



**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 we 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**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Engage kids in conversation. Use the optional questions below to facilitate discussion.
  - Do you have any pets? What are they?
  - What do you have to do to take care of your pet?
  - If you could have any pet, what would you choose? Would you want an elephant? Or a dinosaur? A sloth? An ant farm? What about a bee colony?
  - How would you care for your pet?



•• **GOT STUFF?**

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

**What You Need:** Copy paper, markers

**What You Do:**

- Tell kids to draw a picture of something that belongs to them, such as a bed, a bike, a game, a book, etc. Instruct kids not to show anyone their picture.
- Collect the pictures, shuffle them, and lay them face-up on your small group table.
- Instruct kids to take turns trying to guess who is the owner of the “stuff” in the pictures.

**What You Say:** “Great job determining the owners of all this stuff. As owners it is your responsibility to take care of your stuff. **[Transition]** In Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we’ll hear/we heard about why it is important to take care of what you have.”

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

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## 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.

•• **DIY PSALMS** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Bible, copy paper, pens

**What You Do:**

- Pair up students and give a piece of paper and pen to each pair.
- Give teams a minute or two to come up with as many songs as they can with the word “God” or “Jesus” in the lyrics.
- The team with the most legitimate songs wins. *(You will be the judge as to which songs count.)*
- Kids can defend their song choices, and you may choose have them sing or hum a few bars for you.
- Then, as a group, work together to look up Psalm 24:1 in a Bible.
  - Begin by finding the table of contents. Explain that the table of contents lists all the books in the Bible and one of those books contains the words to songs written before Jesus was born.
  - The songs were sung as prayers during worship celebrations in order to praise God and to teach people about God’s ways.
  - Challenge kids to identify the “songbook of the Bible.” *(Psalms)*
  - Then, look up Psalm 24:1 and read it together.
- Ask pairs of kids to create a list *(using the back side of their paper)* of things they care for that also belong to God.
- Kids can share ways they care for the things they listed to the rest of the group.
- In their pairs, challenge kids to create a song, a chant, a rap, or a cheer about something they care for that belongs to God, such as a pet, their bedroom, their teeth, their school, etc.
- Encourage them to include the ways they care for what they have.
- When everyone is finished, let them share what they came up with.

**What You Say:** “You created some great songs! It is so important to **[Bottom Line]** remember everything belongs to God, and it is your responsibility to take care of the things God has given you. So, when you make your bed, remember you are making the bed God gave you. When you feed your dog or cat, remember God has trusted you to care for your pets. When you are at a park and you see trash on



the ground, what should you do? (*Allow for responses.*) Yep, remember, the park belongs to God and when you pick up the trash, you are showing others it is important to take care of what belongs to God. (*Feel free to add examples from the list kids created of things they care for that belong to God.*) Remember to take care of what you have because it all belongs to God." **[Make It Personal]** (*Tell kids specific ways you care for something you have because it belongs to God.*)

●● **GOD'S GIFTS** [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Paper "gift" bag, "God's Stuff Cards" activity page

**What You Do:**

- Divide the group into 2 teams.
- Put the set of "God's Stuff" cards in the bag and shake the bag so the cards are mixed up.
- To start the game, one kid selects a card from the gift bag, making sure his team doesn't see what is on the card.
- That kid starts the guessing by answering the following questions about the card he picked:
  - Is the object alive? Is the object typically found outside?
  - His team gets 20 "yes or no" questions to try to figure out what item is on the card.
  - If they guess correctly, the team must give one way they could care for the item, in order to score a point for their team.
  - If they guess incorrectly, the other team gets one guess.
  - If the opposing team guesses correctly and identifies a way to care for the item, they get a point instead AND it is their turn to draw the next card.
  - The team with the most points wins.
- **Optional tiebreaker:** If needed, you draw a card and teams take turns asking you questions. The first team to shout out the answer wins the tiebreaker.

**What You Say:** "Great job identifying God's stuff! **[Bottom Line] Remember, everything belongs to God** and we should remember everything we have is a gift from God. God made everything, and God gave us the responsibility of caring for God's world and everything in it. One way to show others you are thankful for what God has shared with you, is to take care of what belongs to God."

●● **CAUSE AND EFFECT** [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:**

- Explain to the group what an "If . . . Then" statement is.
  - For example: IF you throw an egg at a wall, THEN you will have a mess to clean up.
- Then lead the group in playing an "IF . . . Then" game.
  - Start by giving an "If" statement.
  - The next person answers with a "Then" statement and also gives the next "If" statement.
  - As kids say the "If" statement, they squat into a little ball and as they say the "Then" statement, they jump up.
  - If needed, below are some starter "If" statements:
    - ...If I were Superman, then . . .
    - ...If I had a talking kangaroo, then. . .
    - ...If I jumped into a pool of slime, then . . .
    - ...If I had six arms, then. . .
- After everyone gets a turn, look up the memory verse, Luke 16:10, as a group.

**Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders:** Find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents and show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Luke in the list under "New Testament." 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.

- Say the verse together several times.
- Explain that Luke 16:10 is an example of an “If . . . Then” statement. It essentially says: “IF you can be trusted with something very little, THEN you can also be trusted with something very large.”
- Challenge kids to think of little things they can be trusted with that can lead to being trusted with bigger things. Allow kids to be a little silly. If needed, below are some starter “If” statements kids can finish:
  - If I can be trusted to take care of a dog, then . . . [*I could be trusted to take care of an elephant*].
  - If I can be trusted to look both ways before crossing a busy street, then . . . [*I could be trusted to walk to school by myself*].
  - If I can be trusted take care of a bike, then . . . [*I can be trusted to take care of a spaceship*].
  - If I can be trusted to eat my vegetables at dinner, then . . . [*I can certainly be trusted to eat a gallon of ice cream with sprinkles and whipped cream*].

**What You Say:** “Stewardship means taking care of what you have because it all belongs to God. **[Bottom Line] Remember, everything belongs to God.** God cares about the little things and God cares about the big things. Taking care of what belongs to God takes practice, and when you show you can be trusted with something very little, you are showing God you are ready to be trusted with something very large too. It is important to treat everything like it belongs to God, no matter how big or small it is!”

**[Make It Personal]** *(Share with the group something small you were trusted with that prepared you to be trusted to care for something bigger. Maybe as a kid you did such a great job mowing your own lawn that your neighbor hired you to care for their lawn too.)*

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## PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to sit in a circle.
- Read Psalm 24:1 as a wrap-up for the day.
- Close using the prayer and conversation suggestions below.

**What You Say:** **[Bottom Line] “Remember, everything belongs to God.** Psalm 24:1 reminds us the earth belongs to God, everything in the earth belongs to God, and most importantly, everyone who lives in the world belongs to God. That means you and me—we belong to God. So this week as you take care of what you have because it belongs to God, remember you belong to God too. Let’s praise God.

“God, you are awesome and everything belongs to you. The earth, the sun and the stars are yours. The food we eat, the clothes we wear, the place we live belongs to you. And most importantly, I belong to you, God. *(Pause to go around the group and have each of God’s special kiddos say, “I belong to you, God.”)* Thank you for all you have given each of us, and help us take care of everything because we know everything belongs to you. Amen.”

**What You Do:** Give each child a GodTime card. As adults arrive to pick up, tell them today we learned it is important to take care of what we have because everything belongs to God. Encourage kids to share the song they wrote.