

September 16-22 2 Corinthians 8-13

"GOD LOVETH A CHEERFUL GIVER"

- Muscleman Challenge - (from *The Ensign* Come Follow Me Family Study Fun <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/2019/09/family-study-fun?lang=eng>)
 - Paul wrote of “a thorn in the flesh” (2 Corinthians 12:7) to describe challenges and personal weaknesses. These challenges can weigh us down. With the Savior’s grace, however, we can find strength.
 - Gather some heavy objects (personal challenges).
 - Give each family member one or more heavy objects to carry.
 - Make these “challenges” even more challenging by completing tasks while holding them (for example, making a sandwich, folding clothes, dancing).
 - Try the same activity again, but this time ask someone to help you with the heavy objects.
 - **Discussion:** What was difficult about carrying the objects alone? How does Christ lighten our burden? What are some trials or challenges that we’ve experienced as a family? When have we been strengthened by the Savior’s grace? (see Ether 12:27).
- I should ‘examine’ my faithfulness in the gospel of Jesus Christ - 2 Corinthians 13:3 says “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith.” Review the attributes of Christ from last week’s lesson. Remind them that nobody’s perfect right now, but we should be trying to be more like Christ and have faith, hope, charity, knowledge, patience, humility, diligence, virtue, and obedience. Read/summarize/discuss Moroni 10:32-33 and remind them that Christ can help us find strength in our weaknesses.
 - Read/discuss story from *The Friend* about when Dallin H. Oaks had faith even after his father died https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/shared/content/images/magazines/friend/2017/01/january-2017-friend-magazine-mormon_1856420.pdf. Do you think it was hard for him to have faith even when his dad wasn’t healed like they wanted him to be? How can we have strong faith like he did?
 - The manual suggests pondering what you can eliminate from your life that will help you focus on Christ. As a family, brainstorm things we might need to do to increase our faith in Christ and focus more on Him.
- Cheerful Giver- Do you think Jesus Christ is mad when He has to help us? (no). What kind of attitude do you think He has when He helps others? What kind of attitude should we have when we help others? Read 2 Corinthians 9:7, and tell them to listen carefully to what kind of attitude we should have when we serve others (cheerful). Act out what it would be like to give “grudgingly.”
 - Pictures: Show pictures below and have them tell you which kids are helping cheerfully and which are doing it grudgingly. Are we happier when we do things cheerfully or grudgingly?
 - Song: Listen to “When We’re Helping” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZhDpuWmc4A> . Have everyone sing it all together cheerfully. Then let everyone take turns singing it with different emotions/attitudes (sad, tired, angry, scared, etc.) and see if the other people can guess what emotion they’re using. They can also choose to say Father/sister/brother/etc. instead of Mother on the line that says “And we like to help Mother.” Then sing it all together cheerfully again and remind them that Heavenly Father wants us to help others gladly. (idea from manual).
 - Story: Read/discuss “Cookies for Charlie” from *The Friend* <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/friend/2011/07/cookies-for-charlie?lang=eng>
- The Old Shoemaker Video- (when we serve others, we’re serving the Lord) Watch/discuss video from the church’s website: <https://www.mormonchannel.org/watch/collection/kids/the-old-shoemaker-1> . Tell them to watch carefully for when the Savior visits the man. After the video, discuss what the scriptures mean by

“inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” What kind of attitude would we have if we were serving the Savior? Read/discuss/summarize Alma 34:27-29.

- Circle Game: Everyone sit in a circle. Take turns naming one person we could serve and what we could do to serve them. See how long you can keep ideas going around the circle. Remind them that serving each of these people is like serving the Lord.
5. Cookie Service Game - Print up and play game from this link to talk about specific ways we can serve others <http://fashionsbylynda.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Service-cookie-game2.pdf>
 6. Secret Service: Print up secret service badges and the “Who I Will Serve” coloring sheet from here <https://www.theredcrystal.org/post/come-follow-me-sept-16-22-god-loveth-a-cheerful-giver>. Brainstorm people we could serve (family, friends, or someone from <https://www.justserve.org/>). Have them color their plan of what they’ll do for that person on the coloring sheet and then make sure they do it sometime this week.
 - Cheerful Giver Heart Chart: Read the quote at the bottom of the chart and talk about how the Lord cares more about how nice and giving our hearts are than how smart or strong we are. Hang the chart up somewhere it can be seen throughout the week. Each time they cheerfully perform an act of service, they can color in one bump on the heart. Place the secret service badges by the chart (we’ll probably put them on the fridge with magnets) and tell them that they can only wear these badges whenever they’re doing acts of service this week. Brainstorm some specific things they could do and remind them throughout the week (make sister’s bed, help do dishes, give a hug, draw a picture for someone, say something nice, help clean up someone else’s toys, etc.)
 7. Easy Homemade Oreos – Make these to go along with the cookie service game <https://www.sixsistersstuff.com/recipe/easy-homemade-oreos-recipe/> . Read/discuss the following quote: “A person (can) not give a crust to the Lord without receiving a loaf in return” (L. Tom Perry “The Law of the Fast”). Give some plates of these cookies to neighbors and talk about how even though it’s hard to give away some of our cookies, the blessings the Lord gives us for giving our own possessions/time/talents are much bigger than the things we give away. Discuss thought from manual: “Are our sacrifices expressions of love? After all, it’s love that makes a giver cheerful.”

