

# Cheer Factor

**Bible:** Cheer Factor (God loves a cheerful giver) • *2 Corinthians 9:6-7*

**Bottom Line:** Use your money wisely.

**Memory Verse:** “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.” *Luke 16:10a, NIV*

**Life App:** Stewardship—taking care of what you have because it all belongs to God.

**Basic Truth:** I need to make the wise choice.

## **Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)**

**9:00 & 11:30**

### **Just For Fun**

- No supplies needed

**10:15**

### **Get Your Head in the Game**

- A penny for every person
- Space to play this game—inside or outside

## **Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)**

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)**

**9:00 & 11:30**

### **Verses to Take with You**

- No supplies needed

**10:15**

### **Discussion Questions**

- No supplies needed

## **Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)**

- Pennies; one for each person

## **Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)**

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## **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)**

*Before kids arrive, pray that today’s content would change how they view money and how they interact with it. Pray not only for generosity of spirit, but also for the power of a changed perspective in kids’ lives. Ask God to help kids put what they’re learning into action by focusing on becoming cheerful, openhanded givers.*

**9:00 & 11:30**

### **Just For Fun**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### **What You Do:**

- **Ask:** When you give something to someone, do you expect to get something back in return? Why or why not? Are there times when you do and times when you don’t?
- **Let** students discuss their answers to the question.
- **Encourage** them to ask each other why they chose the answers they did.

**10:15**

### **Get Your Head in the Game**

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

**What You Need:** A penny for every person, space to play this game—inside or outside

#### **What You Do:**

- **Give** everyone his or her own penny.
- **Show** them how to balance them on their chins—this means the penny lies flat on the chin and students are looking up into the air.
- **Share** that the goal of the game today is to knock other people’s pennies off.
- **Tell** them that the winner is the last one still standing with a penny balanced on his or her chin.
- **Encourage** students to spread out and balance their pennies, then tell them to begin playing.

**Pro Tip:** *Warn them that people who are too rough will have to sit out—it doesn’t take much to gently knock the penny off.*

#### **Wrap Up and Say:**

“It can be hard, even when playing a game, to stay cheerful. When your penny got knocked off, you were annoyed. There are things in life that knock us off balance, too. God talks about a lot of things in the Bible—even about the attitude He’s looking for when people give money to the church or others in need. Let’s head to Large Group to hear more.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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## Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

### GETTING READY

#### 1. Opener/Closer

##### What You Need:

- 10 pre-wrapped prizes (see *What to Do*)
- Enough play money to give three contestants \$100 each

#### 2. Bible Truth

##### What You Need:

- Small Table
- Prop Box or Basket containing:
  - Piggy bank
  - Packet of vegetable seeds
  - A wrapped present (won’t be opened)
  - Jar labeled “Give”
  - Jar labeled “Save”
  - Jar labeled “Spend”
  - One \$5 bill, Five \$1 bills

#### 3. Worship

##### What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

##### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- “This Love”
- “This Little Light”
- “Glory to God Forever”

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## **Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)**

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**SFX:** Play high-energy music as kids enter.

**CG:** Use It or Lose It Theme Slide

*Host enters.*

### **Welcome**

*Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening, a viral video on YouTube, etc. (NOTE: As this is October, fall sports are in full swing. October is World Series month, and football will be on every Saturday and Sunday at this point. You can talk about favorite teams and big games that are happening nationally and locally.) Host tells them how excited he or she is that they’re there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what’s happening.*

*Host transitions to Worship*

Let’s all stand and worship together!”

*Host exits while Power Praise enters.*

### **Worship**

#### **Worship**

**SFX:** “This Love”

**SFX:** “This Little Light”

**SFX:** “Glory to God”

*Host retakes the stage as Power Praise exits. Host transitions to Opener.*

**Opener**

**HOST:** “That was great Power Praise! Now, it’s Game Time! I need 3 volunteers. Who wants to play?”

*HOST chooses 3 volunteers, brings them on stage, and introduces them to the rest of the group.*

“You guys and girls are three incredibly brave people. You have NO IDEA what I’m about to ask you to do, but here you are! Awesome! *(to volunteers)* OK, how many of you have ever wanted to bid on luxury prizes with stacks and stacks of cash? Ok, a few of you. Well, hopefully you’ll all get the hang of it because in my hands I have stacks of cash equaling \$100 for each on of you! Okay, don’t get too excited—it’s play money after all. Still, this money gives you the chance to win one of these amazing . . . or possibly less than amazing . . . prizes. And I’ll give you a hint. Three of these are INCREDIBLE prizes you’d want for your small group. Three of these . . . well . . . let’s just say . . . you’ll wish you didn’t waste your money on them. But you won’t know until you open them at the end. Some people could end up with two great prizes, one great one bad . . . or, of course, two . . . terrible . . . gifts.”

*Host reveals 6 wrapped prizes on stage for all to see.*

“I’m going to hold up one of the prizes. You may not touch it. But if you like what you see, you’ll bid. And whoever of our volunteers is willing to spend the most on it, they’ll get it. Now, keep this in mind: if you use your money wisely, you should be able to bid on at least two presents. But if you really think you want something, you may want to go for it and spend it all in one place. Everyone understand? Great! Let’s play!”

