



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.

•• JUST FOR FUN

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: What would you do if you had a lot of money? If you had a lot of money, what



would you do to help other people with some of that money?

- Let your group discuss the answer to the question.
- Encourage them to ask each other why they chose the answers they did.

•• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

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

What You Need: Decks of cards, timer (*optional – bring from home*)

What You Do:

- Divide the deck of cards equally between the players. Have them hold their own cards in a pile, facedown.
- Explain that you'll play a game by going around the table clockwise with each player placing the top card of their pile face up in the center of the table, making a face-up pile.
 - When someone plays a Jack, the first player to slap it (*i.e., put their hand down on top of the center pile*) wins the pile and adds those cards face down in the bottom of his or her own pile.
 - Play continues, starting with the player to the left of the player who won the cards.
 - Tell kids that when they are playing a card, they cannot peek at it in advance; they must turn it over so that everyone sees it at once.
 - It is best if the card is moved to the center of the table face down and then turned “away from” the player (*so that, if anything, the others will see it a split second before the player who plays the card*).
 - If several people slap the pile, the person whose hand is underneath (*i.e. in contact with the card*) is the winner of all the cards.

NOTE: A referee might be needed if your students are very competitive about this!

- Explain that if a player slaps a card that is not a Jack, the player who slapped has to give the top card of his or her own pile face down to the person who played the card that they wrongly slapped. That person adds it to the bottom of his or her own pile.
- When a player runs out of cards, they no longer play a card when it is their turn, obviously. But they are still entitled to take part in the slapping of the next Jack, and if they win, they are back in the game because they have cards again. If someone else wins or if you slap a card that is not a Jack, you are officially out of the game.
- When one player has all the cards, that player wins.

Pro Tip: If you wish, you can play with a time limit, and if no one collects all the cards before then, the person holding most cards when time is up is the winner.

What You Say: “Quickly pick out the card that best represents you today—maybe your mood, your energy level or something else. Hold it up to your forehead and turn to someone next to you. Explain why you choose that card. (*Give them time to do this and then get their help getting the cards put away.*) These cards are full of numbers. We had a time limit in case someone didn't win all the cards. Life kind of has a time limit, too—we don't know how much time we'll have. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we'll learn/we learned about how God wants us to spend our time.**

[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.

•• TAKE A SNAPSHOT [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Copy paper, pens



What You Do:

- Pass out copy paper and a pen to each person.
 - Encourage kids to take a moment and think about what matters most to them in the world.
 - Ask them to write what matters most to them in big huge letters on their pages.
 - Tell them to be ready to say “why” they think this is most important.
 - Show kids how to hold their answers turned to their chests, and then when you say, “go,” have all kids reveal their answers at the same time by flipping their papers so that they face out.
 - Challenge them to move and stand by anyone who has a similar answer.
 - Give everyone who wants to a chance to make a case for what they think matters most.
- NOTE:** If more than one person wrote the same thing, one person could be a spokesperson and represent everyone else.
- After everyone shares, see if anyone changes his or her mind and decides that something else is more important than what they wrote the first time.
- If so, they can draw lines through their answers and add the new ones above them.
- Ask students what all these things have in common.
 - Follow up by asking if there are answers that we don’t see. What does that mean? What things aren’t important really if we didn’t think to write them down?

What You Say: “There are a lot of things we think are important. It can be hard to narrow things down and come up with what’s most important if we have to pick just one thing. Today’s Bible passage talks about not storing up and stockpiling stuff on earth because those things won’t last. Instead God encourages us to focus on things that will last forever.”

•• **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [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: “Jewel References” and “Jewels” activity pages, Bibles, 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.)*
- 1 Timothy 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.)**

•• **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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:

- Facilitate discussion using the following questions...
 - Is it wrong to have nice things—things other people would consider treasures?
 - How do you think rich people feel reading this passage? What are their reactions?
 - How do you think someone that is poor, without a lot of stuff, would feel after reading this passage?
 - Is there anything about this passage that confuses you?
 - What do you think it means when it says that you can't serve 2 masters, both God and money?
 - Can you think of an example of people who are both rich on earth and in God's eyes?
 - How can we be more like them?

•• **VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Read Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
- Ask why our treasures and hearts are connected.
- What things do you think other people would say are most important to you. Are you generous with your favorite things or do you tend to keep them all to yourself?
- Challenge kids to think about whether they need to make any adjustments so that their hearts are focused on things that will last forever.

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: Pray your group out with the following prayer...

"Dear God, we want to live like we know what matters. We want to invest our time, money, and talents into things that last forever. Help us to see clearly this week when we are putting too much thought or care into treasures here on earth that won't last the way that our relationships and you will. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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.