

Today's Suggested Schedule—January 2024, Week 2

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

Today's Key Question: What do you have that you can share?

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 (Communicator Script)

Key Question

Prayer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect

Story Exploration

Application Activity: Take a Snapshot

Bible Story Review: Bible Story Extension and Discussion Questions

Memory Verse Activity: Verses to Take with You

Prayer Activity: Make It Personal with Prayer

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. Take a Snapshot

[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: “Story Strips” Activity Page, pencils, colored pencils (or markers); *Optional: clipboards or other sturdy writing surface*

What You Do:

- Give each kid a copy of the “Story Strips” Activity Page.
- Invite kids to sit where they have a hard surface to write on. (This could mean allowing kids to sit at a tabletop or giving them books, Bibles, or clipboards to write on.)
- Give each kid a pencil.
- Set out the colored pencils (or markers).
- Direct the kids to use the comic strip boxes in the “Story Strips” Activity Page to illustrate and tell a story of something that happened to them recently.
 - Share that it doesn’t need to be an elaborate story. It could be something as simple as a trip to the grocery store with a parent.
 - Remind the group that their drawings can be super simple—especially for the kids who don’t feel confident in their artistic abilities.
- Once everyone has had a chance to finish their comic strips, invite each kid to share their story with the group while showing their illustrations.
- Say: “One of the ways we can share what we have with others is to share what God has done in our lives. Sometimes that can feel scary or intimidating. Maybe we aren’t sure how people will react. But one of the best ways we can begin feeling more comfortable with sharing what God has done in our lives is by sharing with people who make us feel safe. Our small group should always be a place where everyone feels safe!”
- Ask: “Would anyone like to share a story with the group that tells a little about what God has done in their lives?”
 - It may take your prompting for the kids to think of a story to share.
 - For example, this could be a short story about how they made the decision to follow Jesus. But it could also be a story about a time when they could tell that God was helping them. Maybe they moved somewhere new, and God provided them with a friend. Or maybe they asked God to help them do their best during baseball tryouts and they made the team.
- **[Make It Personal] (Share your story with the group about how you came to have a relationship with Jesus. This should be brief, authentic, and also considerate of what may or may not be age appropriate. Or share about a time you felt God was with you.)**

2. Bible Story Extension

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Prepared shoeboxes including: tape, scissors, pipe cleaners, and toothpicks; prepared gallon zip-top bags including: craft sticks, construction paper (or cardstock), brown paper lunch sacks, raffia, and markers

What You Do:

- Ask: "Would anyone like to recap the parable we read today in Luke 12:13-21? Can anyone share a part of what they remember?"
- After the kids have shared, review the following details:
 - Jesus was teaching a crowd of people about God when a man asked Jesus to tell his brother to divide their family properly.
 - Jesus warned the man not to want more and more things, and then used a parable to explain what He was trying to teach.
 - Jesus told a story about a rich man who had so much food that he did not have enough room in his barns to store it all.
 - The man decided he would build even bigger barns, instead of sharing the food he had.
 - Because of the man's selfishness, God told him his life would be taken away from him.
 - Jesus explained to the people that we should be rich in God's eyes; not because of what we store up for ourselves.
 - It's okay to have nice things, but those things shouldn't get in the way of loving God and people.
- Divide your group into pairs.
- Encourage the pairs to spread out to a place where they have plenty of space.
- Give each pair of kids a prepared assortment of supplies.
 - Give half of the pairs a prepared shoebox.
 - Give the other half of the pairs a prepared zip-top bag.
- Instruct the kids to use the supplies they were given in order to design and build a barn.
 - Not everyone will have the same supplies, but each pair must only use what they were given.
- Give kids five minutes or so to build their barns.
- After five minutes, invite kids to look around at the different barns that were built among the group.
- Give them a chance to see what kinds of supplies other kids may have been given that would have been useful for their barn.
- Say: "The barns you built were great! But perhaps you could build even better barns if you shared supplies with each other."
- Instruct the pairs of kids who were given a shoebox to group up with a pair of kids who were given bags.
- Give the new groups another five minutes or so to use all their combined supplies to create better barns together.
- If you had an uneven number of pairs, have one pair of kids join another group or give them the opposite prepared supply items.
- When all the groups have finished, give each group a chance to show their new and improved barn with the rest of the group.

