

LARGE GROUP TIME SERIES

WEEK 1: "PLENTY TO SHARE"

Ready?

- Bring a huge amount of popcorn to club. You can buy bags at a party or grocery store or make your own, but either way you need a lot – enough for all the kids in your club and then some. Bring containers for each child to have some of the popcorn. (Many stores sell movie theater-style bags or cups.) And speaking of popcorn, you do need to be aware of any food allergies or dietary restrictions of the kids in your club for this and every other club night. While it's a lot of work to collect this information and plan around it, the investment in kids' safety and parents' peace of mind is worthwhile!
- Before club, pick a clubber who is outgoing and willing to help you with the lesson. Tell the clubber that when you say the sentence beginning with "I decided to bring it to club ..." (**bold underlined** below), you want him or her to raise a hand and ask for some popcorn.

Set ...

- Popcorn plays a part in this lesson, but don't let the popcorn distract from the main point – that we have something (the gospel of God's grace) that we can and should share abundantly.
- Keep in mind that this will be the first time your clubbers hear about the Great ShakeUP. First impressions are powerful, so make sure you explain and show excitement about the event right from the start.

Go!

I love popcorn! I love watching the bag puff up when I pop it in the microwave. I love the buttery, salty smell of it as I open the bag. I love eating it when I read and when I watch TV. I eat huge bowls of it every chance I get. In fact, just last night I ate a bowl this big (*hold out your arms to show how much you ate*). Sometimes I even think I'd like to eat it in bed!

But today I made (or bought) more popcorn than even I can eat. (*Pull out two or three huge bags of popcorn. Reach into one of them with a cup or bag and eat an occasional piece as you talk.*)

When I first realized how much popcorn I had, I got really excited. I had so much I could eat it for lunch and I could eat it for supper and I could eat it for a bedtime snack. I could even have some for breakfast!



But even though I never want to quit eating popcorn, I started thinking about how much other people might like popcorn too. I gave some to my family, and they ate and ate and ate, and they liked it just like I do. But there was still a whole bunch left over. I realized that I should share the good things I have. [I decided to bring it to club and see if there was anybody here who might want some.](#)

(Reach into the bag of popcorn with a cup, fill it with popcorn and hand it to the clubber who asks for some. The clubber should then take a handful and eat it and comment on how good it is. Then get another cup and hand it to the same clubber. Do this over and over. After you have given the clubber three or four cups, he or she should say, "Wait. This popcorn is really good. But I have all I can eat right now. I want to share it with others." As this clubber hands out the popcorn to all the other kids, keep handing popcorn to him or her. The point you are illustrating is that you and the clubber are giving out of your abundance. You have a huge amount of a good thing and you want to share it with others.)

All this popcorn reminds me of something. If you have trusted Christ as your Savior, you were given the gift of God's grace. That means the penalty, or punishment, of sin is forgiven and that we are saved forever, that we have the Holy Spirit living inside of us, that we can actually talk to God, and that we will have a perfect home in a perfect heaven forever. That's a HUGE amount of good things! And no matter how much or how often we enjoy the good things God has given us, we will never run out. We have an endless supply.

When we first trust Christ as our Savior, sometimes it takes us a while to understand what a great gift God has given us. We enjoy knowing that the Holy Spirit is with us all the time, helping us make right decisions. We feel great knowing that we can talk to God in prayer anytime we want. And we just love the thought that even though our bodies on earth die, we will get new, perfect bodies and live forever and ever with God in an awesome place called heaven.

But after awhile, we probably start thinking that our families and close friends might enjoy God's gift too. We think about sharing it with others. We can tell them about all the great things we have because we have trusted Christ, and ask them if they want those things that we have. And even though my popcorn will eventually run out, God's gift NEVER runs out. No matter how much I share it with others, I'll have just as much as I always did ... and I'll always have plenty to share.

In fact, when I tell others what God has done for me that makes me God's ambassador. An ambassador is somebody who takes my place when I'm not able to be somewhere. For example, if I was sick today, I would ask (*name another leader*) to take my place and talk to you tonight. He (or she) would be my ambassador. When we tell others about the Lord, we are serving as His ambassadors. We get to help God with His plans! How amazing is that! It's a whole other gift we get. So the more we share, the more gifts God gives us.



We don't want to keep all of God's gifts to ourselves. We want to tell our friends and families. But we don't want to stop there, either. Just like *(name the clubber who helped you)* and I shared our popcorn tonight, we all should be sharing God's gifts with everyone we can!

Next week, we're going to talk to you about something called **Pass the SALT**. Just like we passed around the salty popcorn tonight, next week we will talk about passing around God's good news to friends by inviting them to Awana. Then, three weeks from now, we will do something called **the Great ShakeUP**. It will be an awesome Awana night where we see how many new kids we can get to come to club – kids who don't know about God's good gifts to us. We want a huge crowd to share this good news with because – even better than my popcorn tonight – we know that God's gift is meant to be shared ... and it will never run out!

(Close in prayer, thanking God for His gift of salvation through Jesus Christ and for giving us the privilege of telling others about it.)