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WELCOME TO DISCIPLESHIP JR.!


Discipleship Jr. is a Bible-based, in-depth program that harnesses the power of *FUN* to build young disciples through interaction with Bible truth and with each other.

A complete, multiage children's ministry program, *Discipleship Jr.* is packed full of interactive stories and drama, Scripture memory, and themed snacks and activities that will engage every child! It's guaranteed effective because its principles and methods of instruction are *teacher-tested* and *kid-approved!*

Intensive student-teacher interaction within a learning community that is relational and supportive makes *Discipleship Jr.* an ideal program for including children with disabilities. Hands-on learning activities are easily adapted to include all students. For more ideas about inclusion, an excellent resource is *Let All the Children Come to Me* by MaLesa Breeding, EdD, Dana Hood, PhD, and Jerry Whitworth, EdD, (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2006).

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER



Get Set. We know you're busy, so we provide a list of materials and what you'll need to prepare for your lesson. You'll also need a photocopier and some basic classroom supplies: whiteboard, dry erase markers and erasers, paper, pencils, markers, butcher paper, scissors, glue, and index cards. When you see this icon  allow a little extra prep time.

Kids love to dress up! Many of our Bible lessons use costume props from the "Bible time dress-up box." This can be as simple as a box of items you gather from around the house or purchase inexpensively from a secondhand store. It should include: old sheet with neck hole (angel), fake beards, swords, headcloths and browbands, bathrobes, fancy "princess" dress, crown, decorative chains and belts for temple priests, shepherd's crook or stick, wolf ears, wigs.



Password, Please! (10 minutes)—Each week begins with an activity option to involve children as everyone is filtering into the class.

- The *Welcome Time Activity* will excite children's interest and help them connect with the Bible Truth for the week.



Climb In! (20 minutes)—Whole-group, interactive Bible lessons invite students ages 6–9 to participate in the entire lesson. Whether it's role-playing a hailstorm or squeezing through an obstacle course, kids will be engaged in exciting, hands-on lessons.

- Pre- and post-lesson discussion times encourage children to talk about their life experiences and tie their knowledge to the week's Bible Truth.



Use the Clues!—Practice is an important part of learning and helps us move information from short-term to long-term memory. This quarter uses the exciting theme of a hiking expedition—complete with a trekking backpack—to help children practice and apply what they've learned. At the end of every lesson you'll unpack the backpack and go over the lesson focus. In the weeks that follow, students are repeatedly challenged to remember the Bible Truths by revisiting the items they have unpacked along their journey.



Hide ‘n’ Seek Bible Memory (5 minutes)—Toe tappin’ and finger snappin’ . . . there’s nothing like the power of *FUN* to motivate children. Movement, rhythm, and role-play make it easy for kids to hide God’s Word in their hearts (Psalm 119:11).



Prayer Hideaway (15 minutes)—Small-group prayer time for children. Wow! What an idea! Children break into small groups of three to five with an adult helper—we call them Lookouts. Using reproducible instruction cards (found at the end of each lesson), adults guide children to explore and practice new prayer skills. Together they’ll share concerns, praise God, and practice the four activities of prayer: praise, ask, confess, and thank.



(Optional) **Treetop Treats and Activities** (10 minutes)—You have options for snacks and activities tied to the theme of the lesson in which lesson truths are practiced and shared. Look for the activity-level icon, which shows the level of mess, energy, or noise required for the activity!