- Ask:
 - Why was it challenging to build the first barn?
 - What made it better when you combined with another group?
 - How did you and your new group use your different skills to work together to build the barn?
- Say: “You were able to do a better job once you were given the chance to share with each other. Not only did everyone have different supplies that were useful, but each person has different skills that could be used when building the barns! God has given each of us different talents and abilities, and it’s our responsibility to share them with the world.”

3. Discussion Questions

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- What do you have that you can share?
- Why is it sometimes hard to share?
- Is it more difficult to share your things or your story?
- Why do we have a responsibility to share with others?
- Who are some people you can share with?
- How does sharing reflect your relationship with God?

4. Verses to Take with You

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- Have the kids look up the following verses.
- After each group reads their verse, ask: “What are we supposed to share?”
 - Proverbs 22:9: *Share your food*
 - Romans 12:13: *Share your home*
 - Luke 3:11: *Share your clothes and food*
 - Luke 8:39: *Share what God has done for you*
 - Mark 16:15: *Share what God has done for the world*
 - Acts 2:45: *Share your property and possessions*
 - Acts 4:33-35: *Share your profit*
- Say: “We all have opportunities around us to share.”
- Ask: What are some ways you can share with people around you?
- Ask: How does sharing with others point people to Jesus?
- Ask: How does sharing help you grow closer to God?

5. Make It Personal with Prayer

[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:

Option 1: Permanent markers, large craft sticks, and prepared jars for kids not present for Week 1

Option 2: "Pet Project Prayers: 2" Activity Page, pens (or pencils)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a copy of the "Pet Project Prayers: 2" Activity Page and a pen (or pencil).
- Encourage kids to decorate their pages however they would like. (They can draw pictures of their favorite animal or a pet they have at home.)
- After each kid has had a chance to decorate their page, instruct them to use the spaces provided to list prayers they may have.
- Instruct the kids to write prayers that are focused on asking God to help them share what they have. (These should be brief reminders that will help guide them when they pray at home.)
- Encourage the kids to think of specific opportunities in their lives when they can be challenged to share.
- Examples of prayers might include:
 - Share my story with my friend.
 - Share my things with my sister.
 - Use what I have to help others.
- Encourage kids to take their page home and place it somewhere they will see it.
- Challenge them to set time aside in the week ahead to pray each day.
- Say: "Praying doesn't have to be complicated or take a long time. Just taking a little time talking to God each day is a great way to spend time with God and also to stay focused on how we can share."
- Close your group time in prayer.

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.)

1. Take a Snapshot

[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:

- Print "Story Strips" Activity Page on cardstock, one for each kid
- Pencils, one for each kid
- Assorted colored pencils or markers, enough for the group to share
- *Optional: clipboards or other sturdy writing surface*

2. Bible Story Extension

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery

What You Need:

- Gallon-size zip-top bags (or plain gift bags), one bag for every two kids
- Shoeboxes, one shoebox for every two kids

NOTE: *Feel free to adjust the remaining supplies based on what you already have on hand.*

- Tape, one roll for each shoebox
- Scissors, one pair for each shoebox
- Pipe cleaners, 25 for each shoebox
- Toothpicks, 25 for each shoebox
- Construction paper (or cardstock), 5 pieces for each zip-top bag
- Craft sticks, 25 for each zip-top bag
- Brown paper lunch sack, 4 for each zip-top bag
- Raffia, a bunch for each zip-top bag
- Markers, 4-5 for each zip-top bag
- Before group time:
 - In each of the shoeboxes, place the tape, scissors, pipe cleaners, and toothpicks.
 - In each of the zip-top bags, place the craft sticks, construction paper (or cardstock), brown paper lunch sack, raffia, and markers.

3. Discussion Questions

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need:

- Bibles

5. Make It Personal with Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need:

- Print “Pet Project Prayers: 2” Activity Page on cardstock, one for each kid
- Pens (or pencils), one 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**