Hello, boys and girls! Did you know that there are animals in nature that can teach us beautiful lessons? Today I want to tell you about the golden lion tamarin monkey, but don’t be confused! It’s not related to the lion!

(Show a picture, video, or toy of a golden lion tamarin monkey)

Look at this example of the golden lion tamarin monkey that I have here. Isn’t it fascinating? These monkeys live in the forests of Brazil and are known for their golden mane. They’re small, only weighing a little over one pound (approximately 500 grams).

(Allow the children to hold an object that weighs about one pound/half a kilo.)

Now, let me tell you something amazing about golden lion tamarin monkeys: besides being very agile and strong, they are excellent helpers. These monkeys live in families most of the time. Other species of monkeys also live in families or troops. When a golden lion tamarin baby is born, it is very tiny and fragile! It is breastfed by the mother monkey, but other family members, especially the males, help to protect the newborn. Other family members also help watch over the baby and carry it around.

There is a verse in the Bible that teaches us about the importance of helping others, especially those who need it most. In Acts 20:35 it says: “I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

Many times, we only want to help those who can do us a favor later or who are our friends. But God expects us to become more and more like Jesus, and in the verse we read, Jesus
says it is better to give than to receive. When Jesus was here on this earth, He helped people who couldn’t help themselves. They were weak, sick, blind... people that nobody wanted to talk to. Jesus knew that those people couldn’t do anything for Him. And that’s exactly why He helped them, to show them how much He loved them. Do you remember any stories of when Jesus helped others? *(If time allows, listen to some responses).*

God expects us to help our neighbor with joy, especially those who cannot give us anything in return for our help. Our reward is the joy of being like Jesus. If we ask Him, God will always help us to do that. This is a prayer that He delights in answering. God wants His children to be like Jesus. So, I want to challenge you this afternoon to choose a friend who hasn’t been to church in a while, someone who is sick, or a sad person, and make them a drawing, write them a letter, call on the telephone, or send a message to let them know that they are special, not only to you but also to God.

Shall we pray? “Dear God, help us to be like the golden lion tamarin monkeys, always ready to help others. May we find more happiness in giving than in receiving, as Jesus taught us. In Jesus’s name. Amen.”