



PLAY WELL.  
FINISH STRONG.

WEEK  
**FOUR**  
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



### OPENING ACTIVITY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite kids to play a game of "Would You Rather Have . . ."
- Give each kid a different combination of choices from the list below. Include other things you know to be of

interest to them or let kids take turns coming up with others.

- Ask, "Would you rather have (*name an item*) or (*name another item*)."
  - a horse
  - a best friend
  - an iPad
  - a happy family
  - a trip to Disney
  - \$1,000
  - a cool phone
  - a hug
  - good grades
  - pizza
  - love
  - joy
  - nice hair
  - cool clothes
  - good health
  - Bible
- Encourage kids to ask each other why they chose the answers they did.
- Play as time allows.

### TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

#### Golden Slumbers

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

### TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

**How can you use what you've been given?**

### 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:

"Life is full of choices. Some are really easy. Others can be super hard. With every choice comes a certain amount of responsibility. **[Transition] Let's go to Large Group and hear a story Jesus told about some interesting choices people made.**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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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



### TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper, pens

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Give kids paper and pens.
- Assign each kid an even amount of money between \$1 and \$10. (Actual cash is not needed.)
- Challenge kids to each do the number puzzle below.
  - Double the number of dollars you were assigned.
  - Add 6 to the new amount.
  - Divide that amount by 2.
  - Subtract the original amount of money you were assigned at the beginning
  - Multiply that amount by 100.
- Ask:
  - How much money did you end up with? (Note that each kid should end up with \$300.)
  - What would you do with that amount of money?
  - How do the choices we make with our money show others what is important to us?

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### MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery



### VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Bibles, ketchup, baking soda, tray, spoon, foam cup or container

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Invite someone to read aloud Luke 16:10a.

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- Ask:
  - What are some small responsibilities you are trusted with?
  - What does being responsible in little ways show others?
  - Give an example of a way you or someone you know was trusted with a small responsibility that grew into a bigger, more important one because you did well with it.
- Point out that Luke 16:10 shows us that responsibility is related to trust. When we show we are responsible or trustworthy, we can be trusted with more.
- Follow the steps below to create a Ketchup Volcano.
  1. Fill an 8-ounce cup or container about half full with ketchup.
  2. Read the first half of Luke 16:10a. ("Suppose you can be trusted with something very little.")
  3. Suggest that the ketchup represents our life.
  4. Read the rest of Luke 16:10a. ("Then you can also be trusted with something very large.")
  5. Stir 1-2 tablespoons of baking soda into the ketchup.
  6. Suggest that the baking soda represents the way God can use even the smallest gift in us to do great things.

*Note: The baking soda will immediately begin to react with the vinegar in the ketchup by foaming and overflowing the container. It's not at all explosive or fast, but it can be messy, so be sure to work on a washable surface.*

- Discuss the kids' reactions to the experiment.
  - What did we need to do in order for the ketchup to "grow" into something bigger?
  - What do we need to do in order for God to use the gifts He has given us?
  - How can you go about discovering your gifts and strengths?
- Based on what you know about your few, suggest some ways kids can develop talents and use what they have been given for God.
- Remind kids that if they can be trusted with what's expected of them this week, even if it's a small task and it seems unimportant, they might find their responsibilities growing into bigger, more exciting ways to use what they've been given by God for His purposes.



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### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**Ask:**

- Fill in the blank to finish this sentence: If I could \_\_\_\_\_, I would make the most of it by \_\_\_\_\_.
- What are some reasons why people might waste the gifts God has given them?
- Of the following reasons, which do you feel are hardest for you to overcome when it comes to using what you've been given?
  - Being afraid to use my gifts because I might fail or be made fun of
  - Being lazy
  - Being too busy with other things
  - Not really knowing what to do with my gifts
  - Not really sure what my gifts are
  - Waiting until I'm older to use my gifts
- How important do you think it is to know the gifts God has given you? Why?
- What are some ways you can make the most of what God has given YOU this week?

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### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal processing  
and application



### MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Pom Poms

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Remind kids that the story Jesus told about the talents isn't just about wasted money; it's also about wasted

opportunity.

- God has given them talents, abilities, opportunities, family, love, health and life itself because He has a purpose for their lives.
- It's up to each of us to make the most of what we've been given (whether we have a lot or a little) and not let it go to waste.
- Tell kids to place their checker on the corner of the checkerboard that best fits the way they would finish the following sentence: "This week I need God's help to . . . ."
  - not waste my time (point to a RED pom pom)
  - work at developing a talent I have (point to a RED pom pom)
  - look for fun ways to use my gifts (point to a YELLOW pom pom)
  - not be afraid to use what I have to serve God (point to a YELLOW pom pom)
- Allow kids a few minutes to share any details they'd like about their choices then encourage them to pray aloud or silently for themselves and others in the group.

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**WHAT YOU SAY:**

"Dear God, thank You for entrusting us with so many good things. Help us to be responsible with them and increase all You have given us for Your glory. Amen."