

# GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

**PRESCHOOL 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 that 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 them to participate. This missions offering goes above and beyond to make sure people hear about the gospel.

If your preschoolers 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 preschooler walks away from your lesson with the knowledge that Jesus is commanding them to give above and beyond. This 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 preschool about Jesus, invite them to church, be kind to someone who is sitting by themselves, etc. Help them 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 all about how your children are reaching their friends and neighbors for Jesus.



## Introduction Activity

**Supplies Needed:** Paper and Crayons

**Say:** “Today we are going to talk about someone who was very generous with his life. He gave above and beyond to everyone around him. Draw a picture of someone in your life who is generous. Maybe it’s your parents or someone who takes care of you. They sacrifice a lot of their time to help lead and serve you.”

Pass out paper and crayons to each preschooler.

## Bible Lesson

**Supplies Needed:** Bible, three images printed out (clock, money, someone serving another person)

Ask the preschoolers to bring their papers from the first activity to the story area. Explain to the preschoolers that you are going to tell them about a very generous person. Let every preschooler who wishes to share, share their picture from the introductory activity with the class.

**Say:** “You all drew such beautiful pictures about someone who was generous to you. Today, we are going to talk about a man named Cornelius. He was very generous with what God had given to him.”

Open your Bible and read Acts 10:1-2 aloud to the preschoolers.

**Say:** “Cornelius was Roman, but he still helped and served the Jewish people. These people did not look like him or treat him kindly, but he still served them. The Bible tells us that Cornelius feared the Lord which just means that He respected and believed in God. God calls all of us who love Him to serve Him. Just like Cornelius, God wants us to serve Him with our time, talent, and treasure.”

Show the preschoolers the three pictures.

**Say:** “We can serve God with our time by helping those around us. It might look like helping Mom and Dad with the chores or making a card for someone we love. We can serve God with our talent by using the skills God has given us to serve others. What are some skills you have that you can use to serve others? Those are great skills. Finally, we can serve God with our treasure by giving a portion of our money to those who need it, including the Reach Texas Offering.”

“Let’s read our key passage together.” Encourage any preschooler that brought their Bible to open it to the key passage (2 Corinthians 8:3).

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

“This verse reminds us that the Corinthian church gave above and beyond their ability. That is what God calls us to do.”

Finish your lesson with a time of prayer. Allow any preschooler who is interested in praying aloud to do so. Encourage them to pray for the Reach Texas offering because it will help tell people all over Texas about Jesus.

### **Application Activities**

**\*\***Use as many or as few of these as time and space allows.

## **Activity 1 - Bubble Blessings**

“God blessed us, so we can bless others.”

**Supplies Needed:** Bubbles

**Say:** “God has given us many blessings. We have so many things to be thankful for. What are some of the things you are thankful for? (Let a few kids answer—clothes, shoes, house, family, friends, church, pets, etc.). I am going to blow some bubbles and every time I blow bubbles, we are going to say something we are thankful for. Are you ready?”

Begin blowing bubbles and helping the kids say things they are thankful for.

**Say:** “Y’all have so many things to be thankful for. Let’s say a prayer to God and thank Him for everything He has given us.

**Prayer:** God, thank you so much for all our clothes, shoes, houses, families, food, love, Jesus, pets, and our church. We are so thankful you have blessed us with so much.”

## **Activity 2 - Joyful Rocks**

“God want us to be generous with the way we treat others.”

**Supplies Needed:** Medium sized rocks, paint, paintbrushes, smocks

**Say:** “God wants us to be generous about everything He has given us. He also wants us to be generous in the way we treat others. God wants us to bring joy to those around us. Does anyone know what joy means? That’s right. It is kind of like happiness. Today, we are going to create some joyful rocks to put around the outside of our church.”

Make sure to cover each child with a smock and then pass out the rocks, paint, and paintbrushes. Remind the kids that these rocks will bring joy to those around us. Make sure they use bright colors and happy images that bring joy.

**Say:** “Y’all did an amazing job with these joy rocks. I am going to leave them here on the counter in our classroom to dry this week, and next week we can go for a walk around the church and leave these rocks in places that will bring joy to others.”

### **Activity 3 - Make Cards**

“God wants us to be generous with our time.”

**Supplies Needed:** cards, crayons, stickers

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

**Say:** “Remember we talked about how God wants 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 preschoolers. Make sure they only use their first name on the cards. Encourage them to draw lots of pictures and write “Jesus loves you” if possible.

**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 4 - Share a Snack**

“God wants us to share with those around us.”

**Supplies Needed:** individually packaged snacks

**Say:** “God wants us to share what He has given us with others. That even includes our snacks at church. I am going to pass out a snack to each of you and then we are going to play a game, so don’t eat your snack until I say so.”

Pass out a snack to each child. Each time you give another command, they are going to exchange their snack with another friend in the class. The children won’t open their snack. They will pass their snack to someone else three times before opening and eating the snack they end up with.

**Say:** “Share your snack with someone. If you’re a boy, share your snack with another boy. If you’re a girl, share your snack with another girl.

**Say:** “Now share your snack with someone who is the same age as you (2, 3, or 4).”

**Say:** “Share with someone who is wearing the same color as you (blue, green, yellow, etc.). Great job sharing everyone.”

Ensure that every child has a snack and then let them know they can eat their snacks.

**Say:** “I am so proud of the way that you all shared your snacks with those around you. God has given us so many blessings, and He wants us to share those blessings with those around us. What are some of the things God has given you that you can share with others (food, clothes, old toys, etc.)?”

### **Activity 5 - Worship**

**Supplies Needed:**

- Streaming service or DVD copy of Yancy’s Little Praise Party (can be found on almost any streaming service, iTunes, or at [yancyministries.com](http://yancyministries.com))
- CD Player, DVD Player, or Speaker to play the music

Play “Gonna Serve” from Yancy’s Little Praise Party Album. Get preschoolers to stand up and move and get some of their wiggles out. A fun way to add simple motions is to walk in place when it says “gonna serve.”

**Say:** “Just like song says, God wants us to serve those around us. We can serve those around us by giving them gifts, helping them when they need help, and being kind with our words. Let’s remember to serve those around us this week.”