**FIRST STEPS TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Session 3 of 4

# Giving

### MEETING AIM

To think about how we can do something kind for others and share God’s love.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 6:1-4 (and Mark 12:41-44)

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in-person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your situation.

When people gave money in the temple, they used to place it into a box which made a loud noise, so it literally did announce their giving. Some children will have the opportunity to give their own money, but some under-fives won’t have experienced that yet. Many may also find it hard to do anything in secret, so this session is an opportunity to think overall about sharing, helping others in need, and not boasting about it.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Welcome each child by name and encourage them to share stories from their week. Celebrate any birthdays or special events. Ask the children: “How can we be kind to others?”

### PLAY – 10 mins

**You will need:** toy money; shopping play equipment

Show the children the shopping play equipment and let them play freely. Join in with the children’s play, and let yourself be directed them.

Use the money to practise counting together. Chat together about the different things you can use money for.

### BIBLE STORY – 10 mins

**You will need:** picnic blanket; picture of the temple; money; piggy bank or jar

Lay out your picnic blanket and invite the children to sit down. Tell this story:

Jesus loved speaking to people. One day, he was teaching a huge crowd of people all about how they could be more like God. They had all sat down on a mountainside to listen.

Jesus told the people all about how it was important not to show off and to do things just for God, not other people. He said: “If you give to people who need it, then you don’t need to tell everyone. God sees your what you do and knows why you do it.”

You see, in those days people would go to the temple to give money to God. *Show a picture of a temple.* The people would go to the temple to worship and hear about God, like our church.

Look at this money. *Show the children some money.* Do you any of you have pocket money? Or have you used coins to buy something – maybe an ice cream, or something in a shop? *Hand out the money so each child has some to hold.*

In the temple, there would have been a place for people to put money in as a gift for God. *Hold up your piggy bank.*

Jesus told another story in the Bible about giving. We’re going to use our coins as we hear that story. Jesus sat down opposite the place where people gave their money and watched the crowd giving their offerings. *Point to the piggy bank and invite the children to come and put their coins in.*

Jesus saw lots of rich people throw lots of money in. But then he saw a lady who didn’t have much money put in just two very small coins. Jesus told his friends: “That lady has given more than anyone else. They all had lots to give but she didn’t; she gave everything she had.”

She gave her best. She loved God so much that she gave all she had. Sometimes it can be hard to share and give to others. It would have been hard for the lady to give her money, as she didn’t have much. She trusted that God would care for her, and she loved God so much that she wanted to give her money.

Jesus told the people that it isn’t how much you give that’s important. It’s your heart that matters. Even if we have very little, we can share and love other people by giving. God loves it when we do that.

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Ask the children these questions, ensuring everyone has the chance to contribute:

* What was your favourite bit in the story?
* What do you love to share?
* How do you think God feels when we give?
* What can we do when we see someone who needs help?

### CREATIVE TIME – 10 mins

**You will need:** biscuits; icing; other decorations; paper plates; food wrap

Give each child two biscuits to decorate and show them all the decorations you have brought. Explain that they have two so that they can share one with someone else after the session. Don’t let them eat them during the session, but instead let them take two away. Encourage the children to decorate their biscuits. As you work, chat about the Bible story and any times the children have shared or given anything away. If appropriate, share a story from your own life, perhaps of a time when someone unexpectedly shared something with you.

Explain to the children that as they leave, they might like to ask God who they could share your biscuit with and see if he pops anyone into their head. Or perhaps they might meet someone after church or on their way home that they think would feel loved by sharing a biscuit with them. Put the biscuits on paper plates and wrap them up to keep them safe.

Be aware of food hygiene and allergy issues during this activity. Make sure you provide alternatives for any children who might need them.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

**You will need:** biscuits from ‘Creative time’

Encourage the children to hold their plates of biscuits, and say this prayer:

“Thank you, God, that you can help us to share and give to people who need help. We pray that you would help us to share this week and you would show us people who need help and kindness.”

Ask the children what they think they might like to share this week, and pray that God would help them.

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