

# GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

**CHILDREN'S LESSON** by Lauren Sudberry | Children's Minister, Mira Lagos

## Leader Bible Study

As you prepare to teach, read through the entire chapter of Acts 10. Even though our story this week focuses on Cornelius's character traits, it is important to know the rest of his story.

Think about someone in your life who is generous, someone who always gives above and beyond what is required of them. Maybe it's your parents, friends, or even someone in your church. As you teach this lesson, help the children learn to be generous like that person.

Make sure to mention the Reach Texas State Offering and encourage the children to participate. This missions offering goes above and beyond to make sure people hear about the gospel.

If your children did not bring money to give today, help them make a plan to do so later on. Help them with some ideas on how to raise some money to be able to give. Maybe they can do extra chores around the house, donate some of their allowance, have a lemonade stand, etc.

Finally, make sure every child walks away from your lesson with the knowledge that Jesus is commanding him/her to give above and beyond. This giving won't look exactly like the story but help students think of practical ways that they can accomplish this throughout the week. Maybe they need to tell a friend at school about Jesus, invite someone to church, be kind to someone sitting by themselves, etc. Help the children understand that when we display the fruit of the Spirit, we are showing Christ's love.

Make sure to look through this entire guide and pick a few of the application activities to complete in your class. You can edit the order and flow of the lesson to fit what your classroom is used to normally. We can't wait to hear how your children are reaching their friends and neighbors for Jesus.



## **Introduction Activity (5 minutes)**

“Going Above and Beyond”

### **Supplies Needed:**

- Paper
- Markers or Crayons
- Silver Tray
- Cups of water

**\*\***The whole point of this game is to demonstrate to the children what it looks like to go “above and beyond.”

Begin by inviting each child into the room. Once they have entered the room, help them to a chair. You can escort them across the room, pull out their chair for them, and ensure they have the right crayons/markers they desire. Ask them to color a picture of their favorite person in the whole world. While they are coloring, continuously check on them (while still greeting other children) and ensure they have everything they need.

Once most of the class has arrived, bring out a silver tray full of water glasses. Walk around and pass out a water glass to each child. This would be a great time to greet them as “sir” or “ma’am” and make sure you are doing everything to fully accommodate them. Hopefully, they begin to understand that you are acting differently.

**Say:** “I acted so silly during our coloring time today. Why do you think I did that? (Hopefully one child will say that it is because you love them.) I acted silly because I love you all so much, and I wanted to show that love to you by serving you. Today we are going to learn about a man who loved God so much that he served God by going above and beyond.”

## **Bible Lesson (8-10 minutes)—Cornelius (Acts 10)**

Encourage every child to grab a Bible and open it to Acts 10. Remind each student that the table of contents is in our Bible to help us find the right verse, so they can use that if they need help finding Acts.

**Tell the children:** “Today our story is about a man named Cornelius. Cornelius lived in the time right after Jesus had ascended to heaven. He lived in Caesarea, which is a Roman town right next to the Mediterranean Sea. Because he was an officer in the Roman army, most of the Jews in his time would have hated someone with his job. However, let’s read to see what the Bible has to say about him.”

**Read Acts 10: 1-2a together.**

"The Bible tells us that Cornelius was a devout man who feared God. Who knows what devout means? (Let a few kids answer.) Devout means to have a deep religious feeling or commitment. What does fearing God mean? Does that mean we are scared of God? (Let a few kids answer.) Fearing God means respecting Him and honoring Him. The Bible says that Cornelius was deeply religious and respected God. That means he sounds like a pretty great guy."

**Read Acts 10:2b together.**

"In addition to loving and respecting God, Cornelius did many charitable deeds for the Jewish people. Even though he was not Jewish, he still was very generous with his things. He gave much of what he had to the Jewish people and served them with his time and attention."

"God calls us all to be like Cornelius and give generously to those around us. Just like I served you above and beyond in our introductory activity today, we are called to serve those around us above and beyond our ability. Let's read our key passage together."

**Read 2 Corinthians 8:3 together.**

"I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, of their own accord."

**Say:** "The Corinthian church gave out of a sense of generosity more than they could even have imagined giving. God gave them generous hearts to love and serve those around them. We are called to do the same."

Take some time at the end of the lesson to pray together. If any child has a prayer request to share, allow that now. Make sure to encourage the children to pray for the Reach Texas offering. Ask that many people would be able to hear the good news of Jesus.

