



PRETEEN
JANUARY 2024

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN RESPONSIBILITY AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

In Psalm 24:1, David wrote, *"The earth belongs to the Lord. And so does everything in it."* (NirV) God is the author of creation, and God has entrusted us to care for and cultivate the world we see around us. We do that by taking responsibility. From work we need to accomplish, to people we meet, to the words we use, life is filled with moments where we can decide to reflect God's character, take responsibility, and use what we have wisely. When we follow through and do what needs to be done, we can point others to Jesus, the One who took the ultimate responsibility for us and made it possible for us to be with God forever.

CORE INSIGHT: The theological foundation for RESPONSIBILITY

Transformation by the power of God's Spirit. God's Spirit is transforming my unique and imperfect life into the character of Jesus.

Taking responsibility may not come naturally to us, but God's Spirit can help us develop it in our lives as we follow Jesus and learn to live like Him.

RESPONSIBILITY is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.

HEADS UP: IDEAS TO KEEP IN MIND AS YOU TALK ABOUT RESPONSIBILITY WITH KIDS

Even though "fun" and "responsibility" don't seem like they'd go together, we think this could be a really great month for kids in your community. Everyone has some sort of responsibility. It could be getting homework done, or picking up after playing a board game. Other times it might look like practicing a new instrument, or caring for a hamster or puppy. For Pet Project, we hope to inspire kids to reflect God's character in the way they follow through on the work that needs to get done.

Throughout the Bible, we read a lot about how to live with responsibility. The Bible is filled with stories about people who could be trusted . . . along with others who struggled in this area. But beyond those stories, the writers of Scripture included proverbs, principles, and parables that also bring God's ideas about responsibility to life.

Sometimes these concepts are more difficult to teach because there is no story included. However, the truths we find through Solomon and Paul, along with what we discover through Jesus' parables, can be life-changing when we learn how to live them out.

It's also important to remember that we can't make promises about what will happen if we choose to put these ideas into practice. Proverbs and principles like these aren't intended to offer certainty. Instead, they demonstrate that living with wisdom creates positive natural consequences that are likely to happen when we choose to honor God and others with the responsible choices we make.



WEEK
TWO
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LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

Communicator GUIDE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Never Enough
Bigger Barns
Luke 12:13-21

TODAY'S KEY QUESTION

What do you have
that you can share?

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Share what you have.

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, NIRV

MONTHLY VIRTUE

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

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way
I want to be treated.

WEEK 2

Key Question: **What do you have that you can share?**

From an early age, most kids are taught to share. As they get older, though, the stakes get higher . . . and it can take more effort to let others use or borrow our things. As we ask this question, we pray that preteens will see that they can share more than their stuff. They can share their time, their friendship, and their talents.

In week 2, we head to **Luke 12:13-21**, where we find a parable Jesus told about a rich man who was focused on the wrong thing. This man was a successful farmer whose land produced a large amount of crops. He decided to build bigger and bigger barns to collect it all. The man might have had a lot for himself, but he failed to think about how he could have helped the people around him.

Bottom Line: **Share what you have.** Sometimes we're on the receiving end of someone's generosity . . . but other times we get to show responsibility by sharing and being generous to others. When we realize that God has given us everything we have, we're more likely to share with other people. We pray that as kids learn more about the parable of the rich man, they'll discover ways they can be responsible by sharing what they have.

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "But first, today as you go to groups, think about this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"**What do you have that you can share?** Think through some of the things you have at home or school: What might be something you can use to help others? How can you make the lives of the people around you better with what you have to share? Don't worry if you need help thinking through these sorts of questions. You'll get the chance to chat all about this with your Small Group. Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us be responsible with what we have! Let's pray!"

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND



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LARGE GROUP
PRETEEN

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

25 MINUTES

10 MINUTES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Never Enough
Bigger Barns
Luke 12:13-21

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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 STUDENTS ENTER.

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP

Host enters . . .

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): COUNTDOWN

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME

WELCOME

Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.

