



**OCTOBER THEME**

**USE IT OR  
LOSE IT**

**Don't Waste What You've Got**

**BIBLE STORY**

**MATTHEW 25:14-30**

Parable's Got Talents | Parable of the Talents

Spark Story Bible | Parable of the Talents, pg. 316-317

**BOTTOM LINE**

Use your things wisely

**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 need to make the wise choice and with God's help, I can!

**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 best use your things?** If you asked the kids you know, most would tell you that what they own is super important to them. But if you pressed them long enough, you'd probably discover that they leave their LEGOs on the floor, their bikes out in the rain, or their video game controllers lost somewhere in the couch cushions. But we want kids to remember that what they have actually belongs to God, that God made it possible for them to have those things. Along with that comes a responsibility to use your things (*or your time, talents, and money*) wisely.

This was something important to Jesus as well. Jesus talked about stewardship through several of his parables, including one recorded for us in **Matthew 25:14-30**. This is a familiar parable about a businessman who went on a journey and left three of his workers in charge of some of his money. Two of the workers turned a profit while the third buried his portion, did nothing with it, and wasted his opportunity for growth. In the end, the people listening are left wondering how they are caring for what's been entrusted to them.

**Bottom Line: Use your things wisely.** God has given each of us responsibility over something—money, talents, even our stuff. We pray kids discover how they can use those things wisely.

**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. The stuff that kids own is very important to them. Ask God to help kids see that it's not inherently bad to have cool stuff or to like having cool stuff. What matters is what they do with their stuff and how they use it, share it, and take care of it.

**•• 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:**

- Ask kids to find the person in the group who has the most and the least of the following things:
  - Letters in their last name
  - Pets



- Green in their clothes
- Buttons on their shirt or dress
- Pockets
- Hair

## •• WHAT'S THE STUFF?

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

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- Hold up your hand so it's ready to receive a high-five, and read the definitions below one at a time.
- The first kid to give you a high-five and then identify the object wins a point.
- The kid with the most points after all the definitions have been read is the winner. Feel free to make up some of your own or change things up and let a kid "lead" the game and make up definitions of his own.
- Definitions:
  - A round object that is kicked, thrown, or hit in a game (*ball*)
  - A piece of furniture for sleep or rest (*bed*)
  - A written piece of work made of pages glued together along one side and with a cover (*book*)
  - Items worn to cover the body (*clothes*)
  - An object used for transportation that has two wheels (*bike*)
  - A shelter where you live (*home, house*)
  - A brush used for sweeping (*broom*)

**What You Say:** "You did a great job identifying all the stuff. [Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we'll hear/we heard what God has to say about using our stuff."

[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.

## •• HIDE IT UNDER A BUSHEL [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

*Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment*

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

### What You Do:

- Review the story using the points below.
  - Read Matthew 25:14-18. What did each of the servants receive? (*money*) Did they receive the same amount? (*No, they were given "stuff" according to their ability.*) So, they were given exactly what they could manage.
  - Read Matthew 25:19-21. What did servant #1 do with his "stuff"? (*He used what he was given.*)
  - Read Matthew 25: 22-23. What about servant #2? What did he do with his "stuff"? (*He "used" what he was given too.*)
  - What was the result of their behavior? (*Their stuff multiplied; they received more.*)
  - Read Matthew 25: 24-29. What about servant #3? What did he do with his "stuff"? (*He didn't use what he was given and as a result he "lost" it.*) Why didn't he use his stuff wisely? (*He was lazy. He was afraid.*)



- Tell kids to pretend they are servant #1 or #2 and to think of something God has given them to take care of—something God has given them that they can use to make a difference.
  - It can be something they actually have, like a bike or a jump rope, or it can be something silly, like a time machine or a pet dolphin.
  - Encourage them to create a story of how they use their things wisely.
  - Each story should end with God saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”
- Depending on the interests of the kids in your group, they could create comic strips, draw a picture, or act out a scene of how they use their things wisely.
  - Kids can work in groups or alone.
  - Allow kids to be creative.

**What You Say:** “It doesn’t matter what you have been given; what matters is what you do with what you have been given. God has blessed you with things, and just like the people in Jesus’ story, you should **[Bottom Line] use your things wisely** and not be afraid to use what God has given you. Maybe you can use what God has given you to encourage a friend by making them a card or picture. Maybe you can use what God has given you to meet new people by inviting them over to play kickball or a board game. Maybe you can use what God has given you to make cookies for a neighbor. Don’t be afraid to **[Bottom Line] use your things wisely** and share them with others. When you use your things wisely, God says, “Well done!”

**[Make It Personal]** *(Give an example of a time you used your things wisely. Maybe you used your rake to help a neighbor with fall cleanup. Or perhaps you used your power washer to help a friend wash a deck. Maybe you used your car to pick up a friend who was stranded somewhere.)*

●● **USE IT, DON’T LOSE IT** [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” and “Use It/Lose It Cards”

**What You Do:**

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Shuffle the Stuff Cards and lay them in a pile facedown.
- Shuffle the Use It/Lose it Cards and lay them in a pile face down.
- Teams take turns picking a Stuff Card and a Use It/Lose It Card.
- If the team draws a Use It Card, they give an example how they would use the object on the Stuff Card wisely; how they would use the object to make a difference.
- If the team draws a Lose It Card, they give an example of how they would lose the object because they didn’t use it wisely.
- Optional: Challenge kids to come up with ways to use the things wisely that they “lost” during the game.

**What You Say:** “Stewardship is about taking care of the stuff we have because it belongs to God. God doesn’t want us to waste the things God has given us; God wants you to **[Bottom Line] use your things wisely**. You came up with creative ways to use stuff. Everything belongs to God, and when **[Bottom Line] you use your things wisely**, you just might discover fun ways God can use you and your things to care for the world and for other people.”

●● **NUMBER GUESS** [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:** Bible

**What You Do:**

- Look up and then read Luke 16:20a phrase by phrase.
- Instruct kids to echo each phrase.

