

## Leader Bible Study Kids

Have you ever tried to bake something delicious only to get to the very end and realize that you left out an ingredient or put in the wrong ingredient? If following a recipe, baking should be a fairly straightforward process. However, one wrong ingredient has the power to mess up the taste of the entire baked good! Scripture gives several lists with “ingredients” or markers of a healthy church. These “ingredients” include qualities such as: unity, faithfulness, sound doctrine, worship, prayer, and giving. Each is equally important in the making of a healthy church.

In 2 Corinthians 8:7, Paul writes to the Corinthians and commends their faithfulness, knowledge, and love. He also makes a point to encourage them to excel in their giving. Just like in baking, the church in Corinth had many good “spiritual ingredients” of the faith; however, it was missing grace-filled giving.

As you prepare for this year’s Reach Texas Offering, I encourage you to remember that when we give, we give as an act of worship first and foremost. We recognize that anything we have to give first belongs to the Lord. It was never our own to begin with. Secondly, when we give above and beyond as the Macedonians did (2 Corinthians 8:1-6), we remember that the Lord is our provider. He, Himself, is our daily bread! Giving leads to a constant state of dependence on Him, our Great Provider. As you lead the children in your ministry, remember that the church is called to be graceful givers. After all, the Lord has given us so very much, it motivates us to give back generously.

Be 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 the flow of your class time. We cannot wait to hear how your children are reaching their friends and neighbors for Jesus.

### **Introduction Activity (Younger):** “Tell Me Something Good” (10 minutes)

**Materials Needed:** paper, markers, or crayons

**Preparation:** Set a piece of paper and a variety of markers/crayons at every seat.

Welcome children to class by name. Instruct them to find a seat at the table and draw a picture of a good thing that happened this week. Share with them something good that happened to you this past week. Set a timer for three minutes as they draw/color. When the time is up, instruct children to share their good news with someone at a different table.

**Ask,** “Does anyone know what the word gospel means?” Give time for responses. Thank the children for answering.

**Say,** “The gospel means good news! When we read about the gospel or the good news in the Bible, it is talking about Jesus dying on the cross for our sins and then being raised from the dead so that we can have a relationship with God! The good news is that we can have a relationship with Him! When something good happens, we love to share it with other people. In the same way, we can share with those around us the best news of all... the truth that God loves us!”

### **Introduction Activity (Older):** “Numbers Matter” (10 minutes)

Welcome children to class by name. Instruct them to stand along the wall. Select a number of students that would be approximately 68% of your class to go stand along the wall.

**Say,** “There are approximately 28 million people in the state of Texas! That’s a lot of people, right?! Of that 28 million people, approximately 19 million do not have a relationship with Jesus Christ. When you came into class, I divided you up to try to give you a visual of that number. That is way over half of the population of Texas that has not recognized Jesus as their Savior and as their king. Today, our lesson is about how we can minister to the needs of those around us and share with them the good news of the gospel!”

**Ask,** “Does anyone know what the word gospel means?” Give time for responses. Thank the children for answering.

**Say,** “The gospel means good news! When we read about the gospel or the good news in the Bible, it is talking about Jesus dying on the cross for our sins and rising from the dead so that we can have a relationship with God! The good news is that we can have a relationship with Him!”

Instruct kids to go find someone and share something good that has happened to them this week.

“When something good happens, we love to share it with other people, in the same way we can share with those around us the best news of all... the truth that God loves us!”

### **Bible Story** (All Ages)

**Materials Needed:** Bibles for every child

Instruct children to turn in their Bibles to 2 Corinthians 8:1-7. Help children find the Scripture reference. Instruct kids to point to verse 7 in the Bible.

**Say,** “God’s Word is absolutely true all of the time. What we are going to read is a part of a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the church in Corinth.”

**Read aloud 2 Corinthians 8:7.**

**Say,** “Paul encouraged the Corinthians to be faithful in their giving because it honors the Lord. He told the Corinthians that they were doing a great job of having faith in God, knowing lots about God and love, but they could improve in their giving.”