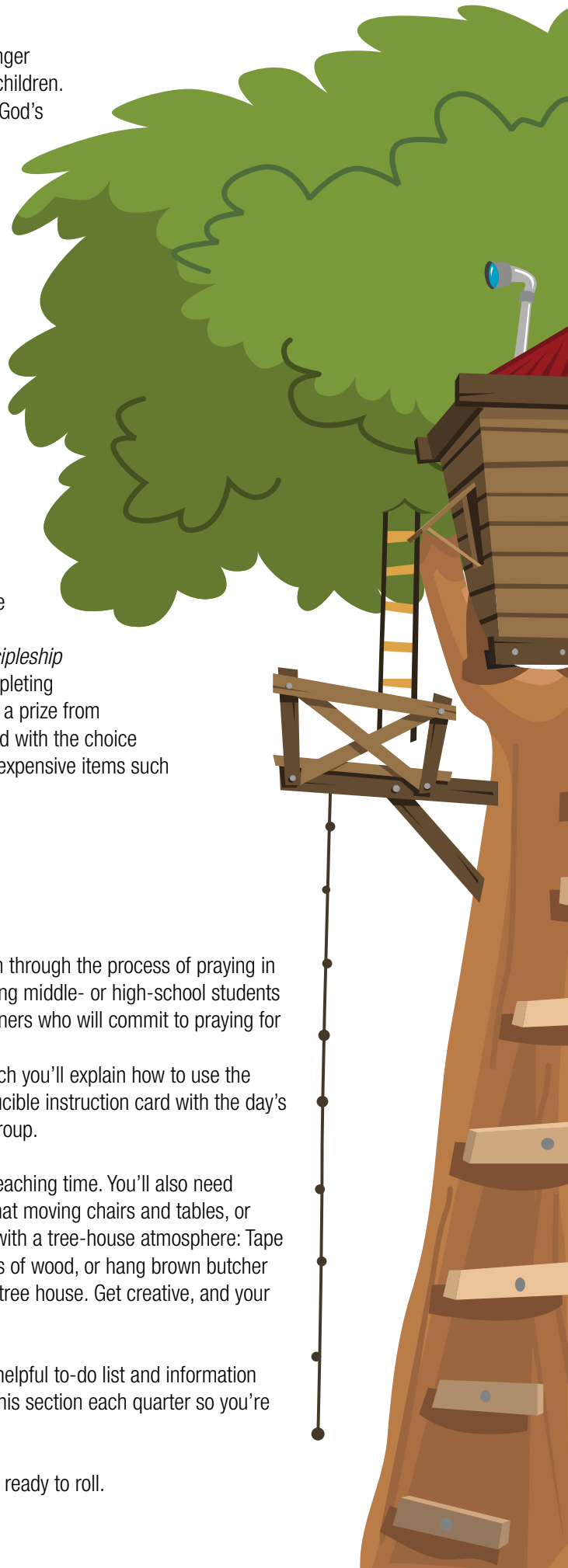


Zipline—Reproducible home-connection pages invite families to interact in and through fun activities and Bible memory. These pages can be found at the end of their corresponding lessons.

Are you looking for an additional way to motivate young learners? *Discipleship Jr.* includes an optional incentive program that rewards students for completing home-connection pages. Children return a signed *Club Pass* and choose a prize from the treasure box. If you have a new student, you might welcome that child with the choice of a treasure too! Simply cover and decorate a large shoebox. Fill with inexpensive items such as you might find at a party store.

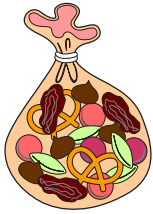
HOW TO GET STARTED

1. **Begin by recruiting Lookouts**—adult helpers who will guide children through the process of praying in small groups. Don’t have enough adult volunteers? How about recruiting middle- or high-school students to shepherd a group? Also consider enlisting a few faithful prayer partners who will commit to praying for your class weekly.
Plan to have a brief training session with your new volunteers in which you’ll explain how to use the imPACT model of prayer. Each week you’ll give the Lookouts a reproducible instruction card with the day’s prayer theme and prayer suggestions to use with children in a small group.
2. **Set up your room.** You’ll need a big area for your large-group Bible teaching time. You’ll also need to identify spaces for each of your small prayer-groups. Don’t forget that moving chairs and tables, or moving groups to a hallway is always an option. Make your room fun with a tree-house atmosphere: Tape homemade or store-bought leaves to the walls, add boards and planks of wood, or hang brown butcher paper and use black paint to create the look of the wooden walls of a tree house. Get creative, and your kids will love entering their very own “treetop” clubhouse every week!
3. **Read This Quarter in Discipleship Jr. . . .** (page 6). This page has a helpful to-do list and information specific to the current quarter of *Discipleship Jr.* Don’t forget to read this section each quarter so you’re prepared when kids arrive in your classroom.
4. **Gather and prepare your materials**, set out your snacks, and you’re ready to roll.



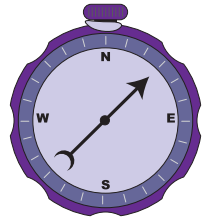
USE THE CLUES! Instructions

Room Setup Plant a sturdy tree branch in a bucket of dirt or sand and place near your story area. You'll hang the weekly reminders of the lessons on this or place them at the base and use the items during the review time. Alternately, decorate a bulletin board near the story area in a hiking theme and hang the items on the bulletin board.



