

Day 4—A Willing Yes: Be a Giver

Welcome Kids!

Today play a Bingo game in which kids discover more about each other. Make a Bingo card by drawing five columns down and five rows across. Write one of the following descriptions in each square, and add some that are unique to the kids in your class:

Same color of socks as I have

Same initials as I have

Has a pet ____

Different color of eyes than I have

Their favorite food is ____.

At the beginning of class, hand out the Bingo cards, and have kids mingle with classmates. Have them match each unique characteristic to one of their friends and put their friend's name on that space on the card. When an adequate time to play has passed, read through the characteristics and give each child opportunity to tell more about it.

“A Willing Yes!” Story

Share the storybook (also used in worship) *Incredible You!* by Dr. Wayne W. Dyer with Kristina Tracy, illustrated by Melanie Siegel (Australia: Hay House, 2005), ISBN 1-4019-0782-2. This is a very affirming book for children. It helps them believe in themselves as a gifted child of God. Dyer writes ten affirmations such as “Think of something you love to do./That is your passion, so let it shine through./ Never let fear hold you back. / Do what you love—you’re on the right track.” Discuss:

1. What is one of the best things you do?
2. What is something you’ve always wanted to do?
3. If you could do your favorite thing right now, what would it be?
4. Write a plan for what your passion is, and tell how you might follow this plan when you get home from reunion. (Or you can start while you’re here at reunion!)

A Willing Giver

Read today’s scripture of the story of the widow’s mite from Mark 12:41–44 NRSV adapted:

“Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and watched the crowd putting their money into it. Many rich people put large amounts of money in the treasury. But then a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Jesus told his disciples, ‘This poor widow has put in more than

all those rich people. They gave a little out of their riches, but she gave everything she had out of her poverty.’”

Show the kids a bag full of something representing coins. Pull a few out and put them in a basket as an offering. (These may be coins, candy coins, jelly beans, stones, or whatever.) Have another leader pull only two of the same item out of a pocket, turning the pocket inside out to show there is no more.

Discuss:

1. Did I give more or did the leader?
2. Which of us had more to give?
3. Why did Jesus say the widow gave more than the rich people? She didn't really, did she?
4. Why did Jesus tell this story? What does Jesus want us to do with our offerings?

Giving All That You Can

Make a mural of the ministries of the church. Do this by giving each child a large sheet of poster paper—on which they may paint, color, glue magazine pictures, or otherwise design to depict a need in the world. These needs might include needs for housing, food, education, churches, prayer, etc.

When kids are finished, tape their creations around the room. Design a beginning poster titled “Be a Giver.” Talk about the many people who are helped by generous people in our church. Tell about the countries that are helped.

Giver Game

Play a game of giving by using a large sheet or parachute. Tell kids that we are all going to give until it gets wild and extreme! Giving can be radically fun. Have everyone hold onto an edge of the sheet or parachute and begin shaking it up and down, causing the sheet to undulate. Begin by tossing (giving) balls onto the sheet, a few at first. Continue “giving” more and more of any size and color. Encourage kids to keep the balls bouncing, trying not to bounce any balls off. Keep playing until the kids have thoroughly enjoyed bouncing the balls on the sheet.

With an additional sheet or parachute, kids can be divided into two groups. Balls can then be bounced back and forth between the sheets, again trying to avoid any bouncing off. This can be great fun.

Giver Craft

Create a four-section bank where kids can collect money. Use a recycled coffee can or similar container with a plastic lid. Clean cans well before class. Cut four slits in the lid for four different offerings (adults do the cutting). Inside, kids can put a divider made of cardboard that divides the interior into four sections. Kids may decorate the outside of the can by taping or gluing construction paper to it. They can color

the paper with metallic crayons or apply glitter glue or other creative materials to the paper. They may also paste magazine pictures or prints from the Community of Christ Web site to their can. Have each child write their name on the bottom of their can. They can write on the plastic lid with permanent thin-line markers each of the four offerings' titles: International Church Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Personal Savings, and Spend As You Wish. Encourage kids to share their money equally between the four sections. Tell kids that the money they collect for the international and local church can be taken to church and given in the offering in an offering envelope.

Peace Prayers

Using a globe or map, have children close their eyes and point to a location on it. When they open their eyes, they may pray for the children in that country: that they have food, clothing, freedom to love God and others, and empowerment to share their gifts.