure to mail a card to guest, thanking them again for choosing to attend your church.

Make a phone call early in the week to guest, being prepared to answer any questions they may have about your church.

Honor God by Giving Cheerfully

Session Overview—Week 4

Bible Setting: 1 Chronicles 29:1-17

Biblical Setting: The people of Israel, led by King David, brought an offering to be used to build the temple.

Bible Truth: God wants us to be happy when we give an offering.

Key Bible Phrase: Bring an offering to thank God.
(1 Chronicles 16:29)

Life Question: How can I be happy to give my gifts to God?

Life Impact: I can honor God by being thankful and cheerful when I give my gifts to Him.

Teacher's Personal Bible Study

This week's session concludes a special unit of study on stewardship. By now we have learned that good stewardship is the use of what God has given us in ways that honor and please Him. He has given us His love and salvation, and God is pleased and honored when we share that good news with others. He is also pleased when we give our best as an offering to show our love and gratitude to Him. In this final study we will see that our attitude is very important as we give our offerings, time, talent, and energy to serve Him.

An Example in Giving (1 Chronicles 29:1-5)

The people of Israel, led by King David, were preparing for a huge building project. Plans had been made to build a magnificent temple. David made it clear in verse one that the temple was not for man, but for _____.

Building supplies had been gathered from the national treasury “in large quantities” (v.2). But David knew that for the temple to become a center of worship for the entire nation, each individual needed to have a part in the building project. He set an example of personal sacrificial giving in order to inspire others to give. In verses 3-5, David publicly declared what his gift would be. Estimates of the value of David’s offering in today’s economy range from \$60 million to \$105 million in gold and silver! The king recognized that all his possessions and wealth really belonged to God. David gave out of devotion to God and gratitude for God’s blessings. Read his prayer in verses 10-14 and check here when you have done so. _____

A Response in Giving (1 Chronicles 29:6-9)

Following the king’s example, the people gave. They were not forced to give, as verse 7 says they gave _____ . They gave generously, as indicated in verses 7-8. In the next verse we see the phrase, “...they had given freely and wholeheartedly to the Lord.” Their attitude was like that of David; they gave because of their love for God and in gratitude that they were blessed with the ability to give. What great joy there was among all the people that day!

An Attitude When Giving (2 Corinthians 9:7-8)

Paul provides guidance to Christians regarding how they should give, “not reluctantly or under compulsion,” but freely and willingly. Indeed, he points out that God wants our giving to be done with a cheerful attitude. God will supply what we need, so we are able to give without worrying about doing without.

Our giving reflects our gratitude for the blessings we have received from God. Elsewhere in the Bible we are told to give in proportion to what we receive (Deuteronomy 16:17).

Variation: Older preschoolers may want to come up with their own situations.

Tell the Bible Story

Hold the Bible in your lap, open to 1 Chronicles 29, and tell the story in your own words, looking down at the Bible often. This will help preschoolers make the connection that the story comes from the Bible.

God’s people had lived in the land He had given them for many years. They had built homes and cities. The king had built a palace for himself and his family. Now it was time to build a temple, a special place where the people could worship God.

Building materials were needed for the construction and decoration of the temple. King David gathered all the people together and explained the plan to build a wonderful temple for God. Then he announced that he was giving a gift to help build the temple. The people may have been amazed, because David gave a huge amount of gold and silver to be used in the temple. In today’s money, his gift would be worth over 60 million dollars.

David set an example by his own gift. Then he invited the people to give. King David knew most people could not give as rich an offering as he had made. He also knew that the amount was not the most important thing. It was more important that each person be involved. The work was to be done for the glory of God. Each person could honor God by giving something.

The people followed David’s example. Each family gave. They were not forced to give. They gave “willingly”; that is, because they wanted to give. They brought gold and silver, bronze and iron, and even precious stones as their offering to the Lord for His temple. Although they were giving up things that were valuable to them, they were not sad. There was an attitude of joy in their giving. They were excited about being a part of God’s work. This was a time of praising God and joyful worship.

1 Chronicles 29:1-17

Variation: You might choose to invite the pastor to come and tell the Bible story. Be sure to give him a copy of the story ahead of time.



Prepare: You may need to remove the table from Homeliving for today. Arrange the chairs in several rows to represent a church. Place the podium (I have used the Homeliving table with Bible stand and it works well as a podium) or music stand in front of the chairs. Arrange the dress-up clothes for children to choose. Place the other items you have available for use in the center.

Teach: At first observe children as they pretend. Look for opportunities to use Bible conversation to tell the story, Bible phrases, or sing a song such as “I Like to go to Church”. You may also guide the children in singing a familiar chorus from worship. Be involved in their dramatic play, but do not take over.

Variation: You may choose to take a walking tour of the Worship Center.

Group Time

Give boys and girls a few minutes warning that it is soon to be Group Time. This allows them opportunity to complete their activities. Guide teachers to sit with the children during Group Time, giving special attention to those that might be easily distracted.

