

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2024, 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

Welcome/Opener

Worship

Bible Story

Bottom Line

Prayer

Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Bible Story Review: Smaller Barns

Application Activity: Share What You Have

Memory Verse Activity: Share and Share Alike

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)

In Jesus' parable, a rich man had so many crops that he decided to tear down his barns and build bigger ones. That way, he could store everything he had and take it easy. But the man was foolish and short-sighted. He didn't consider he could die that very night. The saying is true: "You can't take it with you." Rather than storing up treasures for ourselves, we should live to glorify God and live generously, using what we have on earth to make an eternal impact.

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:

- What happened to the rich man who stored up his possessions? (He didn't get to use them because he died, Luke 12:20)
- What treasure did Jesus tell people to seek? (the kingdom of God; heavenly treasure; Luke 12:31-33)
- How can we avoid greed and selfishness? Help kids understand that to overcome greed we must understand Jesus' generosity displayed on the cross. As we better understand the extravagant generosity of Christ, our love for Him will move us to show generosity as Jesus did.
- 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. Smaller Barns

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: "Barns" Activity Pages, floor tape, cotton balls or pom-poms, index cards, music player, and upbeat music

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two to four teams, depending on the number of kids and the size of your environment. (Ideally, each team should have no more than three or four kids.)
- Direct each team to stand at opposite "corners" of your environment.
- Give each team a different "Barns" Activity Page.
- Tape their "Barns" Activity Page to the floor near each team.
 - If you have three or four teams, position the barns so they're about the same distance apart.
- Give each kid an index card.
- Set an equal number of cotton balls or pom-poms on each team's barn.
- When you start the music, instruct the kids to use the index cards to move the cotton balls or pom-poms out of their own barn and into other teams' barns in a race to share what they have!
- When you stop the music, direct the kids to quickly return to their team's barn.
- Play again as time allows.

What You Say:

"Great job of working hard in that game to **[Bottom Line] share what you have**. Did the man in today's Bible story share what he had? *(No!)* No, he didn't! He kept it all for himself! What happened? *(Invite responses—other people got his stuff; God told him it was more important to share.)* Jesus told this story to let us know that it's important to **[Bottom Line] share what you have** because EVERYTHING we have comes from God.

"What do YOU have that you can share with others? *(Invite responses—toys, snack, markers and crayons at school, etc.)* Great ideas! Even if you don't think you have anything to share, you can ALWAYS share a smile, a kind word, a hug, or a high five. So, remember to **[Bottom Line] share what you have.**"

***2. Share What You Have**

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Variety of craft supplies

What You Do:

- Give each kid a portion of the craft supplies.
 - Ration supplies as you hand them out so kids will need to share with others to create.
- Instruct the kids to create something from their craft supplies.
- Lead kids to discover they can share their supplies with others in the group.
- As the kids work, use the conversation below as a guide to bring home today's Bottom Line.

What You Say:

"In today's story, Jesus wanted us to know how important it is to **[Bottom Line] share what you have** because EVERYTHING you have comes from God! When we share what we have, it can show others that God loves them. You guys are doing a GREAT job of sharing your craft supplies! What else can YOU share with others? *(Ask prompting questions to guide kids—Do you have toys you can share? Who can you share them with? What can you share at school? What can you share with your brother or sister? Be sure to recognize that kids may feel like they don't have anything to share. Incorporate sharing 'intangibles' such as time, kind words, hugs, smiles, or talents.)* Great ideas!

[Make It Personal] *(Tell kids about something you shared when you were young. You may have shared a toy with a friend, a snack with a classmate, time with your brother or sister, or a smile with someone sad. Tell how you felt when you shared and how your actions affected the other person.)*

"No matter what, you can **[Bottom Line] share what you have!**"

3. Share and Share Alike

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: “Puzzle Verse” Activity Page and Bible marked at Luke 16:10

What You Do:

- Give a kid the marked Bible.
- Invite that kid to open the Bible where marked.
- Read the full verse aloud once.
- Read the verse out loud again, but phrase by phrase, encouraging the kids to say it with you.
- Tell kids that everything we have is a gift from God and when you **[Bottom Line] share what you have**, you show that you can be trusted with what God has given you.
- Help kids get into groups of two or three.
- Give each group a set of “rigged” puzzle pieces from the “Puzzle Verse” Activity Page. (Each group has a puzzle with pieces from another puzzle.)
- Challenge kids to assemble their puzzles.
 - As kids discover their puzzles are incomplete, let the tension sit for a bit.
 - Give kids time to realize they need to share their pieces to complete their puzzles.
 - If the kids get REALLY stuck, ask open-ended questions to help them find the solution on their own.
 - What is wrong with your puzzle?
 - How could you get the pieces you need?

What You Say:

“Could you finish your puzzle with the pieces I gave you? (*No.*) You needed to share with others, and they needed to share with you. It’s the same with everything God gives you. EVERYTHING you have comes from God, and God doesn’t want you to keep it to yourself. He wants you to **[Bottom Line] share what you have**.

“Why do you think God wants us to share? (*Pause for responses. Allow plenty of wait time for kids to process your question, think about it, and answer. There’s a lot of thinking happening in the silence!*) Good thinking! When you **[Bottom Line] share what you have**, you show God that you can be trusted with what you are given. You also show others who God is and what God is like. You show them God’s love! Wow! So this week, **[Bottom Line] share what you have.**”

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?

What You Need: Small treats or prizes

What You Do:

- Give out the treats or prizes to the kids.
 - Give one treat to each kid, plus one or two more for them to share with others.
- Use the conversation below as a guide to lead kids in prayer.

What You Say:

"God wants you to **[Bottom Line] share what you have**. Just like I shared the [treats or prizes] with you, you can **[Bottom Line] share what you have**, too. Who will you share your [treats or prizes] with? *(Pause for responses.)* They will be so happy that you shared with them! And you know what? When you share with them, you'll show them that you love them and that God loves them, too! Let's pray.

"Dear God, You are SO GOOD! EVERYTHING we have is a gift from You! Help us use what You give us to show Your love to others. Help us love others with our stuff, our time, our abilities, our words, and our actions. Thank You, Lord, for giving us SO much. Thank You most of all for giving us Jesus. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to show them their treats and say who they'll share with. They can also say today's Bottom Line. **[Bottom Line] share what you have**.

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. Smaller Barns

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need:

- Print “Barns” Activity Pages on 11x17 paper— one set for each Small Group
- Floor tape— one for each Small Group
- Cotton balls or pom-poms—20 for every three or four kids
- Index cards—one for each kid
- Music player— one for each Small Group
- Upbeat music

*2. Share What You Have

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need:

- Variety of shareable craft supplies like Play-Doh® and Play-Doh® tools, paint dot markers and paper, stickers and paper, or whatever you have on hand—enough for each kid to create something

3. Share and Share Alike

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need:

- Bible marked at Luke 16:10
- Print “Puzzle Verse” Activity Page on cardstock and cut apart —one set for every two or three kids
 - Before group time, “rig” the puzzles by removing one or two pieces from each and putting them with a different puzzle so each puzzle has one or two duplicate pieces.

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:

- Small individually wrapped candies, stickers, trinkets, or other items appropriate for your environment—two or three for each kid

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**