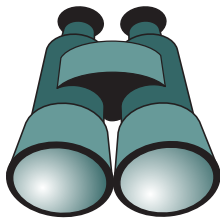
1. Trail mix: God gives us things so we can be generous toward others.

2. Mirror: What God thinks of us is the most important. Remember what God sees when he looks at us, and not what other people see.



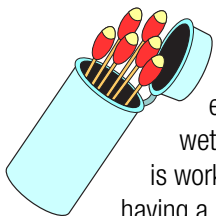
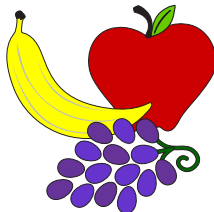
3. Compass: Points to the right direction, like godly wisdom helps us know the right way to go.

Binoculars: Like binoculars bring faraway things into view, God's justice brings fairness into clear view.

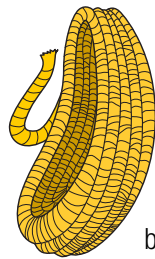


5. Map: We know that God has a way for us to follow; we can choose to follow God's way.

6. Fruit: We should feed our spirits power food the same way we eat good food to give our bodies power and strength.

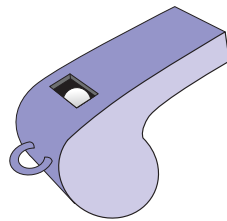


7. Waterproof matches: The matches still work even after they've gotten wet and cold, and God still is working for us when we're having a hard time.



8. Rope: Someone who doesn't have the same values as you might not be reliable to keep you walking with God. You want to be sure that the person trying to help you when you need to be rescued with the rope will save you.

9. Bottle of water: It's all we need when we're thirsty. In the same way, if we have a place to sleep and clothes to wear and something to eat, we can be content. Water reminds us to be content with what we have.



10. Whistle: Instead of feeling like we should be in control and have all the answers, we can be glad to have others in authority over us, because God put them there for our good. A whistle can work for our good, just like authority over us.



11. Blanket: God will provide what we need, instead of us trying to have everything that a hiker could possibly want.

12. Flashlight: Put the spotlight on God and who he is instead of trying to show off what you can do or be.



13. Hiking boots: When you put on hiking boots, you know what you're going to be doing. A servant may not dress in a certain way, but in his mind and heart, he knows what he's going to do—serve others and not wait for others to serve him.



14. Backpack (Palm Sunday): A good backpack makes it easy to carry things when we're hiking. Jesus came to earth to carry our sins so that we don't have to. His death made a way for us to lighten our load.

15. Walking Stick (Easter): Jesus rose again so he can be with us all the time and help us on our life journey, just like a trusty walking stick helps us on a tough hike.



Bible Basis:

Genesis 13; Matthew 19:16–22

Bible Truth:

God gives me things so I can be generous toward others.



Getting to Give

You Will Need:

- trekking backpack
- packaged trail mix
- 1 poster board
- (optional) Bible time dress-up box
- butcher paper
- Bibles
- cardstock
- package of cookies
- set of new markers
- business-size white envelope
- pennies (2 per child)
- ZipLine #1* home-connection page
- Lookout Card #1*
- (optional) treasure box
- (optional) snack: trail-mix ingredients (oat-ring cereal, candy-coated chocolate, raisins, dried fruit, pretzel sticks, mini crackers, etc.), large bowl, serving spoon, napkins or small cups
- (optional) Activity #1: rope and sheets or short room dividers, wadded paper (4–6 wads per student)
- (optional) Activity #2: trail-mix ingredients in separate bags, serving bowls, large serving spoons, cups or napkins




When you see this icon, it means preparation will take more than five minutes.

Memory Verse: A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed (**Proverbs 11:25**).

Note: Early elementary verse in **bold** type.



GET SET! (Lesson Preparation)

-  Print today's Bible memory verse on a poster board: **A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed (Proverbs 11:25)**. Hang the poster at the front of the classroom.
- Write in thick marker on the white envelope: 5 tickets to _____ game (write the name of a favorite sports team in the blank).
- Make an 8 ½" x 11" sign on cardstock using a thick marker: "video game console."
- Place in the backpack the package of cookies; video game console sign; a handful of new, colorful markers; envelope; and the trail mix. Set the zipped-up backpack at the story area.
- Photocopy *ZipLine #1* for each child.
- Photocopy *Lookout Card #1* for each helper.
- Set out the treasure box (optional).
- Tape butcher paper to a wall if using the Welcome Time Activity.
- Secure a rope across the playing area at about head height of your tallest students just before playing Activity #1.
- Make compact paper wads of the scrap paper (about 4–6 wads per student) if using Activity #1.
- Set up snack or outside play activities if you include these items in your children's ministry.