Sing a Song

To a familiar tune sing: “I can bring an offering. I can bring an offering. I can bring an offering with a happy heart.”

Play a Game:

Draw a happy face on one paper plate and a sad face on another. Use masking tape to attach the plates to a paint stick. On index cards write several situations that would make children feel happy or sad, such as: I am going to my friend's house to spend the night; I fell off my bicycle; I dropped my ice cream cone; etc. Put them in a gift bag. Allow the child to hold the happy/sad face puppet and draw a card from the bag. Read the card and ask the child to show you which face would show how they feel.



Jesus said in Matthew 10:8, “Freely you have received, freely give.” Our cheerful, willing tithes and offerings show that we are thankful for God’s blessings, that we are obedient to Him, and that we trust Him to provide for our needs.

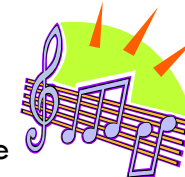
Encounter

Art – Draw to music

Gather: Bible; large white drawing paper; crayons; basket; CD or cassette player; CD or tape of instrumental music (Preschool Choir leaders may have access to CD/cassette tapes that have a variety of instrumental music)



Prepare: Place paper on the table with a black crayon laying on each piece. Place other color crayons in a basket in the center of the table.



Teach: When children gather at the Art table be prepared to open your Bible to I Chronicles 29:1-17 and tell the Bible story in your own words. After completing the story play a little bit of the music, asking the children if it is happy music, sad, or angry music. Give them a chance to discuss how the music makes them feel. Guide them to take the black crayon and draw a single line, moving over the paper, without picking up the crayon as they listen to the music. When complete, they may choose different color crayons to fill in each space of the black design. They will be making an abstract picture of color.

Variation: Older preschoolers may like to wear a blindfold or simply close their eyes as they draw the black line. A great blindfold can be a pair of plastic sunglasses with black construction paper taped over the lenses.



Blocks – Build a church

Gather: Bible; lumber scraps; sandpaper; hammer; roofing nails; screws; screw driver; ruler; measuring tape; carpenter’s aprons; carpenter’s pencils; plastic construction hard hats; picture of a carpenter building a church, if available



Prepare: In several pieces of the lumber pre-drill holes for the children to use screws and screw driver. Cut a sheet of sandpaper into several pieces, making it easier for the children to handle. Put a few roofing nails in the apron pockets. Arrange items on the floor in the block center. If available, lean the picture on the wall or block shelf near where the children will be working.

Teach: THIS ACTIVITY WILL TAKE MORE SUPERVISION THAN MOST!

As boys and girls show an interest in the block center limit the number of children to a maximum of four working at a time. Open your Bible and tell the Bible story of David and his gifts for building the temple. Give children an opportunity to work on the lumber sanding, nailing, and turning screws into the pre-drilled holes. Continue conversation about building a church. Sing a happy song to the tune of “Farmer in the Dell” as you work: “I can build a church. I can build a church. I can use the hammer. I can build a church.” Take opportunities to voice a prayer thanking God for people who gave gifts so that we can have a church.

Variation: For younger preschoolers you may want to substitute a paper stuffed cardboard box and golf tees for the hammer and nails.

Puzzles – Sort money

Gather: Bible; muffin tins; stickers of coins; poster board; scissors; picture of a temple and a church.

Prepare: Cut circles from the poster board that will fit into the muffin tin sections. Place a sticker in the center of each circle. You may wish to laminate these or cover them with clear contact plastic. Arrange the items on a table or shelf.



Teach: When children come to the center allow them to sort the coin pieces into the muffin tin sections. Guide conversation to giving gifts and offerings to God cheerfully. Be prepared to tell the Bible story in your own words.

Variation: For older preschoolers you may choose to use several real coins: penny, nickel, dime, quarter, half dollar, and silver dollar for sorting.

Nature – Arrange flowers

Gather: Bible; plastic vase; real flowers; watering can; small gravel pieces; towels; table cloth or large towel; magnifying glass; allergy notice



Prepare: Post the allergy notice outside the door informing parents of the type flower children will be using. Spread the towel on the floor and arrange the items.

Teach: When boys and girls come to the nature area give them ample time to explore the flowers with the magnifying glass. Encourage them to describe what they see and how it smells. How does it feel? Encourage her to place the gravel in the bottom of the vase to help it stand without falling over as she works with the flowers. Guide her to gently place the flowers in the vase. The children may rearrange the flowers several times until they are satisfied.

Variation: You may wish to give the flowers to someone. Maybe invite a church helper to group time and present them as a gift.

Homeliving – Pretend church

Gather: Bible; picture of a temple; picture of your church; items related to a church worship service such as: an offering plate, offering envelopes, play money, worship guides or bulletins, hymnal, children’s choir robe, podium or music stand, items you might give to first time guests, dress up clothes