*Game instructions:*

- *Host goes item by item and opens the bidding.*
- *Try to keep it moving!*
- *Nobody should open his or her prize until the very end.*
- *Do your best to make sure everybody ends up with something.*
- *After all prizes have been claimed, go down the line and have the contestants open them.*

*Send volunteers back to their seats.*

“That was a lot of fun! Let’s welcome [Communicator’s Name].”

*Historyteller enters as Host exits.*

**INTRODUCTION:**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “Hey, everyone! How many of you have one of these?”

*Host pulls out a piggy bank.*

“Okay, so it doesn’t have to be a piggy bank that’s an actually pig like this one. For you, maybe it’s a jar, an old shoebox, or maybe a legitimate wallet. But how many of you have a place where you keep your money?”

“Wow, that’s a lot of you! So now I’m curious . . . how do you get or make money to put in there? How many of you cut grass or have some kind of job?”

*Call on a few kids and have them share what they do.*

“Very cool—and very responsible of you! So what are some other ways you earn money to put in your piggy?”

*Allow for responses.*

“Those are great, too! As you’re growing up, you’ll find more and more opportunities to earn money. And, of course, earning money is pretty sweet; especially when you have things you want to buy or things you want to do. But getting all of that money can also create some challenges that maybe we weren’t ready for.”

*Here is an opportunity to share a personal story. Use the following as an example of the sort of story you could tell.*

“Take my friend, for example; we’ll call him . . . Rob . . . and for many years, Rob and I would go trick-or-treating on Halloween. We would get *loads* of candy! Now, me, I would burn through my candy in just a few weeks. I woke up in the morning: I’d have a candy! Head to school? Grab some candy! I played well in my football game? Reward myself with candy! I was like a man on a mission, powering through that candy bag. Then you had Rob. When it came to the candy, Rob took his sweet old time. I would go over to his house in late November, and his little pumpkin bucket of candy would *still* be full. In fact, he still had his *Easter* candy stashed away! And to make matters worse, and I’m not even joking, he would end up having to THROW CANDY AWAY because it was so old! Sometimes I think Rob is the only reason candy companies even put an expiration date on candy! And even with all of that candy, when I would go over his house and ask for a piece, he would say no! Can you believe that!?”

### TENSION

**COMMUNICATOR:** “So here’s the thing—when it came to my candy, I never saved any but used it all for myself. And Rob was really good at saving but not very good at giving. But we’re not talking about candy today, are we? No, we’re talking about money. And the truth is that we have the same issues when it comes to dollars and cents. We spend and spend without thinking about how we could save some. Or we stash it away but never put it to good use. Saving and spending are both good, but how can we know which one we should do when? How can we best use what we find in here?” (*Hold up the piggy bank.*) Do you think God has anything to say about how we spend our money? (*Pause for response.*) Let’s hear more from the guys on screen.”

**CG: 252 Movie**

### LANDING

**COMMUNICATOR:** “All that to say that God cares how we give, save, and spend our money. Remember, it’s not ours. It’s God’s that He lets us borrow for a time. So, what we do with our money and our attitude toward our money really does matter. So here’s the question to get you started in Small Group today:

**CG: Key Question 4 Slide**

“How can you best use your money? You might think you know the answer, but really give it a chance for that question to sink in. Have a great time together thinking about the creative ways God might want you to use the money He’s given to you! Let’s pray.

“If you have an offering or a tithe with you today, bring that on up to put into the offering bucket.”

*Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard than dismisses them to small group.*

**CG: Small Group Slide**

**Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

**9:00 & 11:30****Verses to Take with You****[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- **Read** Deuteronomy 15:10.
- **Ask** if anyone can put that in his or her own words or rephrase it a different way? (*Tip: You might need to re-read just a phrase or section at a time and pause.*)
- **Ask** the following questions:
  - Why do you think this verse says that when we give generously with a good attitude that God will bless our work?
  - What does giving generously have to do with being blessed?
  - What work are you doing that you think God might bless if you found ways to be more generous—with your time, with your energy, with your talent, or with your money?
  - Who do you think is the best example of a cheerful and generous giver? Why do you he or she is that way? How could you be more like that?

**10:15****Discussion Questions****[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*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:**

- Why do you think God cares if we give cheerfully or not? Why does it matter to Him if we give because someone forced us to?
- Does God need our gifts and our money?
- Why do we give money to the church? What does that look like in your family?
- If you make money or an allowance, do you give part of it back to God and the church? Is it hard to give money you've earned or gotten as a gift? What makes it harder?
- What does giving regularly do for us and for attitude?
- How does giving and helping others change our perspective?
- What kinds of things do you happily give money toward or would you like to give money toward in the future?



**All Service Times****Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)****[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]***Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application***What You Need:** Pennies; one per person**What You Do:**

- **Pass out** a penny to each person.
- **Ask** them to think of at least one way they know they can give generously and cheerfully this week or this month.
- **Tell** them to put their pennies in the middle of the group after they have shared their ideas.

Before they leave, ask everyone to put one of their hands in the middle over top all the pennies, like you'd huddle up with a sports team before a game, and then have them close their eyes so you can pray and send them out.

*Dear Jesus, we want to be generous people. Everything is Yours anyway. Help us as we leave to clearly see places where You're already at work and other opportunities for us to show people love. We don't want to be people who just talk about You at church. We want to become more and more like You. Help us to realize when and where we can use our money wisely and cheerfully to do good. In Jesus' name, amen.*

*Parent Cue*