



OCTOBER THEME

**USE IT OR
LOSE IT**

Don't Waste What You've Got

BIBLE STORY

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-7

Cheer Factor | God Loves a Cheerful Giver

BOTTOM LINE

Use your money wisely

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 need to make the wise choice and with God's help, I can!

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 best use your money? They may not have a lot of it, but kids this age are starting to have some "pocket money" of their own. And even if they don't, now is a perfect time to set a foundation of stewardship related to how we use the money we have in a way that honors God. We'll walk kids through the principles of give, save, and spend, so when they ask themselves this question, they'll have a perfect starting point to make wise choices with their money throughout their lives.

A huge way we can use our money wisely is by how we give some away to help others. We'll look at something Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 9:6-7**, "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give...God loves a cheerful giver," (NIV). We have opportunities every day to spend money on all sorts of things and experiences. But what if we looked at our money differently? What if we looked at money through the eyes of stewardship and saw that how we use our money reflects how we take care of what God has given to us.

Bottom Line: Use your money wisely. One of the best ways we can use our money is to give some away and allow God to do something amazing with it. We'll help kids figure out ways they can give, save and spend their money wisely.

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. Pray that today's content would change how they view money and how they interact with it. Pray not only for generosity of spirit, but also for the power of a changed perspective in kids' lives. Ask God to help kids put what they're learning into action by focusing on becoming cheerful, openhanded givers.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to do some fun faces in response to the following scenarios:
 - Show me the look you'd have on your face if you just found out that you were given a lot of money—like a MILLION dollars.



- Show me the look you'd have if you found out that you had to give all the money away.
- Tell me whom you'd give the money to.
- Would it be hard to give the money away? Why or why not?
- What's something you would like to buy for someone else if you had a lot of money?

•• POOR, POOR KITTY

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Have kids sit around the table in a circle.
- Choose one child to be the kitty.
 - The "kitty" crawls up to another child and meows.
 - That child has to pet the kitty on the head and say, "Poor, poor kitty," without laughing or smiling.
 - If he laughs or smiles, he becomes the kitty.
 - Each kitty has three meows to get someone to laugh.
- Vary by having kids be different animals of their choosing.

What You Say: "It's fun to hear everyone laughing. In our game, it was hard to NOT smile, wasn't it? **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we'll learn/we learned about something God wants us to do with a smile on our face.**"

[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.

•• RACE TO THE FACES [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible, "Happy and Sad Faces" activity pages

What You Do:

- Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 to your group.
- Ask kids to show you with a facial expression what someone looks like when they give cheerfully.
- Explain that someone who gives "reluctantly" or "under compulsion" is a sad, grouchy giver. They give because someone is making them do it, not because they want to.
- Ask kids to show you the face of a person who doesn't want to give away any of their money.
- Remind kids that the Bible says, **[Bottom Line] "Use your money wisely."** When we share our money with a happy heart, it makes God happy too.
- Play "Race to the Faces" to help your group identify wise and unwise uses of money.
 - Place 2 sets of the "Happy and Sad Faces" on the floor at one end of your meeting area.
 - Divide the group into two teams. Then ask each team to line up at the opposite end of the room from where you placed the "Happy



and Sad Faces.”

—Read a situation from the list below.

—At your signal, the first person from each team will “race to the faces” and grab either the happy face or the sad face, depending on the scenario you read.

—Tell kids to grab the happy face if the illustration you read to them was a good use of money and to pick up the sad face if the illustration was not a good way to use money.

—Whoever is first to return to their team with the appropriate card is the winner. Ask that team to share why they think the situation you read was a wise or unwise use of money. Then return the face cards and play again.

1. Spending all of your money on candy and not sharing any of it.
2. Putting some of your money in the offering at church.
3. Buying your sister an ice cream cone because your mom said you had to.
4. Being careful to keep your money safe so you don't accidentally lose it.
5. Holding your money in your hand and telling God, “Thank You.”
6. Taking your money to school and showing it off.
7. Saving your money to buy Christmas gifts.
8. Being greedy.
9. Buying a new Bible.
10. Sending money to missionaries.