Additional Ideas:

- Examples of service from prophets matching game <http://courtneyaitken.blogspot.com/2013/08/primary-place-examples-of-service.html>
- Lots of other great ideas <https://www.theredcrystal.org/post/come-follow-me-sept-16-22-god-loveth-a-cheerful-giver>
- Another good quote about service: Dieter F. Uchtdorf “...While it is important to have our thoughts inclined toward heaven, we miss the essence of our religion if our hands are not also inclined toward our fellowman...”

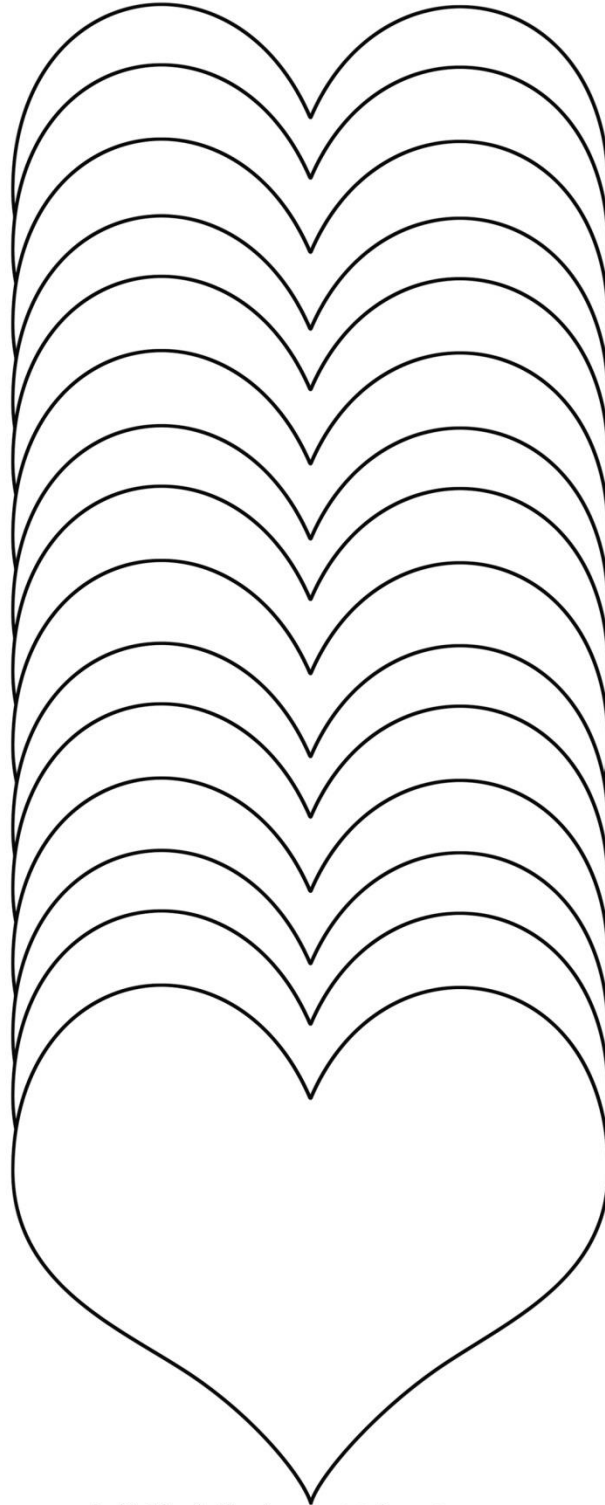
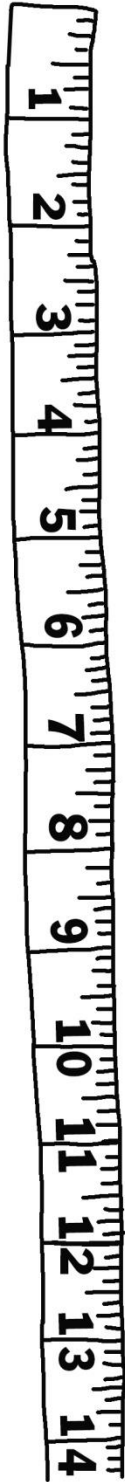
Cheerful Giver Pictures:



Cheerful Giver Heart Chart: Color in one bump on the heart for each act of service cheerfully done.

“God **Loveth** a Cheerful Giver.”

2 COR 9:7



“When the Lord measures an individual, He does not take a tape measure around the person’s head to determine his mental capacity, nor his chest to determine his manliness, but He measures the heart as an indicator of the person’s capacity and potential to bless other.”

Elder Marvin J. Ashton