

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

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.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

LARGE GROUP

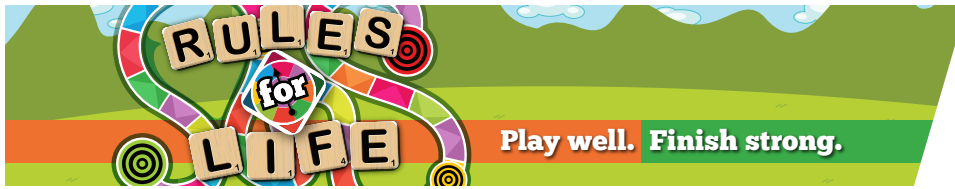
35
MIN

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
None

WORSHIP:
Only Way
Wide Open

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN



PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

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LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE KIDS' HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY, WORSHIP, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS KIDS ENTER.
SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN (30- OR 60-SECOND VERSION)
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

OPENER

HOST: "Hi, everyone! Isn't it a great day? I'm so glad you're here at [your environment's name]. We've got lots of fun planned for today, so let's get started!

"All month we've been talking about responsibility.

SLIDE: LIFE APP
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME TRANSITION TO LIFE APP

"Responsibility is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.

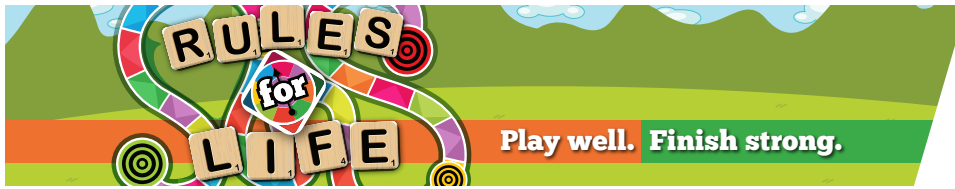
SLIDE: THEME
OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIFE APP TRANSITION TO THEME

"We've looked at some Rules for Life that help us live with responsibility and show others they can trust us. Just like there are rules to all our favorite board games, THESE rules will help us as we choose to live God's way—every day!

"Our game today is a wild one. Let me get two leaders up here to play.

Choose two leaders, one from each side of the room. Give one of them a red hat and the other one a black hat.

(to leaders) "[Leaders' names], have you ever played 52-Card Pickup? (Pause for response.) Well, this game starts off a little like that! (Pick up the deck of cards.) I'll toss these cards in the air, and they'll go flying. [Leader's name],



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2021

LARGE GROUP
K-6

PRELUDE	SOCIAL	STORY	WORSHIP	GROUPS	HOME
		25 MINUTES	10 MINUTES		

you'll try to grab all the red cards, and [leader's name], you'll try to grab all the black cards. Once you think you have all of your cards, count them to make sure. There are 26 cards of each color. Once you know for sure that you have all 26, you run over and toss them into your bucket, one at a time. The first person to get all of their cards in the bucket, wins!

(to the audience) "We've all got a part to play, too! When we start, I need EVERYONE to cheer for [leaders' names]! Oh—and be sure to stay outside this taped area, since that's where the cards will fly.

"Okay—is everyone ready? Let's get started. Ready, set, GO!

AUDIO: FUN MUSIC

As the music starts, toss the cards in the air (inside the taped-off area) with great enthusiasm. Then, comment on the action as the two leaders pick up their cards. Get the kids involved by having them cheer for the leaders.

When one of the leaders successfully picks up their cards, counts them, and drops them in their bucket, declare the winner; but also let the other leader finish, if possible.

As the leaders finish, provide hand wipes or a hand washing station so they can clean up before returning to their seats.

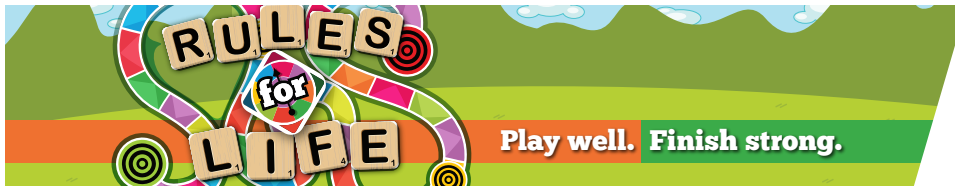
"That was so cool! When those cards went flying, I didn't know WHAT would happen. But [leaders' names] made the most of a wild and crazy situation. They got it done! Now, let's all get on our feet, because it's time for us to sing to God with our worship team!"

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP

AUDIO: Only Way

AUDIO: Wide Open



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2021

LARGE GROUP
K-6

PRELUDE **SOCIAL** **STORY** **WORSHIP** **GROUPS** **HOME**

25 MINUTES

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: "Let's think about this story for a moment. Jesus talked about three servants who were given much while their boss, the rich man, was away. When the man came back, he celebrated the the two who multiplied their money and gave them more. But the rich man scolded the man who did nothing with what he had. The message of Jesus' story was clear. Those who are responsible with what they're given will be given more! But those who waste it will end up with nothing!"

"While Jesus told this story to the disciples, His words also make sense to us in 2021! Whether you know it or not, God has given us SO much. Now, maybe He hasn't given you bags of cash, but He's given you words to speak for Him. Maybe you've been given much influence in the lives of the kids in your class or on your team. Maybe you've been given the ability to cook really good food. Whatever God has given you, it isn't something that should just be kept to ourselves. It's meant to be shared! It's important for us to make the most of what God has given us."

"That's a great Rule for Life! Can you say it with me?"

SLIDE: BOTTOM LINE

KIDS AND HOST: "Make the most of what you've been given."

HOST: "Jesus made the most of His time with people. Part of why I love this passage is because Jesus was using what God had given Him, the gift of storytelling, to encourage us to use what God has given us! He showed love to everyone and helped them understand what's most important to God."

"So how can you **make the most of what you've been given?** Maybe you're good at art! If so, use those talents to show love! Maybe you have a pantry full of food, and your school is doing a food drive. Ask a parent if you can donate some of what you have. Whatever you have, make the most of it—and use it to show love!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "As you head to Small Group, ask yourself this question."

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"How can you use what you've been given?" Think about what exactly God has given you. Consider how God has wired you and gifted you. Imagine all the ways you can use those gifts and talents to show others how much you care about them and how much God loves them. And don't worry if you're having trouble thinking about what you've been given. You'll have a chance to talk more about this with your Small Group in just a moment. Before we head out, let's pray and thank God for the way He's loved us and given us so much. Let's pray."

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: PLAY HIGH-ENERGY MUSIC AS THE KIDS EXIT.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP