

WEEK 3 LESSON GUIDE

HOW TO...

BIG IDEA

Jesus taught us how to share with others.

BIBLE

Giving: Matthew 6:1-4;
Psalm 20

LARGE GROUP TIME

Hello kids! Welcome to another week of *How To . . .*! We have another great lesson from Jesus today who will teach us *how to* do amazing things! Are all of you excited?

Let's kick things off with a fun how-to video!

[Before beginning the program each week, share a fun "How-To" video with the kids. [Here's a video](#) we like, but feel free to show something fun you've come across recently! It can be anything from a crafting or building project to a cool "life hack" using ordinary things.]

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)
 - "Light of the World" (Hillsong Kids)
 - "Blueprint" (Lifeway Kids Worship)
 - "Love Everybody" (North Point Kids)
 - "Freedom is Here" (Covenant Kids)

ACTIVITY | How To Play the Trumpet

- Today's story mentions "blasting trumpets" so we are going to get a quick tutorial on how to play the trumpet!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask someone who knows how to play the trumpet to come in as a cameo. Or, show [this video](#), or make it more comedic by having someone who doesn't know how to play try to teach the kids how to play. Then, ask for four volunteers to come up to the front. Have the audience close their eyes while one volunteer makes their best trumpet noise impression. Have the audience open their eyes and vote for who

they believe “blasted their trumpet.” Repeat this until each volunteer has had a chance to “blast their trumpet.” At the end, reveal who made what sound by having each volunteer redo their trumpet noise! Then invite all kids to stand up and join in on the jam session by moving their fingers like they’re playing the trumpet while making their own trumpet noise!

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Show preteens [this tutorial](#) instead.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Make sure to provide noise-canceling headphones for kids with auditory sensitivities. In addition to (or instead of) trying to make the mouth trumpet sounds, it might fun to play a trumpet sound clip and allow kids to act out playing the trumpet!

- That was, literally, a blast! We’ll have to wait and see how this plays into Jesus’ How To tutorial as we continue learning from Jesus’ teachings.

ACTIVITY | How to Gummy Bear Share

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids sit in a circle. Open up the bag of gummy bears. Explain that you’ve assigned an action and a conversation topic to each color bear. Use the suggestions below or create your own! Put on a glove, give a kid a random gummy bear, and have them answer the topic while completing the action. Repeat the process with the next kid, and so on. Feel free to go around the circle multiple times depending how big your group is. At the end, share more gummy bears and give kids time to enjoy eating them!

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Give preteens two or three gummy bears and give them a choice of doing the action or sharing about themselves. You can also increase the difficulty of the actions and questions to make it feel a little bit like a friendly “Truth or Dare” game.

✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** You could swap out the gummy bears with healthier options, depending on what suits your context best. Also, because all of these suggested actions are very movement-based, consider swapping these out with simpler actions (e.g., blink your eyes, wiggle your fingers, nod your head, stick out your tongue, etc.).

- We have a lot of gummy bears to share today! Not only are we going to share gummy bears, but we’re going to take turns sharing something about ourselves, too!
 - **Red:** Hop on one leg, and tell us your favorite color.
 - **Orange:** Pat your head and rub your belly, and tell us your favorite food.
 - **Yellow:** Spin around, and tell us your favorite game.
 - **Green:** Run in place, and tell us your favorite animal.
 - **White:** Do arm circles, and tell us your favorite TV show.

QUESTION | Why is it important that we share with others?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Tell a very short story about something you loved playing with when you were a kid and how much pain it caused when you were asked to share it with someone. Invite the kids to group up and talk about some things they love playing with or something they love to eat that they’d find difficult to share. For older kids it might be something they love wearing like a new hoodie or t-shirt from a store they really love.
- **Why is it sometimes challenging to share what we have?**
- We may not feel like sharing all the time, so let’s find out what Jesus has to say about sharing in our Bible story today!

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 6:1-4 (Giving)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Each week for the Bible story, set up your space with a table, tablecloth, and stools. Revamp a used rectangular box to look like a [subscribe button](#), and place it in your teaching area. For this week's story from Matthew 6:1-4, you'll need a toy trumpet, a bottle of water, and fake money. Ask a volunteer to play Matthew. Wear the "Howie" and "Casey" name tags if using them.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Dive deeper into the text and talk to preteens about pride as it relates to doing good and helping others. Talk with kids about ways in which they've tried to get acknowledged and how we can be okay with not always getting recognition. Preteens might be developing a greater awareness of the world around them and want to start making a difference, so emphasize that this is a both/and, not an either/or. Jesus does call us to share and help others, but he calls us to do it in a way that isn't about us getting attention for it.