What You Say: “If you have money, it’s important to take care of it—to **[Bottom Line] use your money wisely**. One thing to always remember is that everything, including your money, belongs to God. If you think of your money that way, you’ll spend it on things that matter. You won’t waste it. You’ll save money but you’ll also give some away to help or encourage others. And when you do, it won’t be with a sad, grumpy face. It’ll be with a smile and a ‘thank you’ to God for giving you so much that you can share it with others.”

[Make It Personal] *(What are some ways you’ve had fun giving to others? Did you surprise someone with a special gift? Did you give secretly and they never knew it was you? Share a quick story with your group!)*

●● **OPEN HANDS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Explore | An activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Copy paper, crayons with paper wrappings removed, coin

What You Do:

- Show the kids a coin. Then place it in the palm of your hand and grip it tightly.
 - Give each of the kids five seconds to try and pry it from your hand.
 - Repeat, but this time, place a coin in your open palm.
 - Give each child a chance to come up and take a coin without any resistance on your part. *(Kids can keep the coin for later.)*
 - Remind everyone that a cheerful giver is not greedy or stingy.
- Instead of being unwilling to share what we have, we should open our hands and be willing to give.
- Explain that it’s okay to enjoy the things they have. But it’s not okay to be unwilling to let go of your stuff to help someone else.
- Hand out a sheet of paper and a crayon to each kid and ask them to trace their left and right hands side by side onto the paper.
- If younger kids can’t trace their own hands, give help as needed and let kids trace each other’s hands if possible.
- Demonstrate how to place a coin under their papers and position it in the palm area on the outline of their hand.
 - Show them how to rub the side of the crayon over the coin to create a relief of the image beneath the paper.
 - When finished, their drawings will look like open palms holding coins.
 - Instruct kids to write their names on the back of their papers.
 - If time allows, collect papers and let kids guess which hand belongs to which kid.

What You Say: “Cheerful givers are willing to share. They have open hands, not tight fists. When you’re generous and willing to share, you show God that you love God and want to please God. God cares about what you have and that you **[Bottom Line] use your money wisely**. But God also cares about what you are willing to give away. This week, look for ways to be generous. Open your hands and share what you have with someone else.”



•• **GUESS THE GIVER** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Bibles, coin (from “Open Hands” activity)

What You Do:

- Look up and read the memory verse (*Luke 16:10a*) aloud then invite the kids to repeat it after you.
- Hold up a coin and remind kids that money—like their time, talents, and all the stuff they have at home—belongs to God. Whether they have a lot of money or only a little, God wants them to be wise in the way they use it.
- Practice saying the memory verse by playing a game called “Guess the Giver.”
 - Choose someone to be the guesser.
 - Ask the guesser to close his eyes tightly and say the memory verse. (*Give help as needed.*)
 - Quietly hand another child the coin.
 - Instruct ALL the kids to pretend they’re holding the coin.
 - Tell the guesser to open his eyes and guess who has the coin.
 - He can ask for help before guessing. If he does so, give him two clues as to who the coin holder is.
 - When he’s ready to guess, he should open the hands of the kid he thinks has the coin.
 - The kid with the coin (*whether chosen or not*) leads the group in saying the verse and then gives the coin back to you.
 - Repeat the game as time allows or until all the kids have had a turn guessing.

What You Say: “Great job guessing the giver. And great job learning Luke 16:10a. Don’t forget what our memory verse tells us. Every time you do the right thing—when you do what you know pleases God—you show that you can be trusted with even bigger things. When you show that you can be trusted with stuff like watering a plant, picking up your room, or being a cheerful giver, you’re showing God and those around you that you can be trusted with much more. Don’t waste what you have. Instead, look for ways to cheerfully **[Bottom Line] use your money wisely.**”

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Review today’s Bottom Line before you pray: **[Bottom Line] Use your money wisely.**
- Ask kids to stand with open hands and palms up as you pray.

What You Say: “Jesus, please help us to be cheerful givers who open our hands and share what we have with others. We know that everything belongs to you. Thank you for giving so many good things. Amen.”

What You Do: Give each child a weekly GodTime card. Sunday leaders, pass out October’s monthly Parent Cue cards to adults who haven’t yet received one this month. Let the kids show their parent their “Open Hands” pictures. Ask kids to tell their parents about trying to get a coin from their leader’s hand.