

DISCIPLESHIP | MATTERS

Giving: A Lesson for Children

Children are often marginalized, especially in matters of giving, for which they are largely dependent on adults. This activity teaches children about gifts that only they can give.

Explain that many important things to give don't cost a thing. Read the poem, illustrating it by pointing to individual children. ("Only you can give me *your* smile." "No one else can give me *your* wave!") Younger elementary children can memorize the poem and movements. Young children can do the motions while you read the poem. Allow the children to present the poem during worship or other church gathering.

There are gifts that I give that don't cost a thing. *[Hold out hands as if presenting a gift.]*

The smile on my face. *[Trace a smile on face with index fingers.]*

A song that I sing. *[Mime singing.]*

A wave to a friend. *[Wave.]*

A listening ear, too. *[Cup hand to ear.]*

A friendly hello to someone who's new. *[Turn and shake hands with person beside you.]*

God's love is yours. *[Point to someone else.]*

God's love is mine. *[Point to self.]*

This is the joy that in kindness we find. *[Raise hands in the air in celebration.]*

Workshop #107, "American Baptist Heritage," and #107E, "La Herencia De Los Bautistas Americanos," encourage consideration of the ways in which our distinctive heritage can shape contemporary church life. These workshops introduce key figures, historic milestones and historic Baptist emphases. Download at abhms.org > Resources & Publications > Workshops for Church Life and Leadership.



"The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children."
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Approximately 20,000 of the 400,000 children in the foster care system age out each year to face significant challenges. Emancipating youth face higher rates of quitting school, relying on public assistance and experiencing unwanted pregnancy, homelessness and incarceration than do youth from more traditional families. Individuals, families and communities are needed to become involved as foster parents, respite providers, volunteers, mentors or advocates. This situation provides a unique opportunity for local churches to step up and help fill gaps by hosting summer camps, after-school programs, vocational training or support groups and by providing advocacy for emancipating foster youth. For information and resources regarding National Foster Care Month in May, visit the Children's Bureau at childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth. For information on becoming a foster child advocate, visit CASA for Children at casaforchildren.org.



American Baptist Home Mission Societies

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Connect. Cultivate. Change.



Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

— Ephesians 4:32

DISCIPLESHIP | MATTERS is produced monthly by American Baptist Home Mission Societies. Download at no cost at abhms.org > Publications & Resources. For more information, contact Cassandra Carkuff Williams, ABHMS director of Discipleship Ministries, at cwilliams@abhms.org.

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.