



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY



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SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THE GAME:

Put a piece of paper with the memory verse inside a box. Wrap the box in layers of different-colored tissue paper with minimal tape holding each layer. On each layer, write a characteristic about someone in the class. For example, “good singer,” “helpful,” “funny,” “generous,” “strong reader,” “leader.”

- Make sure there are enough layers for each child to unwrap one.
- Enough assorted small prizes for each child
- A musical device

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THE CRAFT:

- For each student, three strips of paper in different colors.
- 16 oz. paper cups
- Markers, stickers, glue, yarn and other embellishments
- Strips of white paper with pre-printed scripture passages. Each student should get a full set of these:

“Those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.” —Proverbs 11:25

“God loves a cheerful giver.” —2 Corinthians 9:7

“Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” —Matthew 6:21

“And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God’s diverse gifts.” —1 Peter 4:10

OPENING GAME

Say, “Today we are going to play a game that is a mash-up of musical chairs and hot potato with a twist.”



Invite the children to sit in a circle and give them each a prize at the beginning of the game. Play a song about giving like “Give It Away” (<https://youtu.be/ywCiDhbD-Js>) while the package is passed from child to child.

When the music stops, the child holding the package unwraps a layer. They then hand the package and the prize to a person who fits the characteristic written on the package. The giver



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sits in the middle of the circle for the remainder of the game. The game is played until each student has received a prize. Whoever has the package at the end reads the memory verse, "Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much" (Matthew 25:23).

Say, "As we designed this game, we made some changes to the traditional games they are based on. Instead of being 'out,' those who had the package were invited 'inside' the circle and still could win a prize. And each prize was based on something about who you are. You each have unique gifts that God has given to you. And when you were the giver, I hope that you felt good about recognizing someone for what they bring to this class."

CRAFT: GIFTS, SERVICE, PRAYER

Explain that in The United Methodist Church, we promise to support the ministries of the church with our gifts, our service, our prayers, our presence and our witness. Say, "Today we are going to focus on how we can share our money (gifts), our time (service) and our prayers."

Ask the children to choose one color paper to write or draw an example of how they will share their money either from their allowance, by asking for special chores to support their

mission or having a yard sale to sell some toys or other items. Give examples of mission opportunities in the church, Sunday school or local organizations with whom they might share their gifts.

On the second color paper, invite the children to write or draw how they might serve. Some examples could include making a card for someone who is sick or sad, cleaning up litter, planting flowers in a communal area or making cookies for a local shelter.

On the third strip of paper, ask the children to write or draw a prayer that they have for people or situations.

With the time that remains, children may decorate their cup. Instruct them to fold the strips of paper and place them in the cup. Each day, they can pull out one of the strips of paper and make a plan to share their gift, service or prayer for that day or read the scripture passage.

PRAYER

Thank you, God, for all that you have given to us. We love you so much and want to be faithful in sharing our gifts with you. Show us how to serve you with our time, our money and our actions. Help us to be more generous. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.



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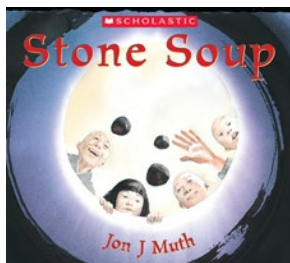
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PICTURE BOOKS ABOUT GENEROSITY

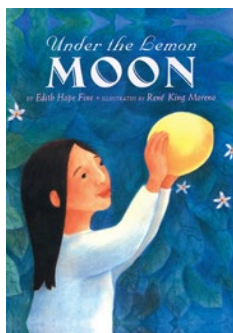
If there is time to read a book, consider one of these that nurtures a spirit of giving and generosity. Or add them to a wish list to build your Sunday school library:



“STONE SOUP” BY JON J. MUTH

As three monks travel along a mountain road, they encounter villagers ravaged by harsh times, making them cold to strangers. When the monks entice them to make soup from stones, the villagers discover how much they have to give. In this inspiring story about the strength people possess when they work together, Muth takes a simple, beloved tale and adds his own fresh twist.

<https://shop.scholastic.com/teachers-ecommerce/teacher/books/stone-soup-9780439640220.html>



“UNDER THE LEMON MOON” BY EDITH HOPE FINE

Set in the Mexican countryside, “Under the Lemon Moon” shines with the light of generosity and forgiveness. The gentle story and glowing illustrations make this tale perfect for sharing with young readers who are discovering how it feels to receive and give gifts.

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/under-the-lemon-moon-edith-hope-fine/1005002184?ean=9781584300519>



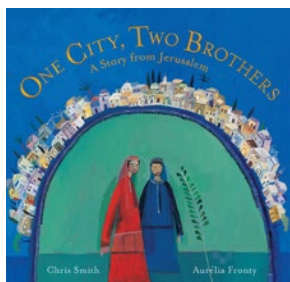
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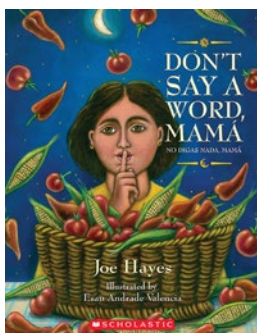
PICTURE BOOKS ABOUT GENEROSITY CON'T



“ONE CITY, TWO BROTHERS” BY CHRIS SMITH

Listen to Solomon as he tells the story of two brothers who learn the true meaning of peace and selflessness in this traditional tale that has been shared for hundreds of years in mosques, synagogues and churches across the Near East and beyond.

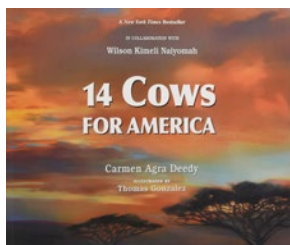
<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/one-city-two-brothers-chris-smith/1103300210?ean=9781782852520>



“DON'T SAY A WORD, MAMA / NO DIGAS NADA, MAMÁ” BY JOE HAYES

Brimming with good humor and illuminated with Mexican folk art, this bilingual fable about sisters with abundant gardens spreads the hopefulness of harvests.

<https://shop.scholastic.com/teachers-ecommerce/teacher/books/dont-say-a-word-mama-no-digas-nada-mama-9781338121124.html>



“14 COWS FOR AMERICA” BY CARMEN AGRA DEEDY

This “New York Times” best seller recounts the true story from Wilson Kimeli Naiyomah of the touching gift bestowed on the United States by a tribe of Maasai warriors in the wake of the September 11 attacks. With stunning paintings from Thomas Gonzalez, this elegant story of generosity crosses boundaries, nations and cultures. <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/14-cows-for-america-carmen-agra-deedy/1016282179?ean=9781561459612>



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