

# Sharing Our Wealth

## UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** Be content with what God has given you and share his blessings with others.

**Scripture:** 1 Timothy 6:6-10

**Memory Verse:** For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. - 1 Timothy 6:10

## The Children's Sermon

Hey kids, today we're going to talk about something really important called Contentment and Generosity. Have you ever heard of a man named Paul? Well, Paul was a very wise man who wrote letters to help people understand how to live better lives. One of these letters was to a young friend named Timothy.

Paul told Timothy something very special. He said that we should be happy with what we have because God gives us everything we need. Think about it: when we were born, we didn't have toys or clothes; we came into the world with nothing. And when we leave this world, we can't take any of our stuff with us. So, it's important to be content with what we have right now.

Paul also said that wanting to be super rich can make people do bad things. They might lie, cheat, or hurt others to get more money. And even if they get lots of money, they won't be happy because they've lost their way and made their hearts sad. Paul wanted Timothy to teach everyone that being rich in money isn't as important as being rich in kindness and sharing.

Now, let's talk more about Contentment and Generosity. Contentment is when you feel happy and thankful for what you have, even if it's not a lot. It's like when you have a small toy, but you love it so much and have fun with it. You don't need a huge pile of toys to be happy because you're content with what you have.

Generosity is when you share what you have with others. It could be sharing your toys, your time, or even a smile. When you're generous, you help make other people happy, and that's a superpower! Being generous makes you feel good inside, too.

Imagine if you had a big, juicy apple and your friend didn't have any food. If you cut the apple in half and shared it, you'd both have something to eat, and you'd feel happy because you helped your friend. That's Generosity in action.

Contentment and Generosity go hand in hand. When we're content, we're happy with what we have, and it's easier for us to share with others. And when we share, we spread happiness and love around us, making the world a better place.

Paul's advice to Timothy wasn't just for them; it's for us too. He wants us to know that chasing after lots of money won't make us truly happy. What makes us happy is loving what we have and sharing it with others.

Now, I don't know how much the Tooth Fairy leaves under your pillow, but I do know that God will take care of us if we trust Him. And if God gives us more than we need, we shouldn't brag about it. Instead, we should share it and help others.

Let's think about ways we can show Contentment and Generosity. Maybe you have toys you don't play with anymore. You could give some to kids who don't have many toys. Or, if you have a big snack, you could share it with a friend who forgot theirs.

Remember, it's not about how much stuff we have; it's about how much love we share. Every time we choose to be content and generous, we're showing the world what it means to live a good and happy life, just like Paul taught Timothy.

Let's say a little prayer together: "Dear God, thank you for everything you give us. Help us to be happy with what we have and to share with others. Teach us to be content and generous every day. Amen."

So, kids, let's try to be like Paul and Timothy. Let's be happy with what we have and always look for ways to share with others. Contentment and Generosity can make our lives and the world around us so much better. Let's spread happiness and love wherever we go!

## Bible Memory Verse

**For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. - 1 Timothy 6:10**

You Will Need:

- Play money
- A large plant pot
- Soil or sand

Get Ready:

- Gather enough play money for each child to have several pieces.
- Fill the large plant pot with soil or sand to represent 'the root of all kinds of evil'.

Do This:

1. Start by discussing the memory verse, emphasizing how the love of money can lead us away from what's truly important. Ask the children why they think loving money too much might be a problem.
2. Give each child some play money and ask them to think about what good things they can do with money (helping others, giving to charity, etc.) and what negative effects loving money too much can have on their lives and their faith.
3. Have each child 'plant' their money in the soil or sand pot as a symbolic gesture of not letting the love of money take root in their lives. As they do this, encourage them to say a prayer or make a commitment to use money wisely and not let it control their actions or beliefs.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Paper and pens for each child
- A variety of small objects or pictures to represent worldly possessions (e.g., toy car, money, doll, picture of a house, etc.)
- A large bowl or basket
- A "treasure chest" or box labeled "God's Blessings"
- Bible verses from 1 Timothy 6:6-10 printed on individual slips of paper

Get Ready:

- Set up a table with the small objects or pictures spread out.

- Place the large bowl or basket in the center of the table.
- Have the "treasure chest" or box nearby but empty.
- Distribute the slips of paper with Bible verses around the table.

Do this:

1. **\*\*Introduction to Contentment\*\***: Begin by discussing what it means to be content and why it's important. Explain that contentment is being happy with what you have and not always wanting more. Ask the children if they can think of times when they wanted more than they had and how that made them feel.

2. **\*\*Bible Verse Exploration\*\***: Hand out the slips of paper with the Bible verses from 1 Timothy 6:6-10 to each child. Ask them to read the verses aloud, one by one, and discuss what each verse tells us about contentment and the dangers of wanting to be rich. Emphasize verse 6, "But godliness with contentment is great gain."

3. **\*\*Activity - Sorting Possessions\*\***: Invite the children to the table with the small objects or pictures. Explain that these items represent things people might want or think they need to be happy. Ask each child to choose an item they feel they would like to have and explain why. After everyone has chosen, discuss how these wants can sometimes lead to being discontent with what we already have.

