



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**K-3**

**PRELUDE      SOCIAL      STORY      WORSHIP      GROUPS      HOME**

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO CREATE

an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving



### OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Ball or bean bag

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Gather the group in a circle and hold the ball.
- Tell the kids that you're going to create a story together.
- Hold the ball or bean bag. Start the story with "Once upon a time" and fill in the rest of the first sentence. (For example, "Once upon a time, a pickle went on a journey with an armadillo.")
- Then pass the ball to the kid on your right.
- The kid who has the ball adds one sentence to the story. They have to say something UNUSUAL that happens next.
- Then instruct the kid to pass the ball to their right.
- The next kid takes the ball and picks up where the story left off. But the kid has to come up with something ASTONISHING that happened next.
- The next kid has to come up with another unusual thing to happen in the story, and so on.
- Play a few times, coming up with unbelievable adventures together.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Golden Slumbers

Parable of the Bags of Gold  
Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Make the most of what you've been given.**

### MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large.  
Luke 16:10a, NIV

### MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you**

### BASIC TRUTH

**I need to make the wise choice.**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"We went from once upon a time to a giant adventure! You used the imaginations God gave you, and the story grew into something amazing!  
**[Transition] Let's go hear how God wants us to grow everything He's given us into something amazing!"**





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*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray that kids would see the value in hard work and start to develop the habit of not shying away from working hard. Thank God for the abilities you and your few have to work hard physically, mentally, and spiritually. Pray that kids would leave today encouraged to tackle whatever lies in front of them.*

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Golden Slumbers

Parable of the Bags of Gold  
Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)

### EARLY ARRIVER

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Hand sanitizer, coins, pieces of aluminum foil, cotton balls

### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**Make the most of what you've been given.**

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give them each a pump of hand sanitizer.
- Show kids how they can lay a piece of aluminum foil over a coin, hold the foil in place, then rub over the foil with a cotton ball to reveal the coin.
- As time allows, invite kids to make as many rubbings as they choose.
- Ask: "What would you do if someone gave you 1,000 coins? 2,000 coins? 5,000 coins?"

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**CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES**

### MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

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### \* COIN WARS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Various coins and timer or timer app

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide your group into four teams.
- Give each group a large pile of assorted coins.
- Select one team to go first.
- Call out any amount of money that can be made with coins: 25 cents, 50 cents, 10 cents, one dollar, etc.
- Instruct the first team to use their coins to make that amount.
- The other teams have to show the same amount, but they can't use the same arrangement of coins as the first team.
  - Example: For 50 cents—the first team sets out two quarters, so the other teams can't set out two quarters. But the second team can set out a quarter, two dimes, and a nickel. The third team can set out five dimes. The fourth team can set out ten nickels, etc.
- If a team can't set out the amount in a different way, the first team gets a point.
- Play as many rounds as time allows, rotating which team goes first so that everyone has a chance.
  - For older kids, make an additional rule that for each round, only the first team can use quarters. The same rule applies that subsequent teams cannot repeat a configuration that has already been arranged.
- Be prepared to give hints to help younger kids who might not have a lot of experience with money or any kids who have never used coins before.
- Collect all the coins at the end of the game.
- Have kids sanitize their hands.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

"There are a lot of ways to make 50 cents, but each way is worth the same amount. We all have many different talents to share, but they are all valuable because God gave them to us for a reason. The key isn't counting the number of talents or money or whatever you've got, it's using it the right way to **make the most of what you've been given.**

"You may meet or be friends with people who have things you wish you had—people with giant houses or fancy cars, athletes with incredible ability, or students so smart they go to college at 15. But your talents—what you have to share with the world as far as time, money, and ability—are worth just as much as theirs.

"If you sing to a baby to calm them, you're using what God gave you just as much as if you'd given a million dollars to the church. If you help a teammate learn a skill that you're good at, that's worth as much to God as if you made the winning basket in the big game. God doesn't expect you to be an amazing athlete or American Idol singer. He expects you to use whatever you have to **make the most of what you've been given.**"



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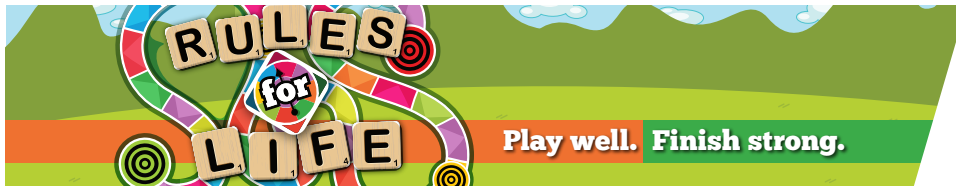
CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### (\* COIN WARS, CONTINUED)

