

## City LG – October 21 & 22, 2017

**Bible Story:** Cheer Factor (God loves a cheerful giver) • 2 *Corinthians* 9:6-7

**Bottom Line:** Use your money wisely.

**Memory Verse:** “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.” *Luke 16:10a, NIV*

### **WORSHIP: Won’t Let Go and Good, Good, Father**

“Hey City! It’s time to worship today! My name is (your name and others’ names on team), and we are so excited to get to worship God with you today. Let’s all stand to our feet, and sing to Jesus. Our first song is all about how God will never let go of us! Here we go!”

“Our next song is one that you might have heard before on the radio with your parents. This song is called ‘Good, Good, Father’, and it’s all about how God is a really good Daddy to us. Let’s sing...”

### **Large Group:**

“Hello boys and girls! You all sounded great singing just now. Are you all ready for some fun today? Yes! Me too! Of course, we always have fun in The City. And let’s start the fun and kick off our time together by remembering what we’re talking about this month. Raise your hand if you remember. It’s kind of a long word to say. On three, shout it out. One, two, three. *(Pause for response.)* If you said stewardship, you are correct. Can you read this with me?”

### **CG: Stewardship Slide**

“Stewardship is taking care of what you have because it all belongs to God.”

“One more time!”

“Stewardship is taking care of what you have because it all belongs to God.”

“That’s right! The time we have, the stuff we own—it all belongs to God! He gives us these things so we can use them to love Him and to love others. Today we’re going to talk about something else that belongs to God.

“Any guesses what that might be? *(Pause for response.)*

“We’ll see if you’re correct right after—game-time! Oh, and this is a good one!”

### **GAME: Give, Save, Spend**

#### **Materials Needed:**

### **CG: Give, Save, Spend Spinner Video**

*How to Play: Each Set of Small Group Rugs Represent either Give, Save or Spend (You Decide. 3 Sets Total.)*

*Tell the kids to choose a rug to stand on (GIVE, SAVE, or SPEND) and then have tech roll the video. At any given time, tech will pause the video to reveal one of the 3 options, if you are standing on the option revealed on screen you are out. The remaining 2 stay in. Play until there is a winning child.*

“Great job everyone! (*Applaud.*) You guys can have a seat back with your Small Groups. (*Send kids back to their seats.*) Give me a thumbs-up if you’re having a great time! This month we’ve been talking about the earth, our time, and our stuff, and what have we been saying about all that? Who does all of that belong to? (*Pause for response.*) God! That’s right. Everything belongs to God.”

“Does ‘everything’ mean your family? (*Hold hand to ear.*) Yes! Does ‘everything’ mean your favorite toy? (*Hold hand to ear.*) Yes! Does ‘everything’ mean your time? (*Hold hand to ear.*) Yes! ‘Everything’ means everything. Everything belongs to God. He allows us to use His stuff. And how we choose to use it is called stewardship.

“We’ve seen how the people who wrote the Bible talked a ton about how God wants us to take care of what we have. And today is no different. So let’s watch this week’s episode…”

#### **CG: Week 4 Lesson Video**

“Here’s what Paul told his friends. (*Reading from the Bible/Sheet, NOT on Screen*) Here is something to remember. **The one who plants only a little will gather only a little. And the one who plants a lot will gather a lot (2 Corinthians 9:6 NIV).**

“Okay, that makes sense, right? Someone who plants five plants will only have five plants. Someone who plants 500 plants will have 500 plants.

“Paul was referring to gathering crops because for many people living in Paul’s time, how much crop they harvested was related to how much money they’d make that year. Having lots of crops meant that you could sell lots of crops and make money to provide for your family.

“But what does that mean for us? You know, for those of us who don’t plant things? Well, let’s think about this for a moment. If you only work a little, you’ll only get a little reward. But if you work a LOT, chances are that you’ll receive a lot of reward. It may not be money, but it could be more opportunities or the satisfaction you can feel for a job well done. In school, it could mean the grades you receive.

“In this case, though, Paul is referring to payment someone receives for the work they do. And Paul goes on to tell these followers of Jesus what God wants them to do with their money. Let’s keep reading!”

#### **CG: 2 Corinthians 9:7 Slide**

(*Reading from the Bible or Screen*) **“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn’t give if you don’t want to. You shouldn’t give because you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV).**

“In this verse, Paul tells the followers of Jesus two very important things. First, he says, ‘You should only give what you want to give—not because you have to, but because you want to.’ And second, he says, ‘God wants you to be a cheerful giver.’

"In other words, God wants us to use some of our money to help people, but He wants us to have a good attitude when we do it.

"That can be hard sometimes. After all, you're just kids, so you don't have a ton of money, do you? But the amount of money you give isn't what Paul is talking about in this verse. Paul seems to be talking about having a plan for how you'll be generous with the money you do have. Let's take a look at our Bottom Line today..."

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**[Bottom Line]** "Use your money wisely. Say it with me."

**KIDS: [Bottom Line]** "Use your money wisely."

"One more time! How should we use our money?"

**KIDS: [Bottom Line]** "Use your money wisely."

"You know, money CAN be a good thing. But money can also make people act really crazy. It can cause fights between friends and family members. It can turn people into greedy people who don't care about anything else. If you're not careful with it, money can lead to all kinds of problems. That's why it's important to take care of the money God has given you—to use it wisely.

"One way to do that is to remember that everything—including your money—belongs to God. If you can do that, it can change the way you spend your money, the way you save it, and yes, the way you give it away.

"When you **[Bottom Line] use your money wisely**, you spend money on things that matter instead of wasting it. You save with a goal in mind. AND you give—not just because you know you're supposed to. Instead, you give cheerfully because you are grateful to God for giving you the ability to give in the first place.

"One day this week—or even on the ride home—sit down with your mom or dad and decide what amount you could give, what amount you want to save, and what amount you want to spend with some of the money you have.

"We can all be cheerful givers when we have a plan to use our money wisely. Let's pray and ask God to help us use our money wisely..."

**Pray:** "God, thank You so much for everything You allow us to use. We know it all belongs to You. Help us to give, save, and spend—not because we have to but because we want to honor You with the money You allow us to have. Help us to be cheerful givers, because that's what You love. We love You. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen!"

"Now let's head to Small Group, where we'll talk more about how we can use our money in a way that honors God. Have a great time! See you next week!"

**(DISMISS TO SMALL GROUP)**