

Bibles4Children™

Providing God's Word for the most receptive
and least reached in the world!



Teaching Children the Joy of Giving *by Phil Disney*

When we create an environment of generosity for our children, the more likely it will be for them to grow up and be generous adults.

Teaching kids to give and help others, especially other children, not only builds good habits of generosity and service, but also provides a sense of personal satisfaction and accomplishment. Children desire to be included — to belong. This supports a natural eagerness to give. It makes them feel “big” and part of a much larger community.

This “giving nature” is often demonstrated in a child’s desire to help. I’ll never forget those moments when my boys were little and would follow me around the yard with their little plastic lawn mower while I was cutting the grass, or when my daughter was “helping” her mother make a pie as she smashed out her little ball of play-dough. Giving offers kids the ability to help, but, unlike plastic tools and fake food, giving is real. Giving is a tangible way children can make a real difference.

When we create an environment of generosity for our children, the more likely it will be for them to grow up and be generous adults. Here are six practical ways we can teach our children the joy of giving and develop a generous spirit within them:

1 Present the Opportunity. Kids often don’t give because they have never been offered the opportunity. When children receive money, either as an allowance or for accomplishing a task, make

sure to share with them the principle of giving a portion of what they have to God. In our household, we practice giving at least one-tenth of our income or the “tithe” to our local church. We also give regularly to mission endeavors and special projects as they surface. We have made it a practice to present the same opportunities to our children. Like adults, kids love giving towards tangible causes and projects. Encourage your children to give both regularly and as special needs arise.

2 Set the Example. To this day, all of my children cheer for the Denver Broncos. I was born and grew up in Colorado. However, none of my children have ever lived in Colorado. There’s only one

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10-year-old **Rylan Brewer** gives to help Bibles-4-Children.

10-year-old Earns Extra Money to Provide Bibles

Last September Bibles-4-Children was officially launched with a kick-off meeting held at First Baptist Church of Woodstock, Georgia. The meeting included both adults and children. Ten-year-old Drake Howard was one of the children who attended the meeting with his parents Dan and Gayle Howard.

Prior to the meeting, according to his parents, Drake, prompted by the Holy Spirit, had been giving serious thought about providing Bibles for those who have never seen a Bible. During the meeting, to help illustrate the need to reach those who have never heard the Gospel or seen a Bible, Phil Disney conducted the *Bible Translation Game* involving both adults and children attendees. Drake was one of the participants. The game was just another confirmation that he should be involved in providing Bibles for children.

At the end of the meeting an opportunity was given for people to become a financial partners of Bibles-4-Children. Drake told his parents he would like to like to give \$10 a month to purchase Bibles. He told them he would do extra jobs around the house just to earn the extra funds.



Drake Howard



Drake leads Parker Bennett in the Bible Translation Game.

When asked by his parents why he wanted to purchase Bibles, he said, *"I was thinking about all the people who don't have Bibles. I just decided that I wanted to provide the one gift that could change a person's life. I know, as a little kid, that it would be hard for me to give those children Bibles. But I know Bibles-4-Children can do it."* When asked what was his motivation he said, *"So they can accept Jesus and go to Heaven."*

Drake earns his money to purchase Bibles by doing chores around the house like emptying the dishwasher, sweeping, mopping, vacuuming and helping with the laundry. Drake says, *"I just hope that I can bring more people to Christ by providing Scriptures to those who have never heard the Gospel."* And he is!

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reason why they follow the Broncos — their dad is a rabid fan. They are following my lead. If we want our children to be giving and caring, we must model it in front of them. Kids follow our example. Each time our children see us volunteer for service in our church and community, give to others, or drop money in the offering, it reinforces its importance. Giving cheerfully, is also an opportunity to visually show how rewarding it can be.


3 **Supply the Method.** Set up a charity box, a giving jar, or a coin bank in a prominent place in your home. Explain what they are giving towards and how the money, clothes, canned food, or other items they are donating will help. A prominently displayed container works as a visual reminder and shows progress. It also serves as motivation to fill it.

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VBS Kids Learn About the Need for God's Word and Help Raise Funds for Bibles!



Phil Disney shows the recently translated Boro New Testament to VBS children at Roswell United Methodist Church.



Jeff Eubanks gets pies in the face from the class who gave the most during Rock Springs Baptist Church's week of VBS.



VBS staff counting funds brought in by children.



VBS children playing the Bible Translation Game.

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4 Furnish the Resources. Once you have a container, provide your children with the ability to contribute. Offer them money for doing extra chores, or help

them sort through their closet and donate or sell their slightly used clothes or toys.

Perhaps they can make and sell Christmas ornaments or other small gifts. Whatever you do, be creative. Make the

process fun. You may also need to "prime the pump" by providing the initial gift for them. Once the container is full, take your children with you to deliver the goods. Then you can encourage them to start again.

5 Be Sacrificial. Help your children understand that it is important to give, even when it isn't easy. Show your children (*by your own example*) that they can delay getting a new toy, the latest iPhone or electronic gadget because a need has been presented.

Perhaps your family is supporting a missionary family or raising funds for schoolbooks for orphan children, a village water project, or Bibles. Send a message to your children that there are many things more important than having new stuff. Jesus sacrificed everything so that we could have eternal life. He set the example and asks all of His children to sacrifice so that others can know Him.

6 Make it Simple. It is easier for children to understand tangible, concrete projects. Children especially like helping other children. If they like reading Bible stories, select a project that provides Bibles, Bible storybooks and Gospel literature to other children.

If they have a favorite toy or doll, have children give to charities or organizations that provide toys for less fortunate kids. All children know they need to eat and drink. There are many projects designed to provide these resources to children around the globe. If the project is humanitarian, I recommend sending donations through an organization that meets both physical and spiritual needs. As Christ followers, our purpose is to share the Gospel of Christ and reach the nations with the message of salvation. Not just meet physical needs.

Children don't have to wait to contribute to the Kingdom. In fact, it is often the little things that make the biggest difference. In John 6:1–13, the Bible tells the story about Jesus using a little boy's lunch to feed over 5,000 people. The little boy gave what he had — five pieces of bread and two fish. It wasn't dramatic. It wasn't for public recognition (*most people in the crowd probably didn't even know where the food came from*). In fact, the disciples doubted if what this little boy offered was even useful. But Jesus, being Jesus, used what was available to feed the entire crowd!

Biblical scholars estimate between 15 and 20 thousand people were fed that day. Jesus gave a little boy the opportunity to do a very big thing. It was a day he would never forget! From then on, I'm confident he did not hesitate to give Jesus whatever He asked. Through the power of Jesus, anyone, especially children, can accomplish great things. We simply need to provide the opportunity.

***Bibles-4-Children** is a perfect opportunity for kids. Providing the Word of God and the Gospel to other children who have never had it presents your children with a simple opportunity to be involved in something that is making an eternal difference. Please consider making Bibes-4-Children a regular part of your giving and project support.*

If you would like more information on how you, your church, school, VBS, Sunday School, or organization can partner, or participate with Bibles-4-Children please call 866-807-7676 or visit our website at www.bibles4children.com.



The gift that 8-year-old Brooke Reagan and her 6-year-old brother, Ronnie, gave will provide six Bibles. Each Bible will influence at least 20 other children with the Gospel.



Bibles-4-Children Coin Banks are an excellent visual reminder for children learning to give.



P.O. Box 1302 • Holly Springs, GA 30142
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