**Ask,** “Why do you think it is important for us to give to missions?” Give time for answers.

**Say,** “When we give to missions, it helps to further the message of the gospel. In other words, the more that we give, the more people can be sent out to share the good news. It also reminds us that the gifts God has given us, such as our money, our time, and our effort, were given first to us by God. He is honored when we use those gifts to share His love with those around us!”

**Pray,** “Thank you, God, for the good news that you have given us. Please give us boldness to share the good news with those we come in contact with.”

### **Give Activity (All Ages):** “I Give, You Give, We Give!” (10 minutes)

**Materials Needed:** SBTC Reach Texas video (choose a video at [sbtexas.com/rtvideos](http://sbtexas.com/rtvideos)), two containers labeled boy and girl (to collect offerings with), Bibles

**Read aloud 2 Corinthians 8:5.**

**Say,** “In this verse, Paul is complimenting the church in Macedonia on their faithfulness in giving. He commends them for being loving and being obedient to the Lord and then for giving to missions. When we give faithfully, we are doing it as an act of worship to the Lord. There is no limit to what God can do in and through you!”

Instruct the children to give as they feel led. Encourage them to continue to bring their gifts throughout the week for this offering.

**Move Activity (Younger):** “Help Me, Help You!”

(Can be played for as long as necessary)

**Materials:** plastic bags, bandanas, plastic straws, scissors

**Instructions:** Prior to teaching, cut the plastic straws into different sizes placing the pieces in the plastic bags.

\*\*\*Note: Each pair of kids will need a bandana and a bag of straws.

Instruct kids to form groups of two to three. Give each group the supplies needed.

**Say,** “One student will be blindfolded while the others in the group are giving instructions to the person blindfolded. Your group will work together to put the straws in order from smallest to largest (or vice versa). The only person allowed to touch the straws is the person blindfolded. The first group to successfully put the straws in the correct order will win.” (Play for as long as necessary.) Close the activity by asking, “What made the game challenging?”

**Say,** “You had to work together as a team to successfully achieve the goal. In the same way, the Reach Texas Offering is used to unite churches in giving to missions, church plants, and other unique opportunities to spread the good news of the gospel.”

**Move Activity (Older):** “The Common Denominator” (15 Minutes)

**Materials:** copy paper, marker, tape, timer

**Instructions:** Number the pieces of paper from 1-4, hang papers in four different areas.

Number kids off into the four groups. Send each group to a different corner. Set a timer for five minutes. Instruct kids to find one thing they all have in common as a group. Encourage kids to discuss the common denominator between themselves until time expires. Repeat as necessary.

**Say,** “Sometimes, it can be easier to spot the differences in a group instead of what we all have in common. However, in the church, we all have one goal; that is to know God and make Him known. In fact, any church, in any town, state, country, and throughout the world that believes that Jesus Christ is Lord and follows what the Bible says, has that same goal! The Reach Texas Offering is important because it gives churches in Texas that are different sizes, in different towns, with all sorts of different people, the chance to work together to love God more and to make Him known!”

**Memorize:** “Together” (15 minutes)

**Materials Needed:** index cards, marker

**Preparation:** Write out Corinthians 8:7 using index cards.

Scramble the index cards up. Instruct children to work together to put the verse in order. Time children as they complete the activity. Encourage children to try to beat their times.

### **Closing Review Questions:**

1. What church did Paul commend for their giving?

**Answer:** the church in Macedonia

2. In what ways did Paul say that the church in Corinth was excelling?

**Answer:** faith, speech, knowledge, earnestness, love

3. What is one way that the Reach Texas Missions Offering uses the money donated to share the good news of Jesus?

**Answer:** disaster relief, mission trips, church plants

4. What is one way that you can share the Good News with those around you?

**Answer:** telling others about Jesus, meeting their needs, being kind

**Closing:** Say, “When we think of missionaries, it is easy to think of missionaries that go across the world to tell people about Jesus. Though that is one kind of missionary, did you know that you can be a missionary too? There are people that you see everyday that need to know the good news of the gospel! Ask God this week to show you one person that you can tell about the love of Jesus!”

Pray and dismiss.