



PLAY WELL.  
FINISH STRONG.

WEEK  
**FOUR**  
JANUARY 2021

SMALL GROUP  
**PRETEEN**

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### 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.

### 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 ("All About Love" from *Can't Stop Won't Stop*,  
"Trust You With My Heart" from *This Love*, and "Good  
Always" from *Every Beat*)  
Bible Story  
Prayer  
Bottom Line

### SMALL GROUP

25  
MIN

#### GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot  
Bible Story Review: Bible Story Review and Discussion  
Questions  
Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You  
Prayer Activity: Make it Personal with Prayer

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

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



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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

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



*Before kids arrive, pray for your students, asking God to reveal His heart and character to them when it comes to generosity and using what we have to help those around us. Pray for insight into their gifts to speak into them ways that God can use them.*

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## 1. JUST FOR FUN

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Offering container, a variety of table games

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Set up a game station for every 2-3 kids in your group.
- Check to make sure kids know the basic rules for each game that you've set out.
- Explain that kids will choose one of the game stations to begin at then, after two minutes, you will signal them to move to a different game and pick up where the other player left off.
- Remind kids who are playing a card game to place cards face down when they switch to a new game so that the next player does not see the cards until they begin.
- Continue rotating as long as time allows. Vary the playing time less or more if desired.

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



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## 2. 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.

### 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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GROUPS

HOME

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. 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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## 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, box of props

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Provide a pump of hand sanitizer for each kid before beginning this activity.
- Set out the prop box then let kids choose one item but don't tell them what it is for.
- Challenge kids to work in groups of 2-4 to prepare a one-minute retelling of today's Bible story.
- Explain that they must use all their props in some significant way as they tell the story.
  - If kids need help remembering the parable Jesus told, have them use their Bibles or Bible app to look up Matthew 25:14-30.
- Give kids five minutes to prepare then let them take turns presenting their story reviews.
- Remind kids that, like the props they put to use in retelling today's story, God wants us to take all that we've been given by Him and use it well.
- Discuss the meaning of the parable by asking questions that help kids consider its application to life.
  - It's clear that God gives each person different types and amounts of talents and gifts. Why do you think He doesn't give everyone exactly the same?
  - Regardless of the specific gifts, talents, and possessions God gives us, what are we expected to do with them?
  - Finish this sentence: "To make the most of what God has given me means . . ."
- Encourage each kid to discover and develop the talents or skill God has given them.
  - If you know your kids well, point out a unique ability you've observed in them.
  - Challenge them to ask someone who is good at those same things to teach them more about it.

Note: It's easy for kids to identify certain talents such as being smart, good at sports, art, or a music, but help them to think about skills that may not be as obvious but are talents God can use in unique ways. For example:

- love of animals
- cooking or baking
- sense of humor
- creativity
- physical strength
- compassion
- calm and quiet spirit
- technology
- writing
- love of helping wherever needed
- hard working
- friendly



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO CONNECT

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



### 3. 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 EXPLORE

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



### 4. 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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25 MINUTES

### MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space  
for personal processing  
and application



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

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Checkers, checkerboard

**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.
- Give each kid a checker piece.
- 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 corner)
- work at developing a talent I have (point to a corner)
- look for fun ways to use my gifts (point to a corner)
- not be afraid to use what I have to serve God (point to a corner)
- 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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### BASIC TRUTH

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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."





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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. JUST FOR FUN

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Provide a different table game that is familiar to kids and easy to play such as Uno®, Old Maid, Go Fish, Candy Land®, etc.; one game for every two kids

#### 2. OPENING ACTIVITY

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

### 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.)**

#### 1. TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Paper; one for each kid
- Pen; one for each kid

#### 2. BIBLE STORY EXTENSION

[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:**

- Bibles

- Box containing a random item for each kid; such as, a hanger, coin, water bottle, shoe, baby toy or diaper, (the sillier and more unusual the better); one box for each small group

#### 3. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

*Made to Connect:* an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

#### 4. VERSE TO TAKE WITH YOU

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Bible
- 2/3 cup of ketchup; one for each group
- 1-2 tablespoons of baking soda; one for each group
- Tray or table covering to protect work surface
- Spoon
- 8-ounce foam cup or container; one for each group

#### 5. MAKE IT PERSONAL WITH PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Checkerboard; one for each Small Group
- Checker; one for each kid

#### 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**.