



What Can I Give?

Freely you have received; freely give.

Scripture Words

I give to you freely, so you should help others freely.
—Matthew 10:8 adapted

Here We Come!

Prepare various sizes of gift boxes and bags, but place the same object in each. It can be a fruit, a flower, a piece of wrapped sugarless candy or gum, or a small toy such as a ball or a stuffed animal. Begin with celebration and singing. Then bring out a gift and offer it to one child. The child may keep the gift or give it to another. No gifts are to be opened until all have been passed out and each child has a gift. Ask questions such as “How do you feel about the gift you have?” or “Which gift do you think is the best one? Why?” Open the gifts together and talk about the contents.

Scripture Words and Worship

Print the words of the scripture on gift box shapes and hide them in Matthew.

Each child was given a gift. No one had to pay for it or earn it. The gift could be kept or given away. The gift was freely given, freely received, and freely shared. When Jesus was talking to the disciples, he said something like that. Let the children tell you what it means to receive something free, with no strings attached. Then find and read the scripture.

Story Talking

We can share the words we have about Jesus. But we can also share something else. Each person is created with special gifts to be enjoyed as well as used for others. This was true for the disciples. We don't have a lot of information about them, but we do know a little about their giftedness. For example, we know Peter was a fierce defender of Jesus, but also that he became weak in the faith when he was afraid. Nevertheless, Jesus loved him and used his giftedness to tell others the gospel story.

Gifts come in different forms. Spend some time identifying giftedness in the children. Use questions such as the following:

- Name something you are really good at.
- Name something you like to do when you have time.
- What do people like about you?
- What is something you do that gets better with practice?
- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- What does someone with that job need to be good at?

Ideas and possibilities for gifts include being a good friend, sharing what you have, storytelling, listening, being a good sport, singing, acting, writing, drawing, playing an instrument, being kind, helping, friendliness, playing with others, praying for others.

Live and Learn

The disciples had been with Jesus for some time. They had heard him tell stories. They had seen him heal people. They were there when he fed large crowds with only a few loaves and fishes. The story found in Matthew 10:1–8 names the Twelve and records a commission from Jesus when he told them to go and teach and heal as they had seen him do. But the disciples were not to take money for giving these gifts to people. Just as they had received them freely from Jesus, he expected them to freely pass them on to others.

Introduce the twelve disciples. Connect familiar names to children and their families. Some were brothers. Talk about family relationships where Jesus is central. Lists of the Twelve can be found in Matthew 10:2–4, Mark 3:16–19, Luke 6:12, and in Acts 1:13. Since there are two Simons, for simplicity Simon Peter will be called only Peter. James, the brother of John, will be called James, while the other James will be called the son of Alphaeus. In some versions the disciple Matthew referred to as Thaddeus is known as Judas, the son of James. To help avoid confusion, the only Judas will be Iscariot.

Use the following list and information to introduce the disciples.

- Two brothers were fishermen: Peter and Andrew.
- Two brothers, sons of Zebedee, were James and John, also both fisherman.
- These four men, Peter, Andrew, James and John, were partners in the fishing business.
- Two good friends were Philip and Bartholomew (John calls him Nathanael. Philip was from Bethsaida, where Andrew and Peter lived.)
- Two more were Thomas, sometimes known as the doubter, and Matthew, the tax collector. (Luke first identifies Matthew as Levi.)
- Simon was called the Zealot. (The Zealots were a fanatical Jewish patriot group.)
- James was identified as Alphaeus's son (and it's thought that he might have been a Zealot, too).
- The one called Thaddeus in Matthew was called Judas, son of James in Luke and Acts.
- Judas Iscariot was the one who later betrayed Jesus.

These men became known as the first twelve apostles. After the death of Judas Iscariot, a man named Matthias filled in the quorum. There were also many others who traveled with Jesus during his lifetime, supporting his ministry. A great many of them seemed to be named Mary. There were

- Mary the mother of Jesus;
- her sister whose name we don't know;
- the wife of Clopas who was also named Mary;
- Mary Magdalene (see John 19:25);
- Mary the mother of James (Luke 24:10);
- Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza;
- Susanna (See Luke 8:3); and
- Jesus' brothers (see Acts 1:14).

Use outlines of men and women, with a name of a disciple or follower written on each. Let the children place the figures on a bulletin board around a picture of Jesus.

Up and at 'Em

Traveling with Jesus usually involved a crowd. When a group of people walks from one place to another, how are they lined up? Who leads? Who walks together? Who brings up the rear? Does the arrangement change when the path narrows or gets wider?

Walk around the church in different ways. Have one child lead, single file. Walk side by side. Pair up. Walk in threes. Try to carry on conversations while walking.

Sense-ations

Play with groups of twelve. Count twelve objects from a pile. Build something with twelve blocks. Make twelve clothespin people to represent the disciples.

There We Go

Give each child a picture of Jesus and the twelve disciples (page 23). The children can add the faces and decide who the people might be.

We're Not Too Small

Rena Matthews

English Folk Tune
Arr. Rena Matthews

1. We're not too small. We're not so tall. We're
2. I have a gift in - side of me. What

grow - ing eve - ry day. And when we bow our
tal - ent wat. it be? A tal - ent is God's

heads to God, we're big e - nough to pray.
spe - cial gift to each of us, you see.

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Moving Music

- “We’re Not Too Small”
- “Bubblin’ Over” (page 43)
- “Make New Friends” (page 18)
- “If You’re Happy”
- “Lord, I Give You” NS 32 (The verses have repetitious lines that will be easy for the children to remember. Use the verses about feet, hands, and life.)

If You're Happy

Traditional

If you're hap - py and you know it clap your hands. (clap, clap) If you're

hap - py and you know it clap your hands. (clap, clap) If you're

hap - py and you know it then your face will sure - ly show it. If you're

hap - py and you know it clap your hands. (clap, clap)

2. If you're surprised and you know it jump right up...
3. If you're happy and you know it stomp your feet...
4. If you're scared and you know it hug a friend...
5. If you're happy and you know it shout hurrah...

Jesus and His Disciples