OPENER

HOST: "Hey, everyone! So excited to be back for another great week together. Hope your new year is off to a great start and you're making some good headway on those New Year's resolutions with your 'Pet Projects.' And to kick us off, we have another fun game, especially for those of you who might have a pet fish! Anyone have a pet fish at home? (responses) Okay great. And speaking of fish, who likes to eat . . . these? (Holds up giant bag of Swedish fish) Me too! Delicious. Who's up for a fishy challenge I like to call, 'Fish Fling'?"

SLIDE: "FISH FLING"

"Awesome! I need four volunteers for this challenge!

Host chooses four volunteers and introduces them to the rest of the audience. Assign each of them a different color Swedish Fish.

"As you can see, we have a series of tiny fishbowls here, but sadly . . . they are empty without any fish. That's where you come in. You will stand behind these



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lines and, when I say go, throw your fish candies one at a time in an attempt to give them a lovely home in a fish bowl. Play until time is up or you are out of fish. We will see who gets the most. Any questions? Great. On your mark, get set, fill those fishbowls!

AUDIO: FUN GAME MUSIC

VIDEO: 60-SECOND COUNTDOWN VIDEO

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): 60-SECOND COUNTDOWN

Allow kids to throw their Swedish Fish into the bowl(s).

(After the game) "That was so much fun. Let's see who won!"

Count the number of fish at the end and determine a winner. Give a bag of fish candies as a prize.

"Well done! You win . . . MORE FISH . . . enough for your whole Small Group! Now, let's all stand together and sing some great worship songs to our amazing God!"



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WORSHIP

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Yes! It's time for us to sing and lift our voices to worship our God. That's something we were made to do! As we read in Psalm 150:6: 'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.' (NirV) This first song is about how we can share God's love together. Let's sing it!

AUDIO: "LOVE LIKE YOU" / TRACK 9 FROM MAKE A MOVE

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "LOVE LIKE YOU" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"I love it! Every day, we can choose to love others because of the love God has given us. Before we continue in worship, let's watch this.

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): LIVE LOUD VIDEO FROM GET REEL

"Last week we taught you a song called 'All to You.' This song is a party! I'm so glad we get to sing it again now. We can give our heart and soul and live the way God has taught us to live, because we know that God is always with us. Here we go!

AUDIO: "ALL TO YOU" / TRACK 1 FROM MY LIFE FOR YOU

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "ALL TO YOU" LIVE LYRICS OR DANCE MOVES MUSIC VIDEO

"With very breath we breathe . . . and every word we speak . . . we can choose to honor and worship God. This song is a chance for us to declare what we believe is true. Let's lift this up in worship now."

AUDIO: "WE BELIEVE" / TRACK 1 FROM KIDMIN WORSHIP VOL. 4

OPTIONAL VIDEO: "WE BELIEVE" LIVE LYRICS VIDEO



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COMMUNICATOR SCRIPT (STORY)

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

INTRODUCTION

COMMUNICATOR: "Hey, friends! I'm so glad you're here. As we get started, I've got a question. How many of you have a collection of some sort? Baseball cards, board games, comic books? Who collects something? If so, what?"

Communicator takes several responses as there's time. Comment appropriately as kids share.

"SO fun! Alright, those collections sound awesome. You all collect some super fun and interesting things. Want to see one of my collections? Check this out!"

NOTE: If the Communicator doesn't have a collection of their own, find another person's to highlight. (Small Group Leader, other well-known adult in you church.) Either show a picture or bring in a sample of the collection.

OPTIONAL SLIDE: PHOTO OF COMMUNICATOR'S COLLECTION

The Communicator (or other adult) can use the following template for how to talk about their collection. This could also be used as an interview template for the Communicator to have a conversation with the person who owns the collection.

"I started this collection . . . *(Talk about how long you've been collecting the items.)*

"I collect [Name of item] because . . . *(Talk about why you collect these times.)*

"I take care of my collection by . . . *(Talk about how you display or carefully store the items.)*

"To finish my collection, I'm hoping to find . . . *(Talk about a hard-to-find or new item you'd like to add.)*

(After Communicator is finished talking about their collection.) "As we can see, people collect all sorts of things: action figures, LEGO sets, fancy jewelry, or even sports cars! When we see people and what they collect, we might be inspired to start a collection of our own or maybe take better care of a collection we've already started. At the same time, seeing the way people collect things in their lives might prompt us to ask some questions."

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: "Think about this for a second. Do you think people can possibly get a little extreme or become obsessed with their collections? Can it all get too much? It's one thing to have a collection of fun things like comic books or records, but it's another thing to only ever think about getting more and more of them. What happens when our collections become all we think about?"

"It's fun to have LEGO sets. But LEGO can be more fun if we share and enjoy them. It's totally fine to have a lot of comic books, but what if I never read them and they just sit in a box untouched? Or even my own collection of [fill in collection], if I never take them out and [fill in appropriate action], it might be worth asking why I should have them in the first place? Since we were little, we've been told we should share what we have to help others. We know it's important, yet when it comes to many of the things we own, we keep them to ourselves and rarely share what we have. But what if taking responsibility of what God has given us sometimes means that we share what we have to help others? Even if it's just sharing our stuff so people can enjoy it as much as we do."



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"These are important questions for us to think about. And remember, when we have questions like this, we have a great starting point for where we can find answers: the Bible! Remember, in the Bible we can find truth from God to help us make wise choices, even when it comes to our stuff. Let's head there now and see what wisdom we can discover."

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: "Today we head to the book of Luke in the New Testament of the Bible. This particular story includes one of Jesus' parables. If you aren't familiar with parables, a parable is a type of story Jesus used to illustrate deeper truths that give us insight into what it means to follow God with our whole lives. Jesus would often relate following God to familiar things like farming, fishing, or even throwing parties."

Host enters carrying a huge tray of donuts.

COMMUNICATOR: "Wow! That's a LOT of donuts!"

HOST: "Yeah, I was just told to bring them out here to you."

COMMUNICATOR: "To me? Well, I can't argue with that!"

Host sets the donuts on the table and leaves.

(Trying to get back into it but distracted by the donuts) "Like I was saying . . . Jesus often told parables about donuts. Wait. No. NOT donuts. Things like farming and fishing for donuts . . . ahh!"

Communicator walks back over to the donuts.

"I wonder why they gave me all these donuts. I'd get sick if I tried to eat all these . . . at once. But they'll get stale if they just sit here. Excuse me for a second."

Communicator leaves and comes back with a zip lock bag or small plastic container clearly too small to hold all the donuts.

"Okay, this should help . . ."

Communicator begins filling the bag/container with donuts, but it becomes clear they will not all fit.

"I may have underestimated a little. What will I do with these?"

At this point, the kids might be volunteering to eat them. Communicator ignores them and focuses on the problem at hand. Communicator runs offstage and returns with a medium plastic container.

"Now this is the ticket. I should have started with this one!"

Communicator moves all the donuts into the medium container but once again runs out of room.

"Not again! It feels like the solution should be easier than this . . ."



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Communicator runs offstage and returns with an even larger plastic container, moving all the donuts as well as the remainder into it.

"Yes! I got it. Okay, safe and sound. Those delicious treats should last me for a while now. Alright where were we? Ah, yes, a parable of Jesus.

"A little background before we get too far along. In Jesus' day, your inheritance or, in other words, what you received when a family member died, often depended upon your place in the family. Older children usually got more inheritance than their younger siblings. And at the start of the story, a man walked up to Jesus. He must have been a younger sibling because this was the problem he brought to Jesus.

Open the Bible to Luke 12:13 (NirV) and read.

"Someone in the crowd spoke to Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "tell my brother to divide the family property with me."

"Tense moment, right? It's like this guy was saying, 'Jesus, make my brother give me stuff!' And Jesus' response was really interesting and probably a little surprising to the man. Check it out.

