

OCTOBER THEME

USE IT OR
LOSE IT

Don't Waste What You've Got

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 6:19-24

Treasures of Heaven | Treasures in
Heaven

BOTTOM LINE

Live like you know what really matters

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 do you live for what really matters? Even kids have several options when it comes to how they choose to live their life. Throughout the month, we've talked about using time, things, and money wisely, but this can also be about the company we keep, the way we study for tests, or the way we treat our neighbors. Kids are starting to realize that the way they live comes with consequences both good and bad. We hope to guide kids to see their life as more than the here and now. They can live their life to gain popularity and friends, or they can choose to live their life in a way that honors God.

That's why we conclude our month about stewardship looking more closely at something Jesus told his followers during the Sermon on the Mount found in **Matthew 6:19-24**. Jesus tells us, *"Your heart will be where your riches are."* Jesus reminded us rather than spending all of our time on earth to gain riches that won't last, we should spend our time on what matters most—serving God and storing up treasures that will last forever.

Bottom Line: Live like you know what really matters. The world is filled with voices telling us what should be important—money, power, fame, and personal glory. But what God wants for us is different. When we live our life for only things that matter on earth, they'll end up fading away and being destroyed. Instead, we pray kids will learn to make choices about their life that will matter for eternity.

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 God would help make the abstract concept of treasures in heaven very real and concrete for your few. Pray that you would be able to facilitate an environment in which kids learn how to make wise choices with their time, money, and talents. Pray that kids would leave today with some tangible ways to live like they know what really matters.

•• 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:



- Engage kids in conversation. Use the optional questions below to facilitate discussion.
 - Did anyone earn money last week? Maybe you got an allowance or a gift. Maybe you found a quarter in the cushion of your sofa.
 - If you did receive money, how did you use it wisely? Did you give part of it as your offering? Did you share it with someone?
 - Can anyone remember the **[Bottom Lines]** from this month? What are they?

•• BEFORE TIME RUNS OUT

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

What You Need: Copy paper, pens, timer (*optional – bring from home*)

What You Do:

- Give kids one minute to do the following activities. How many can they do in a minute?
 - Do push-ups, jumping jacks, or sit-ups.
 - Write their name.
 - Say, “Rubber baby buggy bumper,” or, “I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream,” while holding their tongue.
 - Take off their shoes and put them back on.

What You Say: “These games were fun and a bit crazy as you all tried to do things as fast as you could. Winning games is fun but **[Transition] today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll learn/we learned about what really matters.**”

[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.

•• GOD’S TREASURE [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, “Jewel References” and “Jewels” activity pages, scissors, tape

What You Do:

- Tell kids they’re going to go on a Bible treasure hunt for ways to live like you know what matters.
- Give each kid a “Jewel” activity page, a set of “Jewel References,” and a Bible.
 - Kids look up the Jewel References and match the reference with the verse written on the jewels.
 - When a match is found, kids can cut out the reference and tape it in the space provided on the jewel.
 - Kids can work together or solo.
- Once all the matches have been identified, have a conversation about what the verses say about what matters to God.
- Verses are listed below, NIV:
 - Proverbs 20:4**—Sluggards do not plow in season; so at harvest time they look but find nothing. (*Define what a sluggard is. This verse is saying to use your time wisely. Don’t waste your time and don’t be lazy.*)
 - Ephesians 5:15-16**—Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. (*Use your time wisely. Look for ways to make the most of using your time, money, and stuff.*)
 - 1Timothy 6:18**—Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. (*Ask kids to give*

examples of doing good: encouraging others, helping others, treating others the way you want to be treated. Being generous and willing to share are ways to use your time and money wisely.)

—**2 Corinthians 9:7**—Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly, or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. *(Use your money wisely; be generous and give cheerfully.)*

—**Psalms 24:1**—The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it. *(Live like everything belongs to God; take care of everything you have because it belongs to God.)*

—**Psalms 90:12**—Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom. *(It is a wise choice to use your time wisely.)*

What You Say: “God has a lot to say about how to **[Bottom Line] live like you know what really matters**. Each of you matters to God and God wants you to live a life that matters. When you **[Bottom Line] live like you know what really matters** you treat everything you have as if it belongs to God. You are generous with your things and your money. You use your time wisely. You look for ways to use your things, your time, and your money to show others how much God loves you and how much God loves everyone. When you **[Bottom Line] live like you know what really matters** you enjoy and take care of what you have, knowing that everything you have belongs to God. By using your money, time, and things wisely, and by loving others, you **[Bottom Line] live like you know what really matters**.”
[Make It Personal] *(Share with kids which of the verses is your favorite for you to use as a reminder to live like you know what really matters. Tell them why you chose the verse you did.)*

•• JEWELS OF WISDOM [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: “Jewels” activity pages from previous activity, scissors, hole punch, markers, yarn

What You Do:

- Using the “Jewels” from the previous activity, guide kids to make a wall hanging.
- Instruct kids to cut out the jewels and decorate them.
- Then they can punch holes at the top and bottom of each jewel, stringing yarn through them to connect them together.
- Help kids with the hole punch as necessary.

What You Say: “Hang your jewels somewhere so when you see it you will be reminded to **[Bottom Line] live like you know what matters**. You can put them on your bathroom mirror or on the door to your room. Or you can hang them from a lamp next to your bed or on your closet door. What matters to God should matter to you too, and reciting these verses is a great way to remember to use your time wisely, to be generous, to share what God has given you with others, and most importantly to **[Bottom Line] live like you know what matters**.”

•• TREASURE HUNT [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: Empty leader bins, 2 sets of “Coin Verse” cards

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Empty out your two leader bins. These will be used as “treasure boxes.”
- Establish a starting line and set up the treasure boxes 15 feet from the starting line.
- Teams will compete in a relay race. One kid from each team races to their treasure box and grabs a coin containing words of the Memory Verse. Kids need to be careful because not all the words on the coins are part of the Memory Verse.
- Kids return to their team and then the next kid races to grab another coin with words to the verse on it.
- The first team to put all the words of the memory verse in the correct order wins.



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

OCTOBER
29/01
2017

GRADE 2-3
SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

What You Say: “You [Bottom Line] live like you know what really matters by loving God and doing what it says in the Bible. Our Memory Verse tells us if we take care of the little things—if we can be trusted with the little things—then we show others we can also be trusted with the big things. Taking even a little time to love others the way Jesus did honors God. Using even the little things you have to make a difference honors God. When you make wise choices with the little things, you show God and others you can make wise choices with the big things.”

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:

- Gather the group in a circle.
- Go around the circle and ask kids to share one way they can live like they know what really matters this week.
- Offer suggestions such as: being quick to forgive a friend when he loses the toy you let him borrow; letting a sibling pick the movie to watch; choosing to help a friend with homework instead of riding bikes with another friend.
- Pray with kids using the suggestion below.
- If anyone would like to pray aloud for the group, let a couple volunteers do so.

What You Say: “God, you know what really matters! We want to follow your ways. We want to love others the way you love us. Help us to live like we know what really matters. Amen.”

What You Do: Give each child a weekly GodTime card. Sunday leaders, pass out Parent Cue cards to any adults who haven’t yet received one this month.

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them today we learned it is important to live like we know what really matters. Encourage kids to hang their jewel hanging somewhere to remind them that what God says really matters.