



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 ACTIVITY

What You Need: "Stuff!" color sheet, crayons

What You Do:

- While they color, invite kids to share about their favorite things. Ask them about the pictures they are coloring to get them thinking. You could start each question with



“What’s your favorite....” and fill in the blank with things like book, toy, game, stuffed animal...

What You Say: “Such fun things we have in our lives! Toys, books, games and stuffed animals...all these things bring fun and joy, don’t they? It’s ok to have stuff...and it’s even ok to love our stuff. But today we talking about how it’s important that our ‘stuff’ isn’t the most important thing in our lives!”

•• STUFF!

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:

- Name an item from the list below and let kids share how they would feel if they no longer had that item.
- They can indicate their answers by standing if they would be very upset and sitting if they would not be upset at all.
- If their answer is somewhere in between they can scrunch down to whatever height expresses their answer.

• Items:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| —Pet | —Toothbrush |
| —TV | —Crayons and markers |
| —Candy | —1 sock |
| —Story books | —Your favorite toy |
| —Your piggy bank and all your money | —Broccoli |
| —Computer | —The shoes you’re wearing right now |

What You Say: “We have lots of things that make us happy, but today we’re thinking about how those things shouldn’t be the most important things in our life. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll learn/we learned about some things that can never break, get lost, or stolen!**”

[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.

•• TWO MASTERS [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: 2 beach balls *(Take turns using these with other groups; they will be located by the leader bins)*

What You Do:

- Give each of the kids a turn at picking up both beach balls at the same time and carrying them across the room. It’s essentially an impossible task, but let them give it their best try.

What You Say:

- “Wow! That’s really hard isn’t it? It was pretty easy to carry one...but when we tried to carry two, we had trouble! Today we’re talking about what should be the most important thing in our lives. Sometimes we get really excited about our ‘stuff,’ don’t we? Our favorite



stuffed animal or our best toy. But today we're learning that, while those things are fun and make us smile, they aren't the MOST important thing. We're learning that God's love is really the most important thing we have."

"In Matthew 6:24, the Bible says, 'No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.' This means that it's ok to like our stuff, it's even ok to love our stuff... but it's not ok for our stuff to be the most important thing to us. When we put God first, when we love God more than our stuff, we're **[Bottom Line] living like we know what matters.**"

[Make It Personal] Kids' treasures look different than those of an adult, but the choice to love God or our stuff is still the same. Tell the kids what you do to make sure you're living like you know what matters. How do you put God first in ways that they can too?

"Can you think of some ways we can **[Bottom Line] live like we know what matters?** (pause and allow them to answer) What about making sure we do our GodTimes and read new stories in the Bible? Or using the stuff we have to help others and show kindness to them? How about by forgiving friends and siblings when they break or lose something of ours? Are those some good ideas?"

What You Say: "God has given each of us so much, and it's okay to enjoy all the great stuff you have. But when you begin to love your stuff more than you love God, it's like trying to hold onto two beach balls at the same time. You will have to choose one or the other. God wants to be the one you pick. God wants you to remember that everything you have belongs to God. Thank God for giving so much to you. **[Bottom Line] Live like you know what really matters.** One of the ways to do that is by making God your NUMBER ONE and loving God FIRST and MOST. Appreciate and take care of the stuff God's given you, but LOVE God more than all those things."

●● **WHAT'S MISSING?** [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: "Stuff Cards"

What You Do:

- Clear everything off of your small group table.
- Place the "Stuff Cards" one at a time on the table. As you add each card, let kids hold up 1-10 fingers to indicate how big of a deal that item is to them.
 - 1 finger = meh, no biggie
 - 10 fingers = can't live without it
- Read Matthew 6:19-21: "Do not put away riches for yourselves on earth. Moths and rust can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, put away riches for yourself in heaven. There, moths and rust do not destroy them. There, thieves do not break in and steal them. Your heart will be where your riches are."
- Most kids don't have a lot of money, so help them see their possessions/toys/favorite clothes as their money or treasure.
- Let kids look at the "treasures" on the table and decide if they are earthly treasures or heavenly treasures. Explain that if something can be broken, stolen, lost, or end up in the trash, it's not a heavenly treasure. Heavenly treasures are given to us when we use what we have for God.
- Tell the kids to take a close look at the cards, and then have them close their eyes. Remove one or two cards and let kids open their eyes and guess what's missing. Don't replace the cards after you remove them.
- Play until all the cards are gone.

What You Say: "Eventually everything that was on the table will be gone. It will break, get lost, or no longer be important to us. So, **[Bottom Line] live like you know what really matters.** When you give away stuff you don't need to someone who does, that becomes a heavenly treasure. When you don't hold on to your stuff but are willing to share, that becomes a heavenly treasure. When you use your stuff in ways that please God and help others, you're storing up the kind of treasure that lasts forever. That's a heavenly treasure."

●● **MONEY HOP** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]



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

What You Need: Pennies, nickels

What You Do:

- Read the Memory Verse (*found in the left column of the first page of this leader guide*) once and then invite your group to say it with you. Repeat it a few times.
- Give each of the kids a nickel and a penny. Tell them to place the coins on the floor a few inches apart.
- Lead the group in reciting the Memory Verse by standing on the penny as they say the first part. Then have them hop onto the nickel as they say the second part.
- After they finish the verse, ask everyone to move their coins a little farther apart and say the verse again, hopping from one coin to the other.
- Continue several more times, each time letting kids move their coins farther apart.

What You Say: “When you **[Bottom Line]** live like you know what really matters, you spend time learning God’s Word. Great job remembering this month’s Memory Verse. Take your penny and nickel home to help you remember Luke 16:10a. The penny will remind you to do little jobs well, and the nickel will remind you that little jobs done well can lead to even bigger and better 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:

- Take turns having one kid stand in the middle as the remaining kids place a hand on his shoulder and you pray a prayer similar to the one below. Repeat until you’ve prayed over each child in your group...

What You Say: “[Child’s name], I pray that you will **[Bottom Line]** live like you know what really matters. Dear God, help [child’s name] to use his time, money, and treasures to please you. Help him to love YOU more than anything else. 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.