4. **\*\*Learning to Let Go\*\***: Now, ask the children to place the items they chose into the large bowl or basket, symbolizing letting go of their desires for more. Explain that it's okay to have things and enjoy them, but we shouldn't let our happiness depend on them.

5. **\*\*Filling the Treasure Chest\*\***: Open the "treasure chest" or box and explain that true treasures are the blessings God gives us that aren't material things, like love, family, friends, and our relationship with Him. Ask the children to think of blessings in their lives and write them down on paper. Then, have them fold their papers and place them in the treasure chest. Share some of these blessings aloud, emphasizing that these are the things we should truly value and be content with.

6. **\*\*Reflection and Prayer\*\***: Conclude the activity with a moment of reflection on what was learned about contentment and the dangers of focusing too much on material possessions. Lead a prayer asking God to help each child find contentment in His blessings and to share those blessings with others. Encourage the children to keep the Bible verse slips as reminders of the day's lesson.

## Snack Activity: Contentment Cookies

You'll Need:

- 2 cups of flour
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1/2 cup of butter
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- Cookie cutters (heart and star shapes)
- Mixing bowl
- Rolling pin
- Baking sheets
- Parchment paper

Get Ready: Preheat your oven to 350°F (175°C) and line your baking sheets with parchment paper.

Do this:

1. In the mixing bowl, cream together the butter and sugar until smooth. Beat in the egg and vanilla. Gradually blend in the flour. Divide the dough into two halves.
2. On a floured surface, roll out one half of the dough to 1/4 inch thickness. Use the heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut out cookies, representing the love and contentment we should have with what God gives us. With the second half, use the star-shaped cutter to represent sharing His blessings with others.
3. Place cookies on the prepared baking sheets and bake for 8 to 10 minutes, or until golden. Let them cool on a wire rack. As you enjoy these cookies, discuss 1 Timothy 6:6-10 and reflect on being content with God's blessings and sharing them with others.

## Game Activity: Contentment Quest

You'll Need:

- A large open space (indoor or outdoor)
- Several small bags of coins (can be play money or chocolate coins)
- Printouts of 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- A bell or whistle
- A timer

Get Ready: Before the activity, hide the bags of coins around the play area. Make sure there are enough for each child to find at least one. Place printouts of 1 Timothy 6:6-10 in visible areas around the play area.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain that they are going on a Contentment Quest. Their mission is to find as many bags of coins as they can, but with a twist: they must also take time to read the verses from 1 Timothy 6:6-10 placed around the area.
2. When you say 'Go,' the children will start searching for the coins. Every time they find a bag, they must return to the starting point to read a verse of 1 Timothy 6:6-10 out loud before looking for more coins. This emphasizes the importance of contentment and the dangers of wanting to be rich.
3. After 10 minutes, or when all coins have been found, call everyone back with the bell or whistle. Discuss as a group what they learned about contentment and sharing God's blessings. Encourage them to share their coins with others who didn't find as many, teaching them the joy of sharing and being content with what they have.

## Craft Activity: Contentment Treasure Boxes

You'll Need:

- Small wooden or cardboard boxes (one per child)
- Paints and brushes
- Decorative items (stickers, glitter, sequins, etc.)
- Printed verses of 1 Timothy 6:6-10 on small pieces of paper
- Glue

Get Ready: Prepare a workspace with newspaper or a tablecloth to protect surfaces.

Pre-cut the verses of 1 Timothy 6:6-10 so they are ready to be glued.

Do this:

1. Start by discussing 1 Timothy 6:6-10 with the children. Emphasize the importance of being content with what we have and the dangers of wanting to be rich. Explain how we can be rich in good deeds by sharing what we have with others.



2. Give each child a box to decorate. Encourage them to paint and decorate their boxes in a way that represents what makes them feel content and thankful. While they work, engage them in conversation about the things they are grateful for.

3. Once the boxes are dry, have the children glue the printed scripture inside the lid of their box. Encourage them to place inside the box small notes or objects throughout the week that remind them of God's blessings and the importance of sharing with others. Conclude by reminding them that true contentment and wealth come from a loving heart and a life filled with good deeds.

## Prayer Activity: Contentment and Sharing Blessings

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed copy of 1 Timothy 6:6-10
- Blank cards or paper
- Pens, markers, and decorating supplies

Get Ready: Read through 1 Timothy 6:6-10 together and discuss what it means to be content and to avoid the love of money.

Do this:

1. Ask each student to reflect on what they are thankful for and write these items on the blank cards or paper. Encourage them to think beyond material possessions, considering friendships, talents, and experiences.
2. On the back of their card or paper, have them write a prayer asking God to help them find contentment in His blessings and to guide them in sharing with others.
3. Encourage the students to decorate their cards or papers as a reminder of their prayers. Conclude by sharing some of the prayers with the group, if students feel comfortable doing so, to foster a sense of community and shared purpose.