- **Howie:** Hello and welcome everyone to another episode of *How To*, the show where we learn from the best teacher, Jesus, to teach us *how* to live our lives the right way! Today our special guest is a friend named Casey! Hey, Casey!
- **Casey:** Hey, Howie! So excited to be here!
- **Howie:** We are too! Now let's get right down to it! Rumor has it you were there for some of Jesus' teachings that Matthew wrote about in the Bible, famously known as the Sermon on the Mount.
- **Casey:** I sure was! That was where I learned how to live my life the right way!
- **Howie:** Oh, please share more!
- **Casey:** Well one thing I remember is that Jesus taught us not to be so loud.
- **Howie:** [Plays with toy trumpet then stops abruptly] Not be loud? [Whispers] So we should all talk really softly like this?
- **Casey:** No I mean, whenever I did anything good, I would always make a big deal out of it. If I did something nice or helped someone, I'd make sure everyone around saw what I did.
- **Howie:** Hm. I do that, too, sometimes. What's wrong with that?
- **Casey:** There's nothing wrong with doing good things but if I'm being honest, I think I did it more because I liked the attention. I liked how other people would make me feel like I was more important than others. But that's all changed now.
- **Howie:** Really? How?
- **Casey:** Well it was all because of Jesus! He taught me how to not be so loud and share with others in a different way! Instead of showing off what I've done, I can try doing it quietly. It makes sharing what I have with others a whole lot more special.
- **Howie:** Right, because if you're doing good things, like giving to people in need or sharing what you have with others, only because you want recognition, then you're not really doing it for the right reasons. I suppose God wants us to give only because we really want to, and not for any kind of outward prize.
- **Casey:** Exactly. Jesus even said, "Do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." [Holds out one hand at a time while hiding the other one behind their back.] I don't think Jesus meant we should do everything with one hand, but it was a cool way of reminding us that we don't need people to applaud us for doing the right thing . . . 'cause [claps hands together] that requires two hands! [Casey slips out quietly as Howie begins talking.]

- **Howie:** That makes so much sense! That is definitely a new how-to for us all. This conversation was so exciting to me that it made me thirsty . . . but I left my wallet at home! Oh well. Thanks for dropping by and, sharing with us. *[Looks around and sees that guest has slipped out quietly. But sees that a bottle of water and some money is on the table]* Oh wow, Casey is really practicing what they learned about not trying to get recognized for being a giving person! Let's give Casey a round of applause anyway!

BIG IDEA | Jesus taught us how to share with others.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the piñata from Week 1 and hang it up in your ministry space. Write the Big Idea on a piece of paper, fold it up, and attach it to a piece of string. Then tape the paper to the back of the piñata so kids can't see it, but let the string hang down. When it's time for the reveal, yank on the string attached to the paper, so that the paper drops. Allow a volunteer to retrieve it and read it aloud. (You'll use the piñata the intended way in Week 4.)
- Today's Big Idea will tell us the How-To of the day! I wonder what it could be?
- **Jesus taught us how to share with others.**

VIDEO | How To . . . , Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

ACTIVITY | How to Share Secretly

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of paper OR a crayon. Show them a picture of [a trumpet](#), and task kids with drawing a trumpet in less than three minutes! Let kids know the mission is to draw this picture on a piece of paper with a crayon. No matter how it gets done, every single person must have their own drawing. Allow kids to look around and see how they can help their neighbor out (e.g., ripping off a piece of paper, sharing or breaking their crayon, drawing a copy for their friend), but they have to try to help without letting the recipient know who helped them. Let kids know everyone wins only when each kid has their own crayon trumpet drawing under the time limit. If you see kids struggling, quickly give out hints to steer them in the right direction so everyone can complete the activity.
- You all had to think quickly! So many of you decided to share with someone near you and everyone was able to finish their trumpet drawing!
- God loves it when we share what we've been given and help provide others with things they might need. **Jesus taught us how to share with others**, and all of you put that into practice already!

ACTIVITY | How to Share Words

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out Scrabble or Banagram tiles so that each kid has one letter. (Have multiples of letters available, especially of vowels, if you have a larger group.) Have kids split up into teams and try to make as many words as possible with the letters they have. Then, have them write what letters they would like on a dry erase board. Have one team member pick up the letters they're not using and walk around the room, while everyone else puts their head down. They have to try to give away as many of their letters to the other teams who need them while no one is looking. When the minute is up, have everyone return to their teams, and everyone can put their heads up to see what new letters they got from their anonymous givers!
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** You may have kids who have difficulty with letter identification and may not know their letters independently. Consider having kids play this with a peer or a leader. Give each partner a handful of letter tiles. Take turns saying a word they would like to make. Have them pull from both their stash to find the letters to make the word. Have the partner help kids with special needs identify the letters needed by saying them aloud and pointing to them.

- The letter that you are holding is your team and no one else's! But, if you choose to, you can share your letter with other people and create a word together!
- If you choose to keep your letter to yourself you get 100 points! But if you choose to share, your points can add together and be multiplied by 10!
- **Did the other teams share any letters that you needed to create new words?** Because each team anonymously shared letter tiles with the other teams, you were all able to create more words and have more fun!
- **Jesus taught us how to share with others** and it's in a way that people wouldn't expect. We want people to thank us and give us compliments for doing something good like sharing. But Jesus shows us that it doesn't matter whether or not other people notice. God notices and sees our hearts, so that's better than any reward we could get!

