



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.

•• 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 kids receiving an allowance? Should it be per job or a set amount each week/month? What else do you wish were true about allowances?
- Let kids 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 Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Individual fun-size candy (*i.e. Skittles*) packages, hand wipes

What You Do:

- Hand out hand wipes and have everybody clean their hands.
 - Pass out individual bags of candy so that everyone has one.
 - Tell them not to open or eat them yet.
 - Ask them to listen to all the instructions first.
 - Explain that their goal is to be the first to get all of the same color of candy in their hands by trading candy with other people.
 - Instruct them to open their bags on the count of three and start trading.
- The first person to get all the same colors in his or her hand (*without eating any of them*) wins!

What You Say: “You had to use some strategy to try and win this game, didn’t you? You had to trade wisely and try to get more of a certain color candy. [Transition] **Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we’ll hear/we heard a Bible story about a boss who asks his servants to take care of things and invest them wisely while he is gone.**”

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

What You Need: “Bingo Grid” activity pages, pens

What You Do:

- Pass out the blank BINGO grids and pens so that everyone has one of each.
- Encourage them to write down some of their favorite things—possessions.
- Remind them to write ONE thing they own or have at home in each box.
- Give them a few minutes to fill in their grids. They should keep them private.
- Challenge them to walk around finding other people who have one of the same things as they do.
- If they do, they sign their names or put their initials on top of that square.
- They can only sign one box for each person.
- Explain that the first person to get 5 in a row in any direction will be the winner.

What You Say: “What does it seem like a lot of you have? (*Take a few responses.*) What were some of the most unique possessions you saw? (*Take a few responses.*) We own a lot of things! So today let’s talk about how we can best use our things—to love people and to honor God.”

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

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



What You Need: Bibles, a handful of change, copy paper, pens

What You Do:

- Pull out the handful of change and ask everyone to choose a coin.
- Instruct them to re-read the Bible story (*Matthew 25:14-30*) with a couple other people.
- Tell them to focus in on just one character based on whatever coin they've chosen.
 - Quarter: the master.
 - Dime: the first servant.
 - Nickel: the second servant.
 - Penny: the third servant.
- Challenge them to come up with a news story headline—less than 10 words—that sums up what's happened in the story or how your character feels.
- Ask them to write their headline on a piece of paper (*they can choose to work alone or with other people who have the same coin/character*).
- Share the headlines by asking kids to hold them up over their heads—ask one coin/character group to share at a time (*quarter, dime, nickel, penny*) so you can see similarities and differences.

What You Say: “God trusts us and asks us to use our things wisely. What do you have that you could use to love people and to love God even better? (*Take a few responses.*)”

●● **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:

- Discuss the following...
 - Which character in the story do you think you are most like?
 - Do you know anyone who reminds you of the master or the servants in today's Bible story? Why do you think so?
 - Do you think personality has anything to do with why the one slave buried or hid the money rather than trying to do something with it?
 - What are modern-day examples of this—where people don't use their talents and maybe hide or bury 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:

- Re-read Matthew 25:23: “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!’” (NIRV)
- Ask kids:
 - What do you want God to say about you someday?
 - What talents do you have that you could put to work?
 - What gets in the way of you or other people using your talents for good?

