

Sunday School Lesson, March 15, 2026

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Lesson—Giving Generously¹

Text: Deuteronomy 15:4-11; Matthew 25:42-45

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Compare God's definition of economic justice with that of a 21st-century Western perspective.
2. Discover the joy of giving selflessly, without expecting anything in return.
3. Develop and implement a strategy to address a specific injustice within our community.

Why This Lesson Matters: At times, we may experience doubts or hesitation about helping those who seek our assistance. The passages from Deuteronomy and Matthew 25 reveal God's command to give generously to those in need.

Key Verse: *For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land. Deuteronomy 15:11, KJV).*

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson (from the Townsend Commentary)

1. Introduction
2. Easing the Burden of Poverty Should Be a Human Endeavor (Deuteronomy 15:4-6)
3. Generosity Makes Room for More (vv. 7-11)
4. When You Ignored the Least of These You Ignored Christ (Matthew 25:42-45)

III. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

The book of Deuteronomy reaffirms the law given by Moses. As the Israelites traveled through the wilderness, they learned how to live together as a community. Through a series of signs and wonders, God poured out blessings on his people, delivering them from slavery, through the wilderness, to the land he had promised their ancestors. God's design was that his people would remember their history and share his blessings since all possessions belong to him.

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnbc.com

Jesus, as the new Moses and new lawgiver, continued this call to generosity. But he tied it directly to himself. The idea that the creator of all identified with the poor was striking. A messianic king might be expected to have everything at his command, yet Jesus showed that poverty does not separate one from God. What separates us from God is the refusal to care for sisters and brothers in need.

IV. *Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson*

Joshua: A faithful spy and warrior who, 40 years earlier, encouraged Israel to entertain him. He was chosen by God to succeed Moses and lead the people into the promised land.

Moses: Hebrew leader and prophet who led Israel out of Egypt and through the wilderness period, renowned for his faith, he is called “a friend of God.”

V. *Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)*

<i>Bless</i>	<i>Clothe(d)</i>	<i>Heart</i>	<i>Inheritance</i>
<i>Obey</i>	<i>Observe</i>		

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?)

Imagine how our approach to giving would transform if we fully embraced the idea that in every person in need, we encounter Christ himself. How would that belief reshape our compassion, our generosity, and our actions? Stop

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*