City LG – September 30 & October 1, 2017

Bible Story: God's World (The earth belongs to the Lord) • Psalm 24:1

Bottom Line: Remember, everything belongs to God.

Memory Verse: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much."

Luke 16:10a, NIV

WORSHIP:

CG: Turn it Up and Higher than the Sky

WELCOME:

"Hey, everybody! My name is [your name], and today is going to be a super cool day. Not only is it our first week talking about stewardship, but I think you're going to have a great time today here in The City. But first let's remind ourselves what we mean by that big word: stewardship.

CG: Stewardship Slide

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

"Perfect. So, everybody put your foot in the air. See that shoe? Might sound silly, but you're supposed to take care of it! Tap the shoulder of your shirt. Feel that? You're supposed to take care of that. Give your neighbor a high five. You see your neighbor? You're even supposed to take care of THEM. And why?"

"Because they all belong to God!"

"That's right. Now, I'm not saying you're wearing God's shoes—something tells me they wouldn't fit Him. What I AM saying is that everything we own, everything we have, everything we see, and all the teeny-tiny things we can't see all exist because God allows them to exist. Now, don't worry if what I'm saying doesn't make perfect sense just yet. I have something that might help. Let's take a look at this week's episode..."

CG: Week 1 Lesson Video

"Let's take a look at something King David once wrote in a song that we still have in our Bibles. This is Psalm 24:1. (Open Bible and read directly from Psalm 24:1) The earth belongs to the Lord. And so does everything in it. The world belongs to him. And so do all those who live in it (NIrV)."

"Did you catch that? Everything and everyone on earth, belongs to God!"

"On three, yell out the name of the Creator of the earth. One, two, three. (Pause.) That's right! God! The earth belongs to God)—our perfect, sinless, loving heavenly Father."

"That's one of the reasons we should take care of the earth: it's not ours: it's God's.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] Remember, everything belongs to God. That's our Bottom Line today. Say it with me."

[Bottom Line] "Remember, everything belongs to God."

"One more time! What belongs to God?"

"That's right! The sun, the stars, the oceans, and the land—everything, including the earth—belongs to God. Everything we have—our money, our things, our time—are only ours because God has allowed us to have them. He trusted us with what we have and get to enjoy. That means we should take care of our things, use them wisely, and even use them to help others. We should take care of what we have and share when we're able. And when we do that, you never know what might happen. For example, check out our memory verse for this month."

CG: Memory Verse Slide

"It's Luke 16:10a: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much," Luke 16:10a (NIV).

"When you take good care of what God has given you—when you use it wisely—then you're showing God that you can be trusted. And when that happens, God may allow you bigger opportunities for more responsibility in the future.

"Now it's time for you crazy kids to head back to Small Group and talk more about how you can take care of what you have because everything belongs to God. Have so much fun together! Before we go, let's pray and thank God for creating all those amazing things we get to enjoy every single day!"

PRAY: "God, thank You for the earth and all the amazing things You created for us to enjoy. We know that since everything belongs to You, the Earth is yours, too. Help us to take care of the earth not just so we can enjoy it longer, but because it's Yours, and we want to show You how much we love You. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen."

(DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS)