

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

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP

35
MIN

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Beautiful" from *This Love* and "Trust You With My Heart" from *This Love*)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Well Done!
Application Activity: Service!
Memory Verse Activity: Make the Most of It
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (print or email)
GodTime devotional for kids
Studio252.tv
Parent Cue App



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



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)

1. EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Offering container, 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:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the container.
- 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?"

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
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MADE TO PLAY

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



2. OPENING ACTIVITY

WHAT YOU NEED: "I Have . . . Who Has?" Activity Pages

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather one or two "I Have . . . Who Has?" cards for each kid.
- Be sure the cards are sequential (i.e., if you grab the coin/dog card, make sure you have the dog/ball card).
- Set aside any extras.
- Shuffle the cards and deal them to the kids, asking them to keep their cards a secret.
- Guide the kid with the first card to say, "I have a coin/quarter. Who has a dog?" Then they set the card face up in front of them.
- The kid with the dog says, "I have a dog. Who has a soccer ball?" They also set their card face up in front of them.
- Continue until kids play every card.

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WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys had a lot of neat things! You had . . . *(name each item the kids had)*. What could you do with a ball? *(Pause.)* What could you do with crayons? *(Pause.)* What could you do with money? *(Pause.)* **[Transition] In Large Group, we'll hear about three people who were each given different amounts of money. Let's go to Large Group and find out what they did with it."**

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



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



1. WELL DONE!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Well Done!" Activity Page, Bible marked at Matthew 25, businessman's attire, cloth bags; beans or similar, hula hoops, carpet squares, or similar; construction paper, marker, tape loops

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WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to recall the characters in today's Bible story. For each character named, invite a kid to "be" that person and stand in a hoop or on a square.
- Help the "businessman" don the suitcoat and other attire. Number each servant accordingly with the construction paper and tape loops.
- Invite a volunteer to open the Bible to Matthew 25.
- Narrate the story using the "Well Done!" Activity Page as a guide.
- As you read, lead kids to pantomime the action. Exaggerate your narration to spur the kids' involvement.
- Keep the other kids engaged by asking questions throughout. You might ask:
 - How do you think Servant Number One felt when their boss gave them that much money?
 - How do you think Servant Number Three felt?
 - How do you think the boss felt when he saw that the first servant made the most of what they'd been given?
 - How do you think he felt when he saw that the third servant hadn't done anything with what they'd been given?
- As time allows, guide kids to switch roles and repeat the dramatization.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"The man in today's story gave each servant a LOT of money—one servant five bags of gold, the second servant two bags of gold, and the third servant one bag of gold. What did the boss say when he found out that the first servant had taken the five bags of gold and made five bags more? (*Well done! You've been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things.*) What did the boss say when he found out that the third servant had buried his money in the ground? (*You should have put my money in the bank; take away his gold.*)

"The message of Jesus' story was clear: God wants us to make the most of what He gives us. Now, God may not give you money, but He DOES give you time, talents, and relationships. And He wants you to make the most of what He gives you. He wants you to make the most of your time. He wants you to make the most of your talents. And He wants us to make the most of our friendships. He wants you to **make the most of what you've been given.**"



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

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



2. SERVICE!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Hand sanitizer, supplies for chosen service project, paper, markers, and other card-making items

WHAT YOU DO:

- Guide kids to apply hand sanitizer.
- Set out the supplies and guide kids to work together to complete the service project.
- Have them make a card for the recipient(s) with the paper, markers, etc.
- Encourage kids to make the most of what they've been given as they work—kids who are good at math can count the items; kids who are good at drawing can draw pictures on the card or bag; kids who are good with words can write the card.
- As kids collaborate, emphasize each kid's unique gifts/talents and how God wants them to make the most of what they've been given.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Jesus made the most of His time with people. He showed love to everyone and helped them understand what's most important to God. God wants you to **make the most of what you've been given**, too.

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids how you try to make the most of what you've been given whether it's money, possessions, time, talents, or relationships.)

"You can **make the most of what you've been given**, too. You can make the most of your time by doing things for others instead of spending too much time playing video games or watching TV. You can make the most of your relationships by being kind to your friends and nice to your brothers and sisters. You can make the most of the things you're good at by practicing your instrument or dance routine or sport. And you can make the most of your stuff by taking good care of your things and sharing with others. Whatever you do, **make the most of what you've been given.**"

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



***3. 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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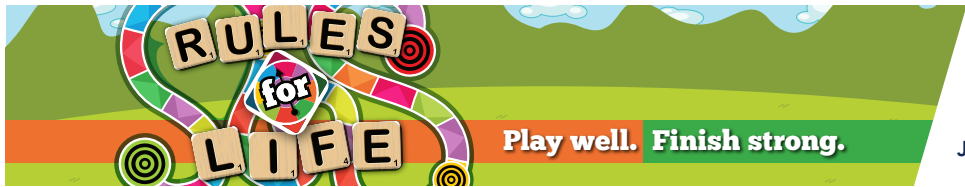
Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you

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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.**"



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space for personal processing and application



4. PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "I Have . . . Who Has?" cards from "Opening Activity"

WHAT YOU DO:

- Show a few of the "I Have . . . Who Has?" cards.
- Choose cards that are most relevant for your kids.
- For each card, invite kids to name ways they could make the most of that item or talent.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids into prayer.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"God is faithful to us, and He wants you to be faithful with what He gives you. (Show the "time" card.) He wants you to make the most of your time by spending time with Him and doing things for others instead of spending too much time playing video games or watching TV. (Show the "friends" card.) He wants you to make the most of your relationships by being kind to your friends and nice to your brothers and sisters. He wants you to make the most of the things you're good at by (show the "piano" card) practicing your instrument or (show the "dance" card) doing your best at dance rehearsal or (show the "soccer ball" card) listening to your coach. (Show the "bike" card.) He also wants you to make the most of your stuff by taking good care of your things and sharing with others.

"Whatever you do, God wants you to **make the most of what you've been given**. Let's pray and ask God to help us be responsible with what He gives us."

Lead kids in prayer, asking God to help both you and the kids **make the most of what you've been given**. If kids participated in "Service!" Activity, also pray for the recipient of your project and ask God to let them know how much He loves them.

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell parents today's Bottom Line: **Make the most of what you've been given**.

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GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story. **(Choose one or both of these activities.)**

1. EARLY ARRIVER

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Offering container
- Hand sanitizer
- A variety of coins; about three for each kid
- Aluminum foil cut into approximately 6X6-inch squares; one for each kid, plus extra
- Cotton balls; one for each kid

2. OPENING ACTIVITY

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "I Have . . . Who Has?" Activity Pages on cardstock and cut apart the cards; one set for each small group
- Hand sanitizer

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

* If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #3.

1. WELL DONE!

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Print the "Well Done" Activity Page; one for each

- small group
- Bible marked at Matthew 25
- Cloth bags; eight for each group
- Beans or similar
 - Fill the cloth bags with the beans and tie shut.
- A suit, tie, and/or other "businessman's" attire
- Construction paper; three pieces for each group
- Marker
 - Number the construction paper 1, 2, and 3 with large, bold print
- Hula hoops, carpet squares, or similar; four for each group
- Tape loops

2. SERVICE!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Identify the need of an individual or family in your church or community. Provide items for kids to meet that need whether it's a food for a food basket, clothing, or snacks.
- Hand sanitizer
- Paper, markers, and/or other items kids can use to make a card

*3. MAKE THE MOST OF IT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bibles
 - For kindergarteners, mark Bibles at Luke 16.
- Ball

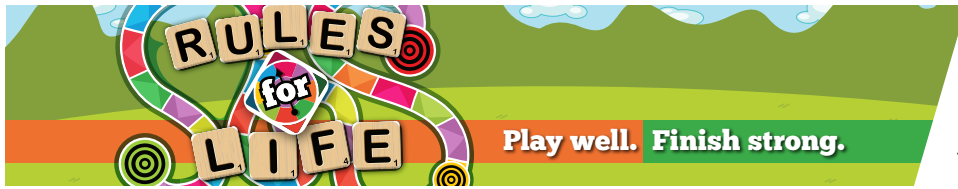
4. PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

WHAT YOU NEED:

- The "I Have . . . Who Has?" cards from "Opening



WEEK
FOUR
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP
K-1

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

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

Activity”

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Print on cardstock or email this week’s GodTime devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.