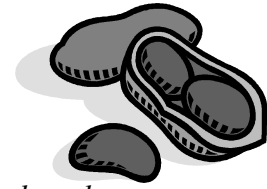


Children's Emphasis

Object Lesson on Christian Giving

(The object is a peanut. A person not allergic to peanuts should conduct the object lesson. Hold up a single peanut to begin the discussion.)



Everyone knows what this is - it's a peanut. We eat them at ballgames, sometimes at home, or at some western-style restaurants. But until almost a hundred years ago, we didn't realize how valuable peanuts were.

That's when a man named George Washington Carver went out in a field one night wondering what God wanted him to do. He prayed, "God show me," and God showed him a peanut. Carver prayed, "Show me the secret of the peanut." And he felt God say He would.

Carver experimented with peanuts. Over the years he made at least 85 things from peanuts, including grease, chili sauce, peanut butter, a milk substitute, shampoo, instant coffee, peanut flour, peanut oil, soap, and glue. Think of how all these things have blessed us and helped us.

If the peanut could talk, it might say, "I give you all these things, and I keep on giving." We have many things we can give, too. We can give time to people or to the church. We can give help. We can give things that people need like food or clothes. We can give money to help the church help others, and to send missionaries. Do you know that Baptists have more than ten thousand missionaries around the world? And it takes more than peanuts to send them - it takes generous offerings. Whenever you make an offering in church, you help send missionaries to tell people about Jesus Christ.

You and I are sort of like this peanut. We love God. Now let's show God we love Him. Let's give to Him in all the ways we can think of. Let's experiment like George Washington Carver, and see how many ways we can give to God. After all, He has given so much to us!

(Optionally, the presenter can shell the peanut and say, "I know the secret of this peanut," and then eat it and say, "It's GOOD!" to end the object lesson.)

