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BAPTIST CONVENTION

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# **Stewardship... God's Way**

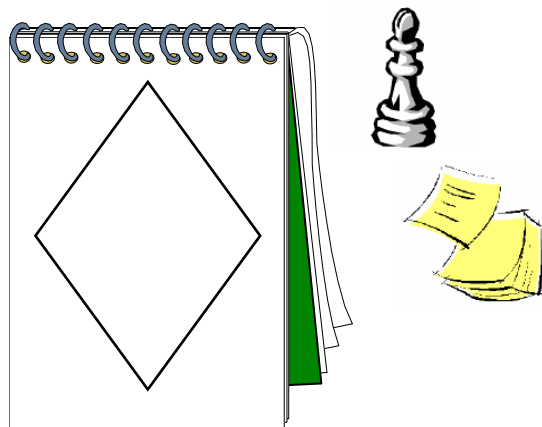
**Children's Edition**



Include questions about the memory verses, such as “Complete this verse ‘Freely you have ....’” You may make up additional questions, if desired.

**Teach:** Explain to students that they will take turns answering questions from the unit on stewardship. For each correct answer, the magnet moves forward one base. The object is to see how many home runs the group can earn together before class time is over. Depending on your group, you may ask the questions, let students read their own, or designate one student as the “pitcher” to read the questions.

At the end of class time, close with prayer and dismiss, reminding children to take home their children’s page.



## Honor God by Giving Cheerfully

### Session Overview—Week 4

**Bible Passage:** 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:** Our attitude in giving is important to God.

**Memory Verse:** Freely you have received, freely give.  
*Matthew 10:8*

**Life Impact:** I can honor God by giving my best with a cheerful, thankful attitude.

### 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). 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.

### **Choice 2: “People Who Gave” Magazine**

**Prepare:** Provide pencils, Bibles, notebook or copier paper, two pieces of construction paper, and a stapler. On a piece of chart paper, write “People Who Gave” and the following names and Bible references: The woman from Shunem-2 Kings 4:8-10; a widow-Luke 21:1-4; Dorcas-Acts 9:36-40; a boy-John 6:5, 8-11; Peter & John-Acts 3:1-8.

**Teach:** Lead students to make a “magazine” that features people in the Bible who showed good stewardship of what God had given them. Show the chart paper with names and Bible references, letting the children decide who will research each of the people. Each child will use a piece of paper to write a brief article telling what their person gave to the Lord. They may draw an illustration, if they wish, to go along with their article. Staple the completed pages between the two pieces of construction paper, writing the title on the front. (If there are enough students working on the project, one may be assigned to design the cover and make a contents page for the magazine while others do the feature articles.)

Place the magazine in an area of the classroom where it may be read by early arrivers in the next few weeks. Close with prayer and dismiss, reminding children to take home their children’s page.



### **Choice 3: Unit Review Game**

**Prepare:** Locate a surface that will attract magnets, such as a metal (not aluminum) cookie sheet. Some dry erase boards will hold magnets; try it if there is one in your classroom. Cut a piece of chart paper to fit inside the cookie sheet, and draw a baseball diamond on the paper. Use magnets at the corners to hold the paper to the metal surface. (If using a dry erase board, you may draw the diamond on the board with dry erase markers.) Obtain a magnet shape to use as a game piece to “run” the bases. On index cards or sticky notes, write questions from the review section of each lesson in the unit.



Explain to the students that just as David and his people gave money and possessions freely and joyfully to the Lord, we can also give with happy feelings. We can be glad to be a part of God's work, and thankful that we have something to give. Lead the boys and girls to name some things we can give to God, listing their ideas on the erasable board (money, talents, time, helping others, showing love, sharing our home, items we make, helping at church, and so forth).



### Pray

Ask God to show us ways we can give back to Him, thanking Him for the many blessings He gives to us.

### Bible Learning Activities (20-25 minutes)

Provide the following activities, instructing children to choose one activity to continue learning.

#### Choice 1: Dollar Bill Reminders

**Prepare:** Provide light green copy paper or construction paper, pencils, markers, and scissors.

**Teach:** Explain that the children will make a "pretend" dollar bill as a reminder to be good stewards of what God gives us. Ask the children to recall the definition of stewardship (using what God has given in ways that please and honor Him).

Distribute the materials, and instruct children to draw and cut out a "dollar bill." They may decorate it with a picture of King David and the memory verse, or other symbols they choose to help them remember that we can give to God because He is so good to us. Encourage them to keep the reminder in their purse or wallet, or near their piggy bank where they will see it when they handle their money.



Close with prayer and dismiss, reminding children to take home their children's page.



### Beginning Activity (5-10 minutes)

### Teach

When the first child arrives, ask him or her to stand in front of you and "mirror" your actions. Swing your arms, touch your toes, pat your head, and make other movements while the child imitates you. As other children arrive, have them join in. Additional movements may be to nod your head, stand on one foot, jump, stretch toward the ceiling, and so forth. Let a child become the leader for the others to mirror. After a few minutes, stop the activity and ask the children to be seated.

Tell the children that today's Bible story is about a person who did something so others would imitate him. As their leader, he set the example for how he wanted them to act.

### Group Time - Bible Study (20-25 minutes)

### Prepare

- Make a session title banner and add it to the previous ones displayed in the group time area.
- Write the memory verse and reference on a dry erase or chalkboard. Have an eraser nearby.
- In a paper bag, place the following items: something representing a crown (yellow construction paper or gold bulletin board border stapled into a circular shape), a toy hammer, an offering plate or basket, a paper plate with a happy face drawn on it, play money (gold or silver coins) and/or fake jewels (from craft store).
- Provide pencils and a copy of the children's page for each student.

### Introduce Session

Review the session titles displayed on the focal wall, asking the children to recall what they have learned about stewardship and giving. Indicate today's title, saying that God is not concerned just that we give to Him, but He cares about our attitude as we give.

### Sing

Lead the children to sing the chorus, "God is so Good" with the verses used previously ("He made the world," "God sent His Son," and "I'll give Him thanks").

### Tell the Bible Story

With your Bible open to 1 Chronicles 29, tell this story:

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 that 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.

### Review Bible Facts

Show the bag and invite children to take turns pulling an item from the bag and telling what part of the Bible story that item represents (*crown-King David, hammer-building the temple, plate/basket-collecting an offering, coins or jewels-gifts given by David and the people, happy face-people gave joyfully*).

### Memory Verse

Freely you have received, freely give. *Matthew 10:8*

Point out the memory verse displayed on the erasable board. After explaining that these words were spoken by Jesus, lead boys and girls to read the verse together. Erase the last word and have the children read the verse again. Repeat, erasing a word each time, until they are saying the verse from memory.

### Bible Skills/Apply Bible Truths

Distribute children's pages and pencils, and guide children to complete the activity "Scrambled Sayings." (If you teach younger children, provide a Bible with the verses already marked and do the activity as a group rather than individually.) Make sure the children understand the meaning of the verses. For middle and older children, you may want to spend a few minutes explaining the concept of the tithe and giving a simple example (If your allowance is \$10.00, then your tithe will be a \$1.00).