PASSWORD, PLEASE! (Welcome and Bible Connection)

- **Objective:** To excite children's interest and connect their life experiences with the Bible Truth, children will design a mural and talk about hikes they have taken.



Welcome Time Activity: Take a Hike Mural

- **Materials:** butcher paper, markers or crayons, tape

As children arrive, direct them to the wall where you have taped the butcher paper. Ask children to work together to create a place where they imagine they could hike, such as a forest or a mountain trail. Children can draw trees, rocks, animals, the trail, and other features. Talk with them about hikes they've taken and what they have brought with them.

Sharing Time and Bible Connection

- **Materials:** backpack with cookies, video-game console sign, markers, envelope, and trail mix inside

Introduce today's lesson with an object lesson and discussion. As you talk, give every child the opportunity to say something. Ask four volunteers to stand in front of the class. Build drama by making a big production of opening the backpack and deciding what to take out. One by one, take out all the items, except the trail mix, and give one to each child. Try to give the items to the children to whom you think they would be valuable. By turn, ask each child holding an object:

- **What are you going to do with your _____ (cookies, etc.)?** After each child answers, let the rest of the class offer ideas of what they would do with the item. After all four have had their turn, collect the items; volunteers can return to their seats.
- **How many of our four volunteers said they would generously share what they had been given?**
- **When was the last time you received something that you chose to share with others?**
- **Why would you choose to be generous with your things?** (because God asks us to, it's the right thing to do, to show care to others, because others may need it more than we do)

After this sharing time, help your students connect their discussion to the Bible stories they're about to hear from Genesis 13 and Matthew 19:16–22:

We all have lots of stuff. And all of it is from God in some way. God has given us toys and books, food and pets, and other things. And he's given them to us so we can be generous toward others. Let's look at two Bible stories to see who was generous with what God had given them.



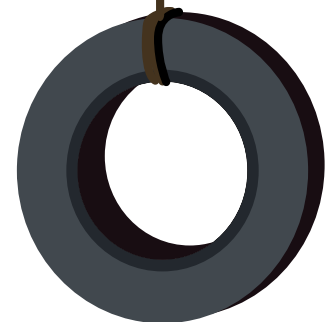
CLIMB IN!

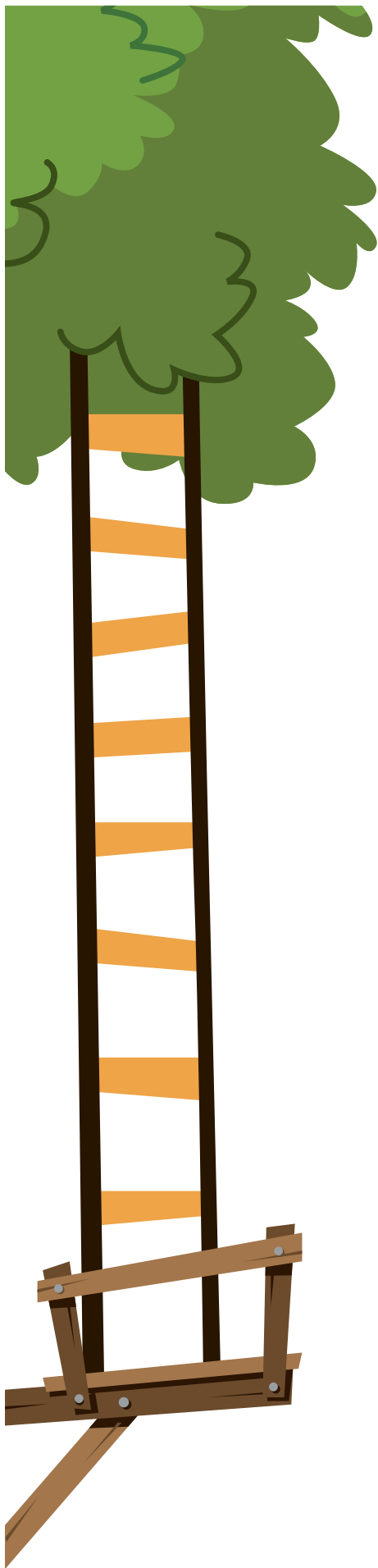
(Bible Discover and Learn Time)

