

CITY LG – July 11th- 12th, 2026

Bible Story: The Parable of the Bags of Gold • *Matthew 25:14-30 NIV*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

WORSHIP

Goodbye Yesterday

Power Up

SLIDE: Theme

Hello, explorers! Welcome back to Kingdom Quest! This whole summer, we've been talking about God's kingdom. The name of our series this month is 'Kingdom Quest—Living the Greatest Adventure.'

What is God's kingdom? Well, it's anywhere that God reigns! It's anywhere where He is seen as King and His good ways are lived out. God is loving, joyful, patient, kind, honest, trustworthy—all of these amazing things. God's kingdom is good because He is so good! We want His good kingdom everywhere. That's the Kingdom Quest we're on—to show off God's good kingdom!

Before we get started on the awesome adventure we have planned for today, let's warm up a little. Turn to someone next to you and say, 'I'm happy you're here!'

Good! Now turn to someone else and say, 'Let's go on an adventure!'

You all look ready. I want to see who has a good imagination in here! Let's play ...

SLIDE: Once Upon a Time! Title

Once Upon a Time! Here's how it works: I'm going to start telling a silly story. Then, I'll choose a few storytellers to come up here. Each one will add a sentence or two to help build the story. We'll see how funny and surprising our story becomes! Sound good?

Okay, I need five storytellers. Let's pick some volunteers.

(Pick five kids from the ones who have their hands raised and invite them to the front of the game area. Have them line up facing the audience.)

Alright, storytellers, get ready. And everyone else, get ready to listen to the story.

Once upon a time, in a faraway kingdom, there lived a tiny squirrel who put on a shiny crown and decided it wanted to be ... the King of Snacks!

Okay, Storyteller 1, what happened next?

(Allow Storyteller 1 to add one or two sentences.)

Wonderful! Storyteller 2, your turn. What happened after that?

(Continue until all volunteers have added to the story.)

(Once every volunteer has shared, wrap up the story.)

And so, the tiny squirrel with the shiny crown wiggled its tail, grabbed a giant snack, and zoomed off on the silliest, crunchiest adventure the kingdom had ever seen ... and it learned that adventures are way more fun when we make them up together! The end!

Let's give our storytellers a big round of applause! That was so much fun! I love seeing your imaginations at work. You guys can take your seats.

Now it's time to look at our Memory Verse for the month! This verse reminds us that God's kingdom is good because God is good! It is full of things that are right, peace, and joy. And those things come from the Holy Spirit.

Our Memory Verse this month is found in Romans 14:17.

SLIDE: Memory Verse

God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17 NIV).

SLIDE: Theme Background

Today's Bible Story is all about God's kingdom. To get us thinking about our Bible Story, let's talk about something fun.

Turn to someone next to you, and tell them one thing you're really good at. Maybe you're great at drawing, or running, or baking, or helping, or making people laugh. Ready? Go!

(Pause while kids talk to their neighbor.)

Who wants to share one thing they're good at with the whole group? Raise your hand if you'd like to share!

(Call on a few kids who have their hands raised, and let them share what they're good at.)

That's wonderful! God made each of you with special things you can do. Some of you are great helpers. Some of you are amazing builders. Some of you are kind friends. Some of you are super creative. God gives all of us good things, and He put you in a place different than anyone else to use those things.

And today's Bible Story is going to help us understand something important: **God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.** Let's dive into today's story!

VIDEO: Bible Story

God has given every single one of you all kinds of special gifts you can use for Him. Those gifts definitely include those abilities we talked about earlier! Or it could be just being at the right place at the right time. Maybe it is money! But whatever God has given you, just like it made the master happy, it makes God really, really happy when you use what He's given you. So use every little thing He has given you to make Him happy.

That reminds me of our Bottom Line for today! Let's see what it says.

SLIDE: Bottom Line

God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.

Think of every single thing you have and ask: 'How can I make God smile with this?' He's given you great things, and you can use them well until He gets back!

When you use those gifts and help someone, share, show kindness, or do what's right, you are using what God has given you. That means people get to see God's love through you.

You don't have to do something big. You don't have to be perfect. You just use what God has already given you. And you're not alone when you do this—God will help you!

Because just like the master in the story, Jesus, our wise master who left us with so many gifts, is coming back. He wants to see what we've done with all the gifts He's given us. That might sound scary, but you never have to be afraid, because God loves you, He is always with you, and He wants to see you do great things with what He's given you. The master was so happy when His servants used what He had given them. God is too! Ask Him to help you think of things to do if you need it!

Let's take a quiet moment to talk to the good master who left us with gifts.

God, thank You for giving each of us special gifts. Thank You for putting us in unique places to use every little thing You've given us. We want to use everything You've given us to show Your love to others. We want Your kingdom to grow, and we are ready to be part of it. We want to make You happy with the way we live our lives. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERING

Do you remember what we are raising money for this year? Yep, Clean water wells in Malawi, which is a country in Africa. Having a well with clean water right in their village means women and children don't have to travel far away to other villages to get clean water, and then they don't have to walk back with heavy containers. Let's watch a video that was taken from a team from our church that just finished installing a brand new well. Listen carefully as the man is a little hard to understand.

Missions video 3

Amazing right? The money we raise for these wells really make a BIG impact the villages in Malawi!

SLIDE: Theme