**Small Group Questions** (10 minutes)

1. What does it mean to be generous?
  - a. Being generous means giving above what is expected. Cornelius was very generous by giving to the Jewish people as they had a need.
2. What are some ways we can give to God?
  - a. We can give to God with our time, talents, and treasure. We give our time by serving those around us. We give our talents by using the gifts God has given us to bring others closer to Him. We use our treasure by tithing 10 percent of our finances to the church and giving to special offerings like the Reach Texas Offering. Help the children think about how they can give their time, talent, and treasure.
3. How did Cornelius demonstrate how to give to God?
  - a. Cornelius demonstrated how to give to God by doing charitable deeds for the Jewish people. These deeds would have included him sacrificing his time, talent, and treasure.

4. Why does God want us to give to Him?
  - a. God wants us to give to Him because He has given so much to us. God has blessed us in so many ways that He wants us to share that blessing with others. Help the children think about and list some of their blessings.
5. What is one way this week you can give to God?
  - a. Encourage children to think of one way they can give to God. This can include their time, talent, or treasure.

### **Application Activities**

“What are the ways we can give to God?”

### **Activity 1 - Money Race**

“God wants us to give financially.”

**Supplies Needed:** Paper bags (1 per team), play money

Divide the kids into two teams (or more teams if you have a lot of kids). Explain that the goal of the game is to have as much money as possible inside their team's bag when you call time. Stand in the middle of the room with a lot of play money (Monopoly money, fake coins, etc.). Begin throwing the money into the air and allow the kids to run and catch the money for their team. When you have thrown all the money, call “time.”

Have the kids count the money in their team's bag. Then, they will exchange their bags with the other team.

**Say:** “Why do you think you had to share your money with the other team? That's right. God calls us to be generous with those around us. We are called to give our money to those who need it. Now, we are going to practice counting out a tithe.”

Help each team figure out what 10 percent of their money is and count that out.

**Say:** “The Bible is very clear that all our money comes from God, and therefore we are called to give 10 percent back to Him. Does anyone know what the 10 percent we give to the church pays for? (Answers: electricity, supplies, building, missions, church staff, etc.) Today, the money we give will go the Reach Texas Offering. This offering helps those all over Texas hear about the good news of Jesus.”

## **Activity 2 - Make Cards**

"God wants us to give our time to those around us."

**Supplies Needed:** paper, markers, stickers

\*You may want to check with a nursing home in your area to ensure that someone will accept the cards the children create.

**Say:** "Remember we talked about God wanting us to bring joy to the lives of others? Today, we are going to make cards to bring joy to people who live in a nearby nursing home."

Pass out paper, crayons, and stickers to the children. Make sure they only use their first name on the cards. Encourage them to draw lots of pictures and write "Jesus loves you."

**Say:** "Y'all did an amazing job on these cards. They are going to bring so much joy to our friends in the nursing home. They are going to love them. Thank you for sharing your time to bring joy to those around us. You went above and beyond for others."

## **Activity 3 - Worship**

"God wants us to give by worshiping Him."

**Supplies Needed:** worship songs

Pick one or two worship songs that your kids like to sing. Have the media necessary to play the songs ready to go.

**Say:** "One of the ways we can give to God is by worshiping Him. When we worship God, we have to remember it is all about Him. Essentially, we are praying the song's words aloud to Him. This is not the time to talk with your neighbor or touch them. This is the time to focus on God."

Play the songs and lead the kids through worship.

**Say:** "God, we are so thankful that we get to worship you. You love us so much even when we don't understand why. We are glad we get to come to church to learn more about you. Help us this week to be more generous with others around us."

## **Activity 4 - Food Drive**

"God wants us to give to other people."

**Supplies Needed:** Food Bank or charity in your community that will accept donations and a supply list for each child.

**\*\***You will want to contact the charity in advance to see what might be on their immediate needs list. It could be canned food items, travel toiletries, or even snack items.

**Say:** “We are blessed with so many things. This week, I want to encourage you to go to the grocery store with your family and buy one thing off this list. You can pick any item you want. Next week, when you bring back the items, we will have a competition to see who will bring the most items. It will be the boys versus the girls.”

### **Activity 5 - 2 Corinthians 8:3**

“God wants us to give above and beyond.”

“I can testify that, according to their ability and even beyond their ability, of their own accord” (2 Corinthians 8:3).

**Supplies Needed:** posterboard, marker, beach ball

Write the key passage on a large sheet of butcher paper or a posterboard. Read the key passage together with your group. After reading through it a couple of times, have the group stand in a circle. Have them (gently) toss the beach ball around the circle and say one word of the key passage until they have said the whole key passage. Each time you say the whole key passage, cover (or erase) one of the words of the key passage from the board. Continue until you have erased all the words, and hopefully, the kids are familiar with the verse.

**Say:** “We learned today that God calls us to give above and beyond our ability. We are called to give everything we have to see more people come to know Jesus. The Reach Texas Offering helps people around the whole state of Texas hear about the love of Jesus.”