

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2023, Week 2

Today's Bible Story: Never Enough (Bigger Barns) • Luke 12:13-21

Today's Bottom Line: Share what you have.

Monthly Memory Verse: "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. Luke 16:10 (ESV)

Monthly Virtue: Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Thank God for the things you have and the opportunity you've been given to share your time and resources with your kids. Ask God to help guide your conversation as you navigate what it looks like to share what we have. Pray specifically for those who may be facing hardships this season.

Check out our Pinterest page here <https://bit.ly/447HSZi> for a visual on some of the activities.

LARGE GROUP (35 minutes)

STORY: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

WORSHIP: Inviting People to Respond to God

Hang Time
Welcome/Opener
Worship
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Story Exploration
Bible Story Review: Bigger Barns Relay
Application Activity: You Can Share It!
Memory Verse Activity: Let It Build
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
Devotionals for Kids
Parent Cue App

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Use this if kids have questions about following Jesus.

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word gospel. Clarify that the word gospel means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

If a child has expressed interest in following Jesus, please let the parents know so they can be a part of the conversation that their child is having about faith.

What Now?

If you put your trust in Jesus Christ and believe in Him as the One who forgives your sins and makes it possible for you to know God, we are so proud of you! There is no greater single decision that you could make.

We believe that baptism is an important next step for you. Baptism is your way of telling your friends and family, “Hey, I'm a follower of Jesus!” If you're interested in learning more or participating in baptism, talk to a staff member about the next steps you should take.

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Story Exploration

Did anything Jesus taught about possessions surprise you? I'm sure it surprised some of the people in the crowd. Even today, many people believe that the most important thing about life is earning as much money as you can or owning the newest and the best things. But for believers, that is not what is most important.

In the story about the rich man, who was most important to the rich man? Look at Luke 12:19. [Allow kids to read the verse and respond.] The man cared more about himself than anyone else. Is that how we should live as people of God? No! Jesus warned that the man could have died that night, and his full barns would do him no good. We can be generous with what we have, using it to help others and tell them the good news about Jesus.

Jesus taught people not to worry because God provides for our needs. How do we know that God will provide? Look at Luke 12:24. [Allow kids to read the verse and respond.] God provides for even the birds and the wildflowers. You are worth more than birds and the wildflowers. God created you in His image, and He cares about you. He will provide what we need. He has already provided for our greatest need—salvation from sin—by sending His Son.

Jesus is our greatest treasure. Jesus left His place in heaven to live humbly on earth. Jesus obeyed God to set up His kingdom. We can give generously and trust God to provide everything we need.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

- In what ways has God been generous toward you and your family?
Guide kids to recognize ways God has provided for their family—physically and spiritually. Steer kids away from bragging about any possessions or wealth they may have. Point out ways God provides by giving us friends, neighbors, and teachers. Acknowledge His greatest provision, Jesus.
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 30:18.)
- How can we fight against greed?
Lead kids to recognize that we can fight greed by humbly relying on God and giving generously. We can ask God for what we need and trust that He will answer and provide in the way that is best for us. We can pray for the Holy Spirit's help in seeking God's kingdom first.
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 4:1-2.)
- Share about a time you were selfish or felt tempted to act selfishly. How can generosity lead others to Jesus?
Invite kids to share their experiences. Point out that the world teaches that we should look out for ourselves. In Jesus' kingdom, the opposite is true. We can put others first because God meets all of our needs. When believers live generously, others may ask why and we can share how God has been generous to us by providing eternal life through Jesus.
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 10:24.)

1. Bigger Barns Relay

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Blocks, timer, various relay obstacle items, and masking tape

What You Do:

- Divide your group into two teams.
- Use the masking tape to create a start line and a finish line for both teams.
- Give each team at least 20 blocks and set them behind the starting line.
- Set out the relay obstacle items beside each team.
- Instruct each team to choose one representative from their team to build a barn for their team with the blocks.
- Direct the representative to carry down as many blocks as they can to the finish line, build with what they have on the other side of the line, and go back to the starting line to grab more blocks.
- Every time the builder comes back, instruct the opposite team to weigh down the builder with the various items to try to make their task more difficult.
 - For example, a team can give the builder a ball to carry, a bunch of hats to wear, swim goggles to wear, etc.
 - Opposite teams can only add two things on the person each round, but the person will get more weighed down as they go!
- Set a timer for three minutes and start the relay when you start the timer.
- The team with the biggest barn when the timer goes off, wins!
- Repeat with a different kid as the builder as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

“Our game was a lot like the story today. The more the stuff, the easier it is to be distracted from your mission. God has called you to **[Bottom Line] share what you have**. We all have a gift from God. It’s okay to have things, but God doesn’t want our things to get in the way of what we set out to do. God wants us to clearly see the amazing plans for us. One of the greatest ways you can love God is to **[Bottom Line] share what you have**. It’s even better if we can use what we’ve been given to share God’s love with others.”

