

Generous - Family Lesson I

Divine Attribute: God is Generous

Heart Response: Give freely

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 9:8 “God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”

Points of Emphasis:

1. Everything belongs to God.
2. God gives us everything we have.
3. God wants us to give our lives fully to him.
4. God wants us to give freely and share with others.

Family Worship

Choose your favorite songs from the [Spotify Playlist](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

Memory Verse

Supplies:

[Memory verse video](#)

Optional printed memory verse poster

Open your Bible to 2 Corinthians 9:8. Show your child that this is where we find today’s verse in the Bible. Watch the memory verse video together. If you printed the memory verse poster, display it for your child to see. Practice the verse and motions with the video. Then, practice it as a family. Consider saying it in funny voices or as you stand, hop, or other fun motions. Maybe even try making it a song!

Bible Lesson

***Note to - the lesson is written to be read like a story. Read the bold words aloud. The words in parenthesis give direction to pause, allow for response, or read Scripture.*

Supplies:

Bible

[Lesson picture](#) - Zacchaeus

Do you know what the word wealth means? (Allow time for answers.) **Wealth is basically anything you have. It is things like money you received for your birthday, your toys, your clothes—things like that. Who gives us our wealth? (Allow time for answers.) God! That’s right! God is generous! He gives us everything we have!**

We are going to learn a story from God’s Word, the Bible, about a man named Zacchaeus. It’s from Luke Chapter 19. (Open your Bible to show your child.)

Jesus comes to the town of Jericho. A man named Zacchaeus lives there. Zacchaeus is the chief tax collector in Jericho. He has lots and lots of money, but he has not obeyed God’s law. Zacchaeus has taken money away from the people of Jericho. He loves money and wealth more than he loves God and others. **Should we love wealth more than God?** (Allow time for answers.) **No!**

Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus, but he is too short to see over all of the people. Let’s all pretend to look for Jesus. (Put your hand over your brow as if blocking the sun from your eyes to find Jesus.) **Good!**

Zacchaeus runs (pretend to run) **and climbs a tree** (pretend to climb a tree) **that is beside the road, since Jesus is coming that way.**

When Jesus comes by the tree, he looks up at Zacchaeus. Jesus says, “Zacchaeus! Come down! Hurry! I am coming to your house today!” (Show lesson picture.) **How do you think that makes Zacchaeus feel?** (Happy, surprised, confused.)

Zacchaeus climbs down quickly. He is so excited to be taking Jesus to his house! But the people of Jericho are mad! They say, “Jesus has gone to

the house of a sinner! Zacchaeus does not obey God! He takes money from all of us!”

While the people of Jericho are busy being mad, Zacchaeus looks up at Jesus and says, “Lord, I will give half of all of my wealth to the poor. And if I have cheated and taken money I should not have from the people of Jericho, then I will give them back four times as much as I have taken!” Zacchaeus is sorry that he has loved wealth more than he loved God and others. He confesses his sin to Jesus.

Jesus then tells Zacchaeus, “Today salvation has come to your house. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.”

You see, meeting Jesus helps Zacchaeus see that he is a sinner and that he needs to be rescued. Zacchaeus is willing to admit he is wrong and wants to change and put God first instead of continuing to be greedy, keeping all his wealth. He wants to give freely and share with others like God has freely given to him.

Jesus is generous to forgive. Jesus helps Zacchaeus see his sin and forgives him. Jesus can help you see your sin and forgive you, too. When we say something is “mine” and we don’t want to share, we need to remember that God is generous and he gives us everything we have.

Prayer

Dear God, help us to know that You give us everything we have. Help us to give freely and share everything you have given to us with others. Amen.

Zacchaeus Coloring Sheet

Supplies:

Coloring sheet (found on [Kids Resource Page](#))

Crayons

Scissors

Glue

Have your child color the picture. They can cut and paste Zacchaeus into the sycamore tree. While your child is coloring, consider asking them the review questions below. These questions can also be saved for conversations over dinner or while driving.

Review Questions

1. **Who is generous to us and gives us everything we have?** (God!)
2. **What is wealth?** (All that we have, money, toys, clothes, food.)
3. **What did Zacchaeus do with his money before he knew Jesus?** (Kept it for himself.)
4. **What does God want us to do with all that he gives us?** (Freely give and share!)
5. **What did Zacchaeus do with his money after he met Jesus and Jesus forgave Zacchaeus?** (He gave freely more than he had taken from others.)

Optional Additional Activities

Paybacks

Supplies

Coins

Hold out some coins. Show them to your child. Remind them that Zacchaeus recognized his sin and said he would give away half of his wealth to the poor (take away half of your coins). Remind your child that Zacchaeus also said he would pay back four times what he owed to the people of Jericho. Say, “So, if Zacchaeus owed someone one coin (hold up one coin), he would pay them back with four (hold up four coins). Repeat for emphasis. Help your child to see that Zacchaeus was not only giving, but giving freely and generously when his heart had been changed.

