

City “All Together Activities”—January 24th, 2021

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)

1. Tell Me Something New

What You Need: Hand sanitizer and bag with small items (1 per service)

What You Do:

- Recap the story with the review questions below.
- Encourage kids to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Instruct kids to sit in a circle.
- Give each kid an item from the bag.
- Explain that the goal is to think of something creative to do with the item you have been given.
- Encourage kids to use their imaginations. Have fun and get silly with it!
- If any kids have a hard time thinking of a way to use their item, help them think of something creative.

Review questions:

1. How many servants did the master leave his wealth to? (*three*)
2. What did the first servant do with the five bags of gold he was left? (*he earned double the bags of gold, so ten total*)
3. What did the second servant do with the two bags of gold he was left? (*he earned double the bags of gold, so four total*)
4. What did the third servant do with the one bag of gold he was left? (*he buried it and didn’t earn anything*)
5. What did Jesus want to teach us through this story? (*God wants us to make the most of what we’ve been given.*)

What You Say:

“We definitely have a creative bunch in this group. Sometimes it’s easy to look at what we have and not use it to the best of our ability. It would have been simple to give up and say there was nothing you could do with the object in front of you. Instead, you decided that you could **[Bottom Line] make the most of what you’ve been given.** **[Make it Personal] (Share about a time you thought you needed more, but instead you made the most out of what God had given you.)**

“God has given you a lot—sometimes you just need to get creative with how you use what He’s given you. Maybe God has given you a talent, like you’re a good artist. How can you make the most of that talent? (Pause for responses.) Yes! Maybe you could draw pictures to encourage someone in the hospital or a nursing home or your little sister if she’s sad. The next time you find yourself stuck, take a look around and see what God has already given you. You may be surprised that you have some hidden treasures right before your eyes!”

2. Use What You’ve Got

What You Need: “Use What You’ve Got” Activity Page (1 per kid), pens

What You Do:

- Give each kid a “Use What You’ve Got” page and a pen.
- Encourage the kids to look at the list of things on the left column. Discuss how the things in the left column are all things everyone has.
- Instruct kids to draw a line from the things on the left column to something in the right column that needs to be accomplished in the world.
- Invite the kids to fill in the empty circles on the page with their own ideas for things they have and what they can accomplish.

- Some of the connections kids make are somewhat abstract. Help your concrete thinkers stretch their minds a little bit. If they seem stuck, ask questions like:
 - What could you use to help someone who needs someone to stand up for them?
 - What could you use to share the story of Jesus with someone?

What You Say:

“Sometimes the world tells us we need even more, bigger, or better things to accomplish something great. God tells us He will give us what we need to accomplish His plans! And His plans are really awesome! That means all you have to do is look around and **[Bottom Line] make the most of what you’ve been given**. These are all great ideas we just talked about on our paper. Which one of these things do you look forward to making the most of this week?” (Allow time for kids to share what they can do this week.)

3. Spell It Out

What You Need: Scrabble Tiles in a Bag-Spelling out the Verse (2 sets)

What You Do:

- Review the memory verse (Luke 16:10a) with your group.
- Give them a pump of hand sanitizer.
- Divide your group into two teams
- Direct each team to form a line.
- Set a bag of memory verse letters about 10-15 feet across from each team.
- Explain that all of the letters in the memory verse are in the bag.
- Kids will use the letters in the bag to form their memory verse as fast as they can.
- Instruct the kids to race one at a time to the bag and grab five letters. Then, they take them back to their team and start to form the memory verse with what they have.
- Inform kids that one or more of them may need to run to the bag twice.
- The first team to form their Bible verse correctly, wins.
- Let both teams complete their Bible verse.
- Encourage the winning team to help the other team if they’re stuck.
- Ask kids to put their letters back in the bags when the game is over.

What You Say:

“Way to go, teams! Was anybody able to put their verse together without looking at their Bible? (Allow time for responses.) Either way, you rocked it! The more letters you pulled out of your bag, the easier it became to form the words. That reminds me of our memory verse! Let’s read it together. (Read verse out loud together.) The more you show that you can be trusted, the more you will be trusted with. It was a bit challenging in the beginning, when you didn’t have all of the letters, but you worked with what you had and finally reached the end of the verse! No matter what you have, you can always **[Bottom Line] make the most of what you’ve been given**.”

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Letters from “Spell It Out” Activity

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to think of someone they would like to pray for this week.
- Ask them to find as many letters as they can in their person’s name. Explain that they might not be able to find all of the letters, but to find as many as they can. They can make the most of what they’ve been given by spelling their person’s name the best they can!
- Next, let a couple of volunteers share how they can use what they have to encourage the person whose name they spelled.
- Ask God to help us use what we have to encourage these people in our lives.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for giving us everything we need to live out the plan You have for us. When we face situations where we are left wanting more or for something different, help us cling to the truth that You take care of all our needs. Help us remember that each and every day we can show responsibility and **[Bottom Line] make the most of what you’ve been given**.”