



OCTOBER THEME

**USE IT OR
LOSE IT**

Don't Waste What You've Got

BIBLE STORY

PSALM 24:1

God's World | The Earth Belongs to the Lord

BOTTOM LINE

Remember, everything belongs to God

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much."

Luke 16:10a, NIV

LIFE APP

Stewardship | Taking care of what you have because it all belongs to God

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **STEWARDSHIP** and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

This WEEK: Key Question—How can you treat everything like it belongs to God? It's hard for anyone to refocus how they think about their stuff. This is especially true for kids. We hope to guide kids through the process of realizing that what they have is a gift on loan to us from God. Because of that, how we take care of what have matters. We want kids to walk away with a plan for how they will treat what they have like it belongs to God—because it does!

That's why we start the month with something **David** wrote in **Psalm 24:1**, "*The earth belongs to the Lord. And so does everything in it. The world belongs to him. And so do all those who live in it,*" (NirV). What David wrote at the start of this Psalm is an important reminder. As we head into a month talking about stewardship, we want kids to focus on the Creator and how everything big and small, seen and unseen, belongs to God.

Bottom Line: Remember, everything belongs to the Lord. Kids have an easy time claiming what's theirs. One of the first words a child learns is "mine!" We want kids to understand that what they have is actually on loan to us. Remembering that everything belongs to God is the first step in choosing to use what we have wisely, because what we have belongs to God.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to help them see that everything on this earth belongs to God and that we are simply stewards of "God's stuff." Pray that gaining this new perspective would help kids take better care of their time, talents, money, and material possessions.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids to name some of the things they or kids their age own—stuff like bikes, tablets, toys, pets, games, books, and so forth.



- What do you do to take care of those things?
- How do you feel when something gets lost or broken?
- If you could pick something that you own and make it last forever, what would it be?
- Do you own something that you also made?

•• GOD'S WORLD A TO Z

Made to Move | An activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Call out a letter of the alphabet.
- Ask kids to take turns naming something God made that begins with that letter.
—As they name something, they should jump up from their chair and remain standing until you tell them to sit down.
- Continue until everyone has jumped up and given an answer. (*You may need to help the last few kids brainstorm ideas if all of the easy answers have already been taken.*) Then have everyone sit down and start over with another letter.
- Vary the game by naming things based on color, size, or location instead of letters.

What You Say: “This game could go on forever and ever. God made so many things—even more than we named! And everything God made belongs to God. That’s a lot of stuff! Our God is BIG (*emphasize the “B”*) WONDERFUL (*emphasize the “W”*), and AMAZING (*emphasize the “A”*). **[Transition] (For Sunday groups only) As we walk to Sunday CM worship, let’s name things with legs that belong to God. I’ll start. Puppies, spiders, . . .**”

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children’s Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• EVERYWHERE EYE LOOK [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Copy paper, crayons, tape

What You Do:

- Give each kiddo a piece of copy paper and set out crayons where everyone can share them.
- Give kids time to decorate their paper however they choose.
- When kids are finished decorating, help them roll their paper into a tube. Tape the paper so it stays in tube shape.
- Guide kids to look through their “telescope” and notice how it helps them focus on one object at a time.

What You Say: “Take your telescopes with you when you go home today, and use them to look at all the things around you. **[Bottom Line] Remember, everything belongs to God.** That means everything you see when you look through your telescope is something God created or helped others make. They are all gifts from God that you can help take care of. **[Make It Personal] (Share how you help to take care of your yard, home, or neighborhood. What do you do to not waste things?)** Let’s all take extra care of what God has given us. If we remember that everything we have is a gift from God, it will help us not waste or misuse it. Instead of being careless and



selfish, we will take care of what we have and share when we're able."

•• **UP, DOWN, NEAR, FAR** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Bible, "Up, Down, Near, Far" activity pages

What You Do:

- Read Psalm 24:1 to the kids and ask them to tell you how much of the earth belongs to God.
—Is that a little or a lot?
—How many people belong to God? Everyone or just a few?
—Remind them that no matter where we go, we see things that belong to God.
- Show kids one of the "Up, Down, Near, Far" pictures and ask everyone to close their eyes and imagine that they are standing in the scene that's on the picture.
- Ask them to look up (*in their imagination*) and tell you what they "see" above them that belongs to God.
- Next, ask them to look down and describe what they see by their feet as they pretend to be in that place. What do they see that belongs to God?
- Again, have them use the eyes of their imagination to tell you what they might see if they looked far off into the distance as well as right next to them.
- Show kids another picture and repeat the steps of having them look up, down, near, and far in their imagination.
- If time allows, let kids come up with additional places to visit with their imaginations.
- Wrap up the activity by asking kids to share ideas of ways people can take good care of the things that were named in each of the places in the pictures.

What You Say: "Today we learned something very important about the world around us and the people who live there. All of it belongs to God—every leaf on every tree, all the squirrels and birds, each drop of water in the ocean, all the high mountains, and every single boy and girl from one end of the earth to the other. God asks us to help take care of God's world the best we can. But that's a big job! No one can do it alone. You can do your part by taking care of the things around you and the stuff you use every day. All this month we'll be discovering more and more ways we can take care of what we have. But for today, **[Bottom Line] remember, everything belongs to God.**"

•• **LITTLE VOICE, BIG VOICE** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Help kids look up this month's memory verse.

Finding verses with kindergartners/1st graders: Open a Bible to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up the Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) Then, lead them to find Luke in the list under "New Testament." You can help by telling them that Luke starts with the letter L. When the kids find Luke, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Luke. Help the kids find the page. When they find Luke, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 16. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 10 in chapter 16. Read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

- Invite kids to say the first part of the verse ("*Whoever can be trusted with very little*") in a quiet voice as they scrunch down low to the ground.

