



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 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.

•• 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 do you think about borrowing things? Do you think siblings/friends should have to share? Are there any exceptions to the general rule?
- Let kids discuss the answers to the questions.



- Encourage them to ask each other why they chose the answers they did.

•• BOTTOM LINE SCRAMBLE

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

What You Need: Copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Split your group into smaller teams of 3 or 4 students.
- Give each team a piece of copy paper and a pen. Have them write today's bottom line, "Remember, everything belongs to God," on the top of their paper.
- Tell them the rules of the game:
 - The goal is to create as many words from the letters in the bottom line as possible in 5 minutes.
 - Words are worth a certain number of points: one point for each letter in the word. (*For example, words with four letters get four points.*)
 - Words must be appropriate and must be "actual" words that can be found in the dictionary in order to count for points.
 - The group with the largest word will get a bonus of 15 points. (*You can also choose to give bonus points for spiritual, "God-related" words.*)
- Groups start when you say "Go!" Give them a 3-minute and 1-minute warning.
- After 5 minutes, ask teams to calculate what they think their point totals are.
- Remind them that you have the final say and are able to award extra points.

Tip: You can walk around and double-check points, OR you can get them to count the points of another team to verify the scores.

What You Say: "It's impossible to even guess how many words can be created out of today's bottom line—too many to count. [Transition] In Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship we are going to learn/we learned about a bible passage that is hard to wrap our mind around. It's about LITERALLY everything in the world."

[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, markers

What You Do:

- Pass out a piece of copy paper and a pen to each kid.
- Put the markers in the middle where everyone can reach them.
- Encourage them to draw a picture or write the name of their most prized possessions.
 - What thing do they value the most?
 - If they could only take one thing with them on a long trip, what would they choose?



- Set out the papers on your table so that everyone can see what everyone created/wrote.
- Give them a chance to quickly (*1 or 2 sentences*) share why they choose that thing, if they'd like.
- Ask if they notice any themes or similarities.

Note: they can group and move papers around if that helps make it clearer.

- Next, ask them how their feelings might change if that one thing belonged to their whole family equally. Ask a couple volunteers to share their thoughts.
- Ask what it would be like if that thing belonged to their whole school or a library and you had to check it out and return it—even pay a fine if you damaged or lost it.
—Would that change how they felt or acted with that thing?
—Give a few kids a chance to share.
- Have kids retrieve their paper and write “Belongs to God” in large letters over their writing/drawing.
—What does that make them think or feel?

What You Say: “It’s challenging to remember that everything and everyone belongs to God. We can get really focused and think that things, especially our favorite things or people, are only ours. God wants us to remember and be thankful for everyone and everything God has made.”

●● **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Bibles, copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to partner up. Give each set of partners a piece of paper and a pen.
- Tell them to write “Everything” on one side in big letters in the middle of the paper.
- Ask them to flip the paper over and write “Everyone” in big letters in the middle of the paper on the other side.
- Review today’s passage from Psalm 24:1.
- Explain that in order to help them really understand this verse, you’ll play a version of Scattergories.
—Tell students that they will be challenged during each round to think of as many words as possible in 2 minutes that start with whatever letter you (*the leader*) choose.
—They will write each word on one side or the other—write the word on the “everyone” side for people and on the “everything” side for objects and more.
—It will be a challenge to write small enough and legibly enough to fit all the words they come up with!
- Tell kids that you will play as many rounds as time (*and space on the paper*) allows. Give a new letter for each round.
- Save a little time at the end. Ask the pairs to circle the words they think others haven’t thought of and then let them take turns sharing those words and seeing if any other teams had the same word.

What You Say: “We could play this game for a long time, couldn’t we? There are a lot of people in the world and a lot of everything else. And everyone and everything belongs to God.”

●● **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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:

- Why is it hard to remember that God owns everything and we don’t?
- What does remembering that God is the true owner change in our lives and in our thinking?



- If we are God’s people and the whole earth and everything in it is God’s, how do you think that should affect how we treat the earth and other people?
- Where else have you heard or talked about the idea of “stewardship”? How would you define it?

What You Say: “We’re talking all month about Stewardship—taking care of what you have because it all belongs to God. Throughout the month we will learn about using our things, our time, and our money wisely. This is important because everything we have really belongs to God.”

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

- Share this month’s Memory Verse: Luke 16:10: *Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.*
- Ask if anyone can put this verse in his or her own words.
- See if anyone has personal examples of things others have trusted them with—it could be God, their parents, teachers, coaches, babysitter, etc.
- Follow up by asking if they’ve ever proven themselves in a small way that led to a bigger opportunity or something they were trusted with.
—How did it make them feel?
- See if there was a time when anyone in your group had to build back trust because they weren’t honest in something, so they had to work at it a bit harder? (*Note: This is tougher to share out loud; be patient and allow a little silence before moving on.*)
- Finish by asking what they’d tell someone younger than them about trust.

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: Copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Pass out copy paper and pens to each group member.
- Ask them to think of something small they can do to show they are trustworthy and dependable, and to write that thing in little tiny print on their paper. They are the only ones who need to know what it says.
- Ask them what’s something big they hope to be trusted with soon or someday in the future, and tell them to write that in the biggest print possible on the back side of their paper.
- Ask them to close their eyes and put one hand on their paper so you can pray and send them out.

What You Say: Dear Jesus, you know what we’ve talked about here today. You know the small things we hope to show we are trustworthy in. You know the big things that we hope to have a chance to someday prove we can be counted on. We know the earth is yours and everything in it. We know the whole world and all who live in it are yours. Help us to treat your earth and your people as if they matter, because they do, to you. We love you. In Jesus’ name. 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.