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 20

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Psalm 20 aloud for the kids.*
- Sometimes we might not know how we can share with others. We're kids . . . we don't have a lot of money and everything we do has to be approved by grownups.
- But one way to share with others that won't cost us anything is to encourage them – that means to offer kind and uplifting words.
- How is that sharing you ask?
- Encouraging someone without expecting anything in return is just as valuable as helping out in other ways.
- Check out Psalm 20:1-5. All of these things that the psalmist is saying are prayers of blessings for someone else. Turn to someone next to you and say the following after me to them:
 - I hope God hears your prayers.
 - I hope you get all the help you need.
 - I hope God sees all the ways you serve.
 - I hope God gives you the very best.
 - I hope we get to celebrate good news together.
- And maybe the person you are encouraging doesn't know God. That's okay! Now you have one more thing you can share with them.
 - You can tell them about verse 7 and about how people tend to trust lots of things. They like the good life and having all the finest things.
 - Maybe that's why they like it when people compliment them and give them praise for being good people. But none of those things are as great as our God. And you can do all the good things you want, but it's more important to know who God is!
- **Jesus taught us how to share with others**, and we can start by encouraging our friends and leading them to God.

NOW WHAT? *What does God want us to do about it?*

REFLECTION | How to Find Things to Share

- **Have you ever wondered about what we can share with others?**
- Start by looking at what you have. You have a place to live, food to eat, clothes to wear, toys to play with, things to learn, people who take care of you.
 - **What else can you think of?**
 - **Now, how can you share any one of these things with someone else?**

- Next let's think about your interests, your gifts . . . you know, the things you are naturally good at. We are all born with these things!
 - **Can you name at least one ability God has given you?**
 - **What can you do with this ability to help someone else?**
- Practice thanking God often for all of these things and remember that what God wants most of all is for us to think of others and not just ourselves.
- **Jesus taught us how to share with others.** And, when it feels tough sharing things you love with others, remember that God shared Jesus with you, and Jesus shared everything he had for us.

RESPONSE | How to Share with Everyone

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Split kids into groups and assign them one of four categories: family, friends, teachers, and community. Within their groups, encourage kids to brainstorm things they can share with that group of people and work together to create a "How To Tutorial" (short skit) they can perform that will teach everyone how to share with others. Afterward, encourage kids to pair up and share something they can see themselves sharing with people from each group.
- **Jesus taught us how to share with others,** especially how we can share to give joy to God, and not necessarily to get attention from people. These were all excellent tutorials that you've made to show how we can share with the different people in our lives: family, friends, teachers, and people you meet in your community!
- **After watching these "tutorials," what is something you can see yourself sharing with people from each group?**
- God sees how we share with all kinds of people, and it makes God so happy! I think that could be the best reason ever to share with others!

MEMORY VERSE | John 13:15 (NIV)

- **"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Recruit an adult volunteer or two to lead kids in learning how to memorize this month's memory verse. You can let them choose from a list such as [this](#), have them make up their own, or assign them a memorization method. Provide them time to prepare and the materials needed to carry it out.
- **(Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs – a combination of SEE and ASL – available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/John13-15.)**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for Jesus who taught us that we can give and share without getting anything in return. You showed us that it's better for us to do good things for the right reasons rather than get recognition. Thank you for sharing Jesus with us who always guides us on how to live the way you want us to. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Which way of giving and doing good deeds was Jesus warning people not to do?**
- **Read Matthew 6:2. What happens when people do good but then "announce it with trumpets"? What reward is Jesus talking about?**
- **What do you think it means to "not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing"?**

- Read Psalm 20:7. What would be a modern-day version of the “chariots” and “horses” people trust instead of God?
- Why do you think it is so important that we share with others? Why is our motive for sharing also important?
- What is the hardest thing for you to share?
- How do you feel when someone shares with you?

ACTIVITY | My Sharing Plan

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Distribute one container and a My Sharing Plan card to each kid. Encourage them to color their card, then use the washi tape to adhere it to their container. They can use the foam stickers to further decorate. Pass out four pieces of yellow construction paper and four pieces of green construction paper. On the yellow paper, invite kids to draw pictures of things they can share with others, such as a food or a toy. On the green paper, invite kids to draw four different people such as a family member, a friend, a stranger, or a teacher. Have kids fold their pictures and place them inside their container.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Have preteens create a visual habit tracker so they can keep track of their sharing habits. Remind them that this is not for them to exercise bragging rights but for them to see in what ways they've been giving of themselves and in what ways they can improve. Check out sites like [this one](#) to find a printable that works for you.*
- To come up with a sharing plan this week, you will take out one piece of yellow paper and one piece of green paper. Then you need to come up with an idea on how you might share the thing on the yellow paper with the person you drew on the green paper.
- When you take your container home today, place it somewhere that is easy to find. Is that on a window sill or maybe even on your bedside table? Next week tell us all about your experience of what you did to remember that **Jesus taught us how to share with others.**