Genesis 13; Matthew 19:16-22

- **Objective:** Children will study Genesis 13 and Matthew 19:16–22 to discover why God desires us to be generous with the things he gives us.
- **Materials:** Bibles, pencils, paper, Bible time dress-up box (optional)

Divide the class into two or four groups, with competent readers in each group. Assign each group one of the Bible texts: Genesis 13 or Matthew 19:16–22. Hand out Bibles, paper, and pencils. **We're going**





to find out for ourselves what choices we should make about our stuff to stay on the path to know and follow God.

Have children read their passage in their group. Older children will help younger ones find the passage; all should follow along as one or more group members read it. If needed, a Lookout in each group can take notes. Instruct groups to find out who's doing what in their passage. Ask them to prepare a one-minute skit of the passage, using as many group members as possible. Helpers can assist with ideas and skit practice. If desired, children can use the Bible time dress-up box for props and costumes. After a set amount of time, call the groups back together and let each present their skit. When all have performed, compliment their efforts.

Summarize the stories: **The Genesis story told how Abraham and Lot both had big herds of animals. There wasn't enough room for them to live next to each other. Abraham was generous and let Lot choose what area he would take for his herds and family. Lot took the better piece of land. Abraham was happy with the second-best. But God gave Abraham much more than that piece of land. He told Abraham he would own all the countryside, as far as he could see, and he would also have a really big family. Both these promises came true and were wonderful gifts to Abraham.**

The story from Matthew is about a young rich man who talked to Jesus. This rich man had all that he wanted. But he knew he didn't have the truth of Jesus in his life. He asked what he needed to do to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus told him he needed to sell his things and give the money to the poor. Jesus didn't mean the man had to be poor to have eternal life. But the rich man needed to learn to be generous with his things to be able to really follow Jesus. Anything that keeps us from following Jesus with all our hearts is an idol, and it's bad for us. This man lost out on taking the path of walking with God because he wanted to hold onto all his things for himself.

Which character in these stories shows us the way to walking on the path with God?
(Abraham) **Abraham was willing to be generous with the land God gave him. He's our example of being generous with the things God has given us.**



USE THE CLUES!

(Bible Review)

Okay, let's see what you remember.

- **Why did Abraham let Lot choose a piece of land first?** (he was willing to be generous with the land)
- **Did God approve of Abraham's generosity?** (yes, we know this because God promised him all the land he could see in every direction and lots of children and grandchildren)
- **What caused the rich young man to walk away from Jesus with sadness?** (he wasn't willing to be generous with his things, his riches were too important to him to let go of in order to follow Jesus)
- **How can we follow Abraham's example as we walk on God's path?** (don't be greedy, be willing to share what we have, be generous with whatever we have)

Ask a volunteer to open the backpack and take out the trail mix.

- **How could trail mix be useful on a hike?** (food when you're hungry, healthy snack)
- **How is this trail mix a reminder that God gives us things so we can be generous toward others?** (we can share our snacks and other things with those around us)

Hang the trail mix on the tree branch or hiking bulletin board.



HIDE 'N' SEEK (Scripture Memory)

Proverbs 11:25

- **Objective:** Children will hide God's Word in their hearts for guidance, protection, and encouragement.
- **Materials:** 2 pennies per child

Read this week's memory verse from the poster. Point to each word as you read it:

A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed
(Proverbs 11:25).

Read the verse together a few times until it's familiar. Then play "Coin Exchange." To start, give each child two pennies. They'll walk around looking for someone to give their money and tell the verse. When a child stops in front of another, he will hand that child his coins and say the verse. The other child will reciprocate, so each will again have a set of coins. Then they each will find someone new to exchange with. Play for a set amount of time.



PRAYER HIDEAWAY

- **Objective:** Children will explore and practice prayer for themselves in small groups.
- **Materials:** copies of Lookout Card #1 for each adult or teen helper

Break into small groups of three to five children. Assign a teen or adult helper to each small group and give each helper a copy of *Lookout Card #1* (page 16) with ideas for group discussion and prayer.