Open the Bible to Luke 12:14 (NirV) and read.

"Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge or umpire between you?"

"But Jesus was not quite finished. Jesus continued,

Open the Bible to Luke 12:15 (NirV) and read.

"Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."

"Now, I think Jesus probably could have stopped there. That's a strong point, right? But Jesus continued with a parable.

Open the Bible to Luke 12:16-17 (NirV) and read.

"Jesus said, "A certain rich man's land produced a very large crop. He thought to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have any place to store my crops.'"

"So this man in the story had a great harvest year . . . it was an AMAZING harvest year . . . and now he had all of these crops. More crops than his barns could hold. More crops than he could use in years! His only problem? Where should he store it all?

(To audience) "What do you guys think he should do?"

Call on a few kids to share.

"Those are all great ideas. Unfortunately, that was not what the man in Jesus' story did.



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Open the Bible to Luke 12:18 (NirV) and read.

“Then he said, “This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones. I will store my extra grain in them.”

“Wait, what?! That’s what happened. The man tore down some rickety old barns . . . actually no. He tore down perfectly good barns . . . and built BIGGER ones! Simply to keep the extra crops he couldn’t fit in in his already large barns.

“Okay, but here’s another question . . . What might happen to next year’s harvest? What do you think the man would do then?

“Yeah, I’m guessing he’d end up building whole different barns! Anyhow, Jesus continued. He said:

Open the Bible to Luke 12:19 (NirV) and read.

“I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain stored away for many years. Take life easy. Eat, drink and have a good time.”

“In other words, what was this man planning to do with all that he collected? (Responses) That’s right—he had set himself up, and he would use it ALL to make the next few years of his life very comfortable.

“Do you get the sense that he was planning to share it with others? Yeah, I don’t either.

“Well, this guy might have been pretty happy with how full his barns were, but in Jesus’ story God was NOT pleased with the man’s actions. In fact, God had some pretty strong words for him.

Open the Bible to Luke 12:20 (NirV) and read.

““You foolish man! Tonight I will take your life away from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?”

“Let’s chat about this for a second. Is it bad that this guy did so well and had such a large harvest? NO! It’s great that he was able to grow so much grain. But here’s the thing, if you go back through Jesus’ story, this rich man missed a LOT of chances to give.

“After telling the parable, Jesus finished with these final words.

Open the Bible to Luke 12:21 (NirV) and read.

““That is how it will be for whoever stores things away for themselves but is not rich in the sight of God.””

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “You see, the man had worked so hard at getting more and more and more, and he never thought that maybe all those crops were not just meant to make his life easier but that the crops could be shared with others to help make their lives easier. Instead of building bigger barns to store more than he could possibly EVER have used, he could have given away all that he didn’t have room for! Instead of only making his life better, he could have used what he had to make the lives of others better, too. Sadly, though, he didn’t.



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"Now, you've probably figured out by now that I am not actually planning on keeping all these donuts for myself! (Modify if not offering donuts for everyone) Rather, I think it'd be more fun to make sure everyone gets one. There's DEFINITELY enough to share!

"Listen, it doesn't have to be grain . . . or donuts . . . or the amazing thing you collect like [examples of collections from earlier]. We have a responsibility to share what we have when we have an opportunity to share, rather than clinging so tightly to it that we never want to give it away. And right now . . . I want to share some donuts with my friends!"

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: "But first, today as you go to groups, think about this:

SLIDE: KEY QUESTION

"What do you have that you can share?" Think through some of the things you have at home or school: What might be something you can use to help others? How can you make the lives of the people around you better with what you have to share? Don't worry if you need help thinking through these sorts of questions. You'll get the chance to chat all about this with your Small Group. Before you head out, let's pray and ask God to help us be responsible with what we have! Let's pray!"

SLIDE: THEME BACKGROUND

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard. After prayer, Communicator dismisses kids to Small Group.

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

SLIDE: THEME

OPTIONAL VIDEO (MEDIA PACKAGE): THEME LOOP