

LESSON # 15

FREE TO GIVE

SCRIPTURE

D&C 163:9 This passage tells us the importance of being generous.

Mark 12:42–45 Jesus tell us the story of the widow who gave all she had.



Faithful followers know that God is a good giver, and they share because they want to. Be free from things that focus mainly on yourself. Give what you can because you are gifted and have much. Joy and peace come to those who understand the ministry of giving with no concern for what they will receive. Could God want it any other way?

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:9 (adapted)

OBJECTIVES

- Children will understand they have gifts to give.
- Children will understand that giving is more than a simple act; it takes planning and devotion.
- Children will be able to make commitments on giving based on “true capacity.”

MATERIALS

- one copy of the adapted D&C 163:9 scripture for each student
- pitcher
- paper cups
- bucket
- paper, construction-paper coins, pencils
- Gift boxes, wrapping paper
- tape

DISCOVERY

Doctrine and Covenants 163:9 says that faithful disciples (followers) give according to their “true capacity.” The scripture also tells us to break free from a culture that promotes “self-serving interests.”

Capacity and self-serving interest may be difficult for children to understand. To show the idea of capacity, use a pitcher, glass and water. Pour water into the glass, filling it only halfway. Ask the children if the glass is full. After a response, fill the glass until full. Ask them if the glass is now full (the answer should be yes). Explain that capacity involves how full or much volume something has, or how much is given.

ALIYAH (ah-LEE-ah) is a new resource for children based on scripture, including Doctrine and Covenants 163. D&C 163 is an affirmation of paths taken and an encouragement of ways to move onward. ALIYAH is a Hebrew word meaning a journey toward God.

One lesson each month will be posted on this Web site to be downloaded and used for church school, junior church, or other times to connect children to the vision of the church. Parallel lessons are provided for youth and adults. Enjoy the journey together!

To end this explanation, run a relay. From the starting line, try to take water from a full bucket and run to the other bucket. Pour it in without spilling. When the second bucket is full, you will have completed the activity. Ask which bucket is full (at capacity). Ask which is empty (room for more).

To explain “self-serving,” ask the children to remember a time at a store with an adult. Perhaps the children saw someone else asking or begging for things they might have thought they needed but really didn’t. Ask the children if this ever has happened to them. Explain that such behavior involves self-interest, which is looking out for oneself with no thought of others.



UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURE

THE GIFT

Doctrine and Covenants 163:9 explains how important it is to give from how much you have. That involves giving time, talent, and money. Ask the children to take some paper and pencils and write how they think they give in those three ways. When they are done, have the children place their papers in gift boxes, which they then will wrap.

The things they write are a type of gift to God. If practical during the worship, have the children give their gift to the pastor or other congregational leaders. Explain to the congregation that giving to true capacity involves time, talent and treasure. If time allows allow the children to unwrap the boxes with the pastor and share the contents with the congregation.

MIGHTY MITES

Read Mark 12:42–45 to the class. This story is about the widow who gave two mites, which are coins. This is all she had. In the story Jesus explains that this widow gave more than those who gave from their abundance, because she gave from her poverty. There is no way to know the value of the widow's mite. They were small coins, but it was a big offering. Cut circular objects from construction paper to represent coins, then ask the children

- if they would give the two coins if that's all they had;
- what they would give to;
- to write words or pictures on their two coins to show how they would give. They may place these in the offering during worship.

GOING HOME

The children learned about of giving and how they can give. They also learned about their giftedness and how they can share with others.

PACKING FOR THE JOURNEY

It's time to pack for the journey. Have children pack their children's pages in their backpacks or bags. Ask them what they have learned about giving and generosity.

ARE WE THERE YET?

To extend this lesson for a rotation model or intergenerational learning, read Mrs. Rose's Garden

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ALIYAH Lesson #15 Free To Give
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Aliyah

Equipping children and youth for the journey



ALIYAH is a Hebrew word meaning a journey toward God. Are you ready for **ALIYAH**?

LESSON # 15:
FREE TO GIVE
Children's Page

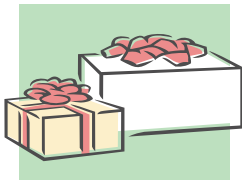
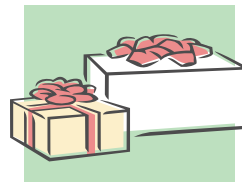
Faithful followers know that God is a good giver, and they share because they want to. What does a good giver do?

OWNER'S GUIDE
for _____
created by _____

This week I will share my gifts by:

SHARING

Below are pictures of coins, clocks, and gifts. On each picture write how you can give your time, money, or gifts for to help Jesus.



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