TREETOP TREATS: Trail Mix (Optional Snack)

- **Materials:** trail-mix ingredients (oat-ring cereal, candy-coated chocolate, raisins, dried fruit, pretzel sticks, mini crackers, etc.), large bowl, cups or napkins, serving spoon

Note: Combine the snack with Activity #2 to illustrate the Bible Truth, or serve separately here.

Have children help you combine the trail-mix ingredients in a large bowl and serve it.

Note: Always be aware of children with food allergies and have another option on hand if necessary.





APPLICATION

- **Objective:** Children will have opportunities to show how the lesson works in their lives through activities and home-connection pages.

Some children's ministries may allow children to play outside at this point. If yours does not, choose one of the following activities.



Freely Give Game

- **Materials:** rope and sheets or short room dividers, wadded paper (4–6 wads per student)

String the rope across the middle of the play area and drape the sheets over it as a room divider, or place a room divider in the center of the area. Split the class into two groups, one on each side of the screen. Divide the paper wads evenly between the two sides. At your signal, each team tries to toss all the wads on their side over the divider to the other side. As wads come whizzing back, teams should quickly snatch them up and toss them back. Play for a set time (30 to 60 seconds). When you call time, judge which side has the least number of wads. That team wins for being the most generous to share their wads with the other group. Play as long as time allows or until energy depletes.



Trail Mix-It-Up

- **Materials:** trail-mix ingredients in separate bags, serving bowls, serving spoons, cups or napkins

Have children find partners (large class) or work individually (small class) to choose one trail-mix ingredient and pour it into a serving bowl. Once all the ingredients are set out individually, let the children take a cup and serve themselves from the bowls to create a personalized trail mix. Talk about how the many types of ingredients make the trail mix fun and tasty. If children had chosen to keep their ingredient to themselves, the trail mix would lose a little bit of flavor and choice. By being generous, they all made a treat that everyone can enjoy.



ZIPLINE

(Home-Connection Page)

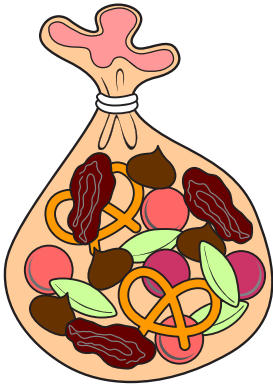
Let children who brought back a signed pass from last week's home-connection page choose a prize from the treasure box. **Who would like to choose a prize from the treasure box?** Anticipate excited responses. Show *ZipLine* home-connection pages. **When you take this *ZipLine* page home each week and do the activities, your parents can sign the *Club Pass* to show that you finished the work. Bring the signed pass back to choose a prize from the treasure box.**

Distribute the home-connection pages just before children leave.

ZIPLINE — HOME CONNECTION #1

Getting to Give

**Genesis 13; Matthew
19:16–22**



**God gives me things
so I can be generous
toward others.**

Full of Blessings

Can you fill in the word below by writing or drawing things you have? Then thank God for his generosity in giving you so much.



Prayer Challenge

God wants to hear you say you'll give up some things so others can be blessed. This week, tell God you want to share what he has given you. Ask him to show you who to be generous to.

Your Turn

Use your time and talents to be generous to others. Brainstorm with your family about a task or project you can do for someone else. Ideas: rake a neighbor's yard or pull weeds; play with a lonely child; help a teacher after school; wash an elderly person's car or windows.

**Dear Parents and
Guardians,**
Please check off
the items your child
completed this week.

- Prayer Challenge
- Bible verse memorized
and recited to an adult
- Your Turn
- Full of Blessings

Adult Signature:

CLUB PASS



Memory Verse

A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed (Proverbs 11:25).

*Note: Early elementary verse in **bold** type.*

LOOKOUT CARD #1

This week your group learned from Genesis 13 and Matthew 19 that God gives them things so they can be generous toward others. Lead your group in prayer in the following way:

- **Praise. God is generous to us.** Encourage students to offer praise to God for the array of things he has given them, from people to things to places they love plus the time and abilities they have.
- **Ask. How can you be generous with what God has given you?** Give students the opportunity to ask God to show them specific ways to share.

- **Confess. We often want to keep the things we have all to ourselves, instead of sharing them with others.** Lead the students in confessing their selfishness and asking God's forgiveness.
- **Thank. God is so generous to us and provides us with so much.** Have students thank God for intangibles such as nature's beauty, friendships, family love, etc.

Remember that no child should be forced to pray, but do encourage and invite each one. After you've said "Amen," talk quietly with the children until the next activity.

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