

# Sharing With the Needy

**OBJECTIVE:** *To consider the plight of the needy and choose ways to help them.*



## WORSHIP

Sing praise and worship songs as well as songs about sharing and giving that are familiar and meaningful to your group. Here are some suggestions.

"Freely, Freely"

"Give and It Will Be Given"

"This Is My Commandment"

"What a Mighty God We Serve"

"Pass It On"

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

## STORY

**Jesus' Teaching About Giving to the Needy, Matthew 6:1-4**

- Jesus teaches about the humble attitude people should have when doing good.
- Jesus says to give to the needy but not for the purpose of being honored.
- Jesus says that God will give the reward.

Dress in your oldest, torn clothes and come as a needy person. Read the verses.

## MEMORY VERSE

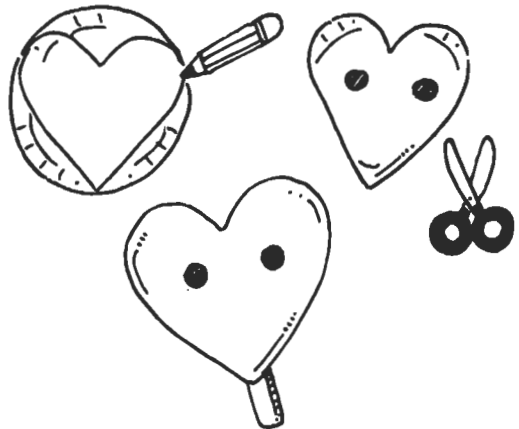
**"Whoever is kind to the needy honors God" (Proverbs 14:31).**

To help the children learn the verse, play a giving game. Sit in a circle. Say the verse for everyone and ask them to repeat it after you. Then tell them how the game will be played. You will say the verse. Then you will give a small basket or box of apples or other fruit to someone. That person must then say the verse and give the basket or box to someone else who then says the verse. Continue in this way until everyone has had a chance to say the verse.

## ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to support the story or theme and to provide a springboard for discussion.

**GOD'S GIVING HEART.** Give each person a large paper plate. Each person draws a large heart on it, cuts out the heart, and colors it. On the hearts, mark where to make eye holes as if for a mask. Cut eye holes and tape the heart onto a Popsicle stick or drinking straw. Talk about seeing the world and needy people through God's heart. Read Proverbs 14:31; Matthew 6:11; Romans 12:13; 2 Corinthians 9:7-11; James 1:17.



**GIVER RELAY.** Form two teams, each standing in a line. Mark a starting line and a turnaround point some distance away. Give each person an object he might give to someone in need (food, shoes). When you say, "Go," the person at the *back* of each line becomes the runner. As he passes players in front of him, each person gives the runner his object. The runner carries the objects to the turnaround line and back to the *front* of the line where he passes the objects back to their original holders, at which time the person who is now the *last* in line becomes the runner. The team to finish first wins. Read and discuss Scriptures from the previous activity.

**REAL GIVING.** Call everyone ahead of time and tell them you're taking a collection of clothes or food for the needy. Ask them to bring something for the collection. Get a basket or box ready to collect the items. Take it to a needy family, to your church collection center, to the Salvation Army, or another agency that serves the needy.

**MISSION NEEDS.** Get the addresses of some of your congregation's missionaries. Ask everyone to write a note to a missionary. Younger children can draw pictures for the missionary. Send these to the missionaries along with an offering from your group. Ask the missionaries to use the offering for someone they know who is needy. Your group may even want to become a support group for a missionary.

## QUESTIONS

1. Who are needy people? What do they need?
2. Why does God want us to help the needy?
3. Were you ever needy and met someone who helped you? How did you feel?
4. What do people need besides food or clothes?

## KIDS' COUNCIL

### BRING IT HOME

- How can you help the needy?
- Could someone actually be rich but be needy for something other than what money can buy? What might they need?
- How will you help someone who is needy this week?
- Read 2 Corinthians 9:11. What does God want people to do with their riches?

### SHARE AND PRAY

- Ask the children to share their concerns and pray for each other.
- Ask God to show us what to give and who to give it to.
- Thank God for giving us all that we need.

## ADULT STUDY QUESTIONS

- Are there situations today in which people give in order to be honored by others? What is their reward according to Jesus in Matthew 6:1-4? Why do you suppose God doesn't want people to give in order to be honored?
- Sometimes an outright gift to the needy seems to undermine their dignity. When might this be the case? What can be done to help them without seeming to be condescending?
- If a person asks for help, how can you tell if he is truly needy, or does it matter?
- Ephesians 4:29 looks at needs from another viewpoint. What does it say about helping the needy? Do you know anyone who is needy in this way? How can you help them?

## SNACK AND FELLOWSHIP

**Coin Cookies.** Make these ahead of time, or use this as an activity by letting the children help you make peanut butter cookies. Use your own recipe or use a roll of refrigerated cookie dough. While the cookies are still hot, just out of the oven, let children unwrap chocolate coin-shaped candies and press them gently into the centers of the cookies. Cool cookies and then share them with everyone.