*2. You Can Share It

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “You Can Share It” Activity Page, posterboards, and markers

What You Do:

- Divide your group into teams of three or four.
- Give each group a set of cards from the “You Can Share It” Activity Page.
 - Point out that the cards include four categories of people and four ways we can share with others.
- Give each group a posterboard and markers.
- Instruct each group to match each “person” card with the “ways to share” card (match the numbers).
 - NOTE: If limited on time, you can give each group a different pair of cards rather than all four and see how much time you have to continue.
- For each pair of cards, each group should create a plan for how they can share with the person listed on the card and the way described on the other card. (For example: How can you share your *time* with a *new kid at school*?)
- Direct each group to create a presentation on their posterboard for all four scenarios that they will later share with the group. (Encourage groups to be creative—write a story or poem or draw pictures with captions, etc.)
- After a few minutes, invite each group to share their presentation with the rest of the group.

What You Say:

“Way to work together and use your creativity to **[Bottom Line] share what you have**. I enjoyed seeing the differences in your presentations! God has trusted us to care for the people around us, and you have some great ideas on how to do that well! You can **[Bottom Line] share what you have** and be responsible with the way you love the world around you!”

[Make it Personal] *(Share about a time you shared something you had with someone and how that person felt cared for and loved by Jesus because of it.)*

3. Let It Build

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: “Let It Build” Activity Page, Bibles, tape, blocks from the “Bigger Barns Relay” activity

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to get in their team from the “Bigger Barns Relay” activity or divide your group into two teams.
- Give each team several Bibles.
- Together, look up Luke 16:10 using the Bible navigation tips below.

Finding verses with 2nd and 3rd graders: Guide kids to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like. When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find “Luke” in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Luke, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Luke. Help the kids find the page. When they find Luke, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 16. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 10 in chapter 16.

- Read the verse out loud together a few times.
- Give each team a set of cards from the “Let It Build” Activity Page and tape.
- Set out the blocks. (Both teams will need 20 blocks for the NIV or 14 blocks for the NIV.)
- Instruct the kids to tape the cards of the memory verse on the blocks.
- Direct the kids to build a barn (or tower) with the words in memory verse order from top to bottom.

What You Say:

“Just like the blocks build on one another, your responsibility builds, too. Each time you’re responsible with what God has given you, it shows that you’re ready for more responsibility. Maybe that looks like being more responsible to clean up after yourself at home so you’re ready for that pet hamster you’ve been asking for. Perhaps it looks like spending your time with things that are important, even if they aren’t your favorite, like homework, so you can take on a new extracurricular activity. When you **[Bottom Line]** share what you have, whether it’s your time or your abilities, or your stuff, you lay a solid foundation and show you can be trusted to share with even more.”

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Say:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember?
- How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission?

What You Need: "Share My Story" Activity Pages, stapler, and markers

What You Do:

- Give every kid a set of "Share My Story" Activity Pages.
- Show the kids how to assemble the pages in order.
- Help the kids staple the sides like a book.
- Set out the markers.
- Instruct the kids to color and complete the cover, back, and first page of the journal.
- Invite the kids to complete the rest of the pages throughout the week.
- Close your group time in prayer.

What You Say:

"One of the coolest ways you can **[Bottom Line]** share what you have is to share your story—the story about what God has done in your life. It's the story of how you've seen God working. This could be a big thing you've seen God do in your family, for one of your family members, or even for you personally. It could also be an everyday moment like joy during a really hard day.

"This week, we'll use this journal to help us share our story with others so they can see the love of God through us. Let's pray together.

"God, thank You that You have given us everything we have. Everything we have is from You. Please show us how we can use what You have given us—our time, our abilities, our stuff, our story—to show Your love to the people in our lives. We love You. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show off their "Share My Story" journals.

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

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.)

**If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #2.*

Story Exploration – No supplies

1. Bigger Barns Relay

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need:

- Blocks—at least 40
 - Make sure the blocks are large enough for a 1" x 1" card to be taped on in the Memory Verse Activity.
- Timer
- Masking tape
- Various obstacles and items to make seeing and walking during a relay race more challenging (swimming goggles, a bunch of hats, balls to carry, backpacks, scarves to wear, sunglasses, large slippers, etc. *NOTE: Select items that are lightweight. Avoid blindfolds.*)

*2. You Can Share It

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need:

- Print "You Can Share It" Activity Page on paper and cut apart, one set for every three to four kids
- Posterboards—one for every three to four kids
- Markers

3. Let It Build

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need:

- "Print "Let It Build" Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart, two sets for each Small Group
- Blocks from the "Bigger Barns Relay" activity
- Tape
- Bibles

4. Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need:

- Print “Share My Story” Activity Pages on paper, double-sided, one set for each kid
- Stapler
- Markers

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week’s devotionals and Parent Cue cards.
- Tell parents about our additional family resources: **Parent Cue app**