*Optional Discussion Questions for Older Kids*

If you lead 4th, 5th, or 6th graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- What are some talents or abilities you have?
- What can you do if you feel like you have nothing to share—no special talent, no time, no stuff or money? *(If you know your kids pretty well, use this opportunity to invest in them by sharing what you see in them. Talk about any traits they could lean into and develop as they grow into who God made them to be.)*
- What is one area in your life where you can **make the most of what you've been given?**



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO IMAGINE**

an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

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**USE WHAT YOU'VE GOT**

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Use What You've Got" Activity Page, pens

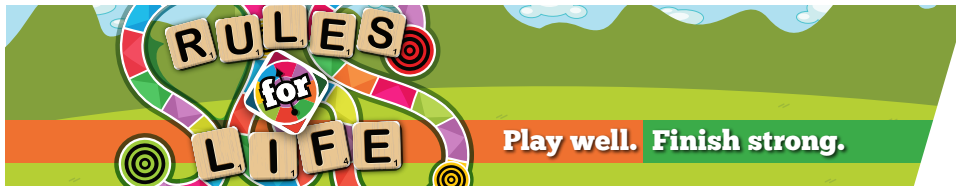
**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Give each kid a "Use What You've Got" page and a pen.
- Encourage the kids to look at the list of things on the left column. Discuss how the things in the left column are all things everyone has.
- Instruct kids to draw a line from the things on the left column to something in the right column that needs to be accomplished in the world.
- Invite the kids to fill in the empty circles on the page with their own ideas for things they have and what they can accomplish.
- Some of the connections kids make are somewhat abstract. Help your concrete thinkers stretch their minds a little bit. if they seem stuck, ask questions like:
  - What could you use to help someone who needs someone to stand up for them?
  - What could you use to share the story of Jesus with someone?

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Sometimes the world tells us we need even more, bigger, or better things to accomplish something great. God tells us He will give us what we need to accomplish His plans! And His plans are really awesome! That means all you have to do is look around and **make the most of what you've been given.** These are all great ideas we just talked about on our paper. Which one of these things do you look forward to making the most of this week?" (Allow time for kids to share what they can do this week.)





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25 MINUTES**

**MADE TO MOVE**

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



**MAKE THE MOST OF IT**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles and a ball

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to look up and read the verse according to the Bible navigation tips in Week 1.
- Lead kids to sit in a circle.
- Give one kid the ball.
- Guide kids to pass the ball as they say the verse word by word. Be sure to provide help as needed.
- Lead the kid holding the ball on the last word to name something they've been given that they can use for God.
- Ask prompting questions if kids are stuck for ideas. (*How could you make the most of your friendships? Could you spend time with your friends? Could you be kind to them? Could you share?*)
- Also, never force a shy or reluctant kid to answer aloud. Instead, invite them to choose a friend to answer for them.

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**I need to make the wise choice.**

WHAT YOU SAY:

"In today's Bible story, the man gave each servant the amount of money he knew they could take care of. He knew he could trust the first servant with more money, so he gave him five bags of gold. He knew he could trust the second servant with two bags of gold, so that's what he gave him. Do you think the third servant had shown that he could be trusted with as much money as the first two servants? (No.) No, he hadn't. So the man only gave him one bag of gold. It's like our verse says—we can't be trusted with a lot until we can first be trusted with a little. We can say it this way: **Make the most of what you've been given.**"





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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO REFLECT**

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



**PRAY AND DISMISS**  
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Coins from "Coin Wars" Activity and one hula hoop

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Set one hula hoop in the middle of your prayer area.
- Instruct the group to stand together around the hula hoop.
- Give each kid a coin—it doesn't matter what type.
- As you give each kid a coin, tell them, "[Kid's name], this week **make the most of what you've been given.**"
- Once everyone has a coin, ask them to think about how they can use what they have—time, ability, stuff, money—to show love to God or others this week. Encourage them to think of a specific situation.
- Then, go around the circle. If kids feel comfortable, encourage them to share what they will do this week to **make the most of what you've been given** and gently toss their coin into the hula hoop.
- Once everyone is finished, sit around the hula hoop.
- Close in prayer.

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**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, we are thankful for everything You've given us—our possessions, homes, families; talents, skills; time, and health. Please help us use all of those things for Your glory to help others know You and Your love. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, if possible, give each kid a coin to keep to remind them to **make the most of what you've been given.**

