



Cooperative Program



Bible Study Series

Cooperating to Set an Example - Children's Teaching Plan -

2 CORINTHIANS 8:1-12

But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 2 Corinthians 8:7 NIV

Materials

- printed copies of the handout for each child
 - poster board (if children choose to make a large card in item #7)
 - construction paper (if children choose to make individual cards in item #7)
 - markers and crayons
 - paper sacks
 - additional cans of food for children who do not bring one to contribute
- Make a simple banner or write on the chalkboard “Working Together to Set an Example”, making the lesson title simple for the children to understand.
 - Prepare a large listening sheet to attach to the wall (or list on the chalkboard), entitled “Verse 5”, where the children will list their ideas from 2 Corinthians 8:5.
 - Pray for the children’s hearts to be prepared and for the lesson to be practical.
 - Practice what you will be teaching to the children so that the lesson’s reality is true in your own life.

Preparation

- Read the scripture passage.
- Read and study the lesson guidelines and gather the items needed to implement it.
- Inform children prior to Sunday about the need to bring a can of food to donate (see lesson item #1)
- Check with the church office about a possible family or need with whom the donated canned food can be shared.
- Gather all of the items needed to implement the lesson.

Lesson

1. Before the class session, call, write a note, send an e-mail, or send home a note the week before and ask each boy and girl to bring a can of food to donate and share with someone in need.
2. As the children enter the class, invite them to place their cans of food on a focal table at the front of the

classroom. Bring extra cans of food yourself and provide one for any child who has forgotten or who did not get the request to bring a can. Be sure every child has the chance to contribute so that no child will feel left out. The impact of the lesson will be more significant if each child participates and is a part of the group effort. Teachers should also contribute to the cans on the table so that the children see you taking part in this opportunity.

3. Guide the children in a discussion of ways to use the cans of food that they have brought to church. Help them realize that one person can bring one can and help a little bit but that with each child sharing; more canned food can be collected. Include in the discussion the fact that by working together, the children have a good chance of making a big difference for someone in need.
4. From a translation that children can understand well, read the story from 2 Corinthians 8:1-12, giving special attention to the verses listed on the handouts, which can be provided for the children to use (share the explanations for the verses and allow the children to list them in their own words):
 - Verses 2-3: The people in this church gave generously even when they were having a difficult time themselves.
 - Verse 4: The people in this church considered giving a privilege.
 - Verse 5: The people in this church “gave of themselves.”
5. Lead a discussion with the children about what verse 5 might include (giving of oneself). Ask the children to list ways they can give of themselves on the listening sheet (or chalkboard) titled “Verse 5”. Encourage each child to list at least one item. You may need to suggest things such as: time, energy, effort, financial offering, love for God, love for others, etc. Allow the children to have time to consider specific areas that they themselves might have something unique that they could offer for God’s best use.
6. Refer to the lesson title listed (written on a banner or the chalkboard.).
 - Ask the children to explain what they believe the title means.
 - In the Bible story, the church members gave willingly and set a good example.
 - Ask the children to think about whether the way they share is a good example to others.
7. Provide art materials and invite the children to work together to make some type of greeting card to include with the cans that they will contribute to someone in need. The children may decide to make one large card together or they may each choose to make a small one to share. Suggest
 - Verse 9: Jesus gave up everything so that He could make it possible for each of us to have richness in knowing Him.
 - Verse 11: It is important to follow through with what we start.

Be sure that the children see the open Bible from which you are reading and encourage those who have brought their Bible to follow along.

things that the children might write on the cards (i.e.: God loves you, We wish you well, Have a good day, We care because Jesus cares.) and allow them to decorate however they wish to make it their own contribution. Younger children may choose to decorate the paper sacks that will hold the canned food rather than creating a card, whether a large group card or individual ones. This is a chance for each child to do something that he or she enjoys and that contributes to the group effort.

8. Have sacks available for the children to collect the cans of food. Allow the children to place the bagged cans and the card(s) they made on a table so that you can deliver them to the previously selected recipients.

Follow-Up

1. Ask the children to pray about how they can work together; with each other, with their family, and with their church, so that they can follow the same guidelines shared in their lesson verses. Lead in a prayer time asking God to help each child think of what to do.
2. Give time and suggestions so that the boys and girls can write down a few ideas on their handouts that they can take with them and do during the next week. Encourage the children by telling them that next week, each person will have a chance to tell about how one of their ideas worked out. Tell them that you will pray for them during the week as they make the efforts they have listed.



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These verses from my lesson in 2 Corinthians 8:1-12 have a special meaning:

- verses 2-3 _____
- verse 4 _____
- verse 5 _____
- verse 9 _____
- verse 11 _____

I will try to follow the example in these verses by doing the following things this week:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____