

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:

- Host
- 3 volunteers
- “VERY DRAMATIC CONSEQUENCES” signs
- 3 water guns, filled with water
- 5 everyday items
- 5 pieces of poster board
- Tape
- Table
- Cash (a few bills; either fake or real)

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- 252 Story

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: “Live Loud” from At the Top of My Lungs

CG: Theme Slide

Host is on stage, welcoming the kids as they enter.

Opener

HOST: “Hey, you guys! Are you excited to be here? I know I am! Today we are talking about STEWARDSHIP.

CG: Stewardship Slide

“Stewardship is taking care of what you have because it all belongs to God. One of the biggest ways we can take care of what we have is to take care of our money. Being a good steward of your money means using it wisely and remembering that it’s not actually yours to begin with. Your money belongs to God!

“Now, our game we’ve been playing this month is all about making the most of every chance you get. And we definitely need to do that with our money. So today, it’s a special money edition of ‘Use It or Lose It’!

SFX: “Try Everything” instrumental (or other upbeat game music)

CG: Use It or Lose It Theme Slide

“Let me get one contestant up here who knows a lot about money and how much things cost. Who thinks they have what it takes?”

Bring up one kid and introduce him to the audience.

“[Contestant’s name], you will be representing this whole room today. You and the audience will work together to see if you can guess the price of some regular, everyday items. We have five items and five prices. Here are the items.

Hold up and announce the five items that you collected.

“And here are the prices.

Hold up the sheets of poster board as you announce the five prices.

“Five items and five prices. Your job is to match which price goes with which item. But remember, in this game, you must make the most of your opportunity. If you win, you receive the glory of being the champion. If you don’t, there will be very dramatic consequences!

SFX: Drama Button

Three volunteers enter, with dramatic faces, with their VERY DRAMATIC CONSEQUENCES signs AND the water guns. Then they exit.

“Wow! If you guess all five prices correctly, our helpers will soak me for 10 seconds. If not, I will get to soak all of YOU! (*Reference the audience.*)

“All right, let’s see what happens! [Contestant’s name], when I say, ‘Go,’ you can start taping these prices in front of the items. But be sure to get the audience’s help along the way! And just let me know when you want to lock in your answers. Ready, set, go!

SFX: “Try Everything” instrumental (*or other similar song*)

Narrate the contestant’s thought process as he assigns prices, and help him tape the signs to the front of the table in front of each item. Encourage him to ask for the audience’s opinions along the way. Get him to “lock in” his answers, and then stop the music.

“Okay, great job, [contestant’s name], and great job, audience! Let’s see how you all did.

Go through each item and reveal the actual retail price. Make sure that you talk about what the audience chose (“you all”), so the contestant doesn’t feel bad if he gets it wrong.

“Looks like you got them ALL right! Go ahead and soak me, [contestant’s name]!

OR

“Good try, but you did not get all five correct, which means I get to soak all of YOU!

SFX: Drama Button

Three volunteers enter, with dramatic faces, soaking Host with the water guns, OR they give one to Host so he can spray the crowd (not the contestant).

“That was fun! How about a big hand for [contestant’s name]?”

Dismiss contestant to his seat.

“Now please welcome [Historyteller’s Name].”

Historyteller enters. Volunteers exit.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Okay, guys. So if you haven’t already guessed it by our game this morning, we’re talking about money today. Money is a HUGE part of stewardship! After all, who does our money belong to? *(Pause.)* That’s right. It belongs to God.

“No matter how much money you have, it’s ALL a gift from God. He provides what we need. And He allows us to USE the money He’s given us.

“But hang on a minute. Do you think there’s a certain way He wants us to do that?”

“Well, let’s think about that for a second. If you go through life only trying to spend all the money you have on the things you WANT, chances are, you’ll get yourself into trouble. So, what should we do?”

“The good news is there are some really cool, really simple ideas about how to be good stewards with our money. In fact, we found a really GOOD plan that will help you take care of your money, use it wisely, and honor God with it. Let’s see how it works together.

CG: 252 Story

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

CG: Bottom Line Slide

HISTORYTELLER: “It’s so important for us to remember this: **[Bottom Line] Use your money wisely.**

“Lots of adults get into situations where they forget to GIVE or SAVE. They try to SPEND more than they have. And they end up being stressed out and worried about money.

“But it doesn’t have to be that way. You can **[Basic Truth] make the wise choice** and make decisions that will lead you toward freedom with your money. It all starts with GIVING cheerfully (*point to the GIVE container*), because you know your money really belongs to God. It means setting some money aside and SAVING it for later (*point to the SAVE container*), so you don’t have to worry about it. And it means SPENDING your money in a responsible way (*point to the SPEND container*). That’s how you **[Bottom Line] use your money wisely.** Let’s pray.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “God, thank You for always providing what we need. Help us to remember that our money really comes from You. Help us to make wise choices with our money—to GIVE and support what You’re doing in the world, to SAVE now for what we need later, and to be responsible when we SPEND it. We need Your help to do that. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

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

“Now, everyone, please get up on your feet. It’s time to be good stewards of our bodies, our voices, and our praise. Help me welcome the Power Praise team in here!!”

Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.

Worship

SFX: “This Love”

SFX: “This Little Light”

SFX: “Glory to God”

Power Praise team exits as Host enters.

Closer

HOST: *(Hold up money.)* “Money is a good thing. Or I should say it CAN be a good thing. It can also make people act really crazy. It can cause fights between friends and family members. It can turn people into greedy Ebenezer Scrooges who don’t care about anything else. If you’re not careful with it, money can lead to all kinds of problems.

“That’s why it’s important to take care of the money you’ve been given and use it wisely.

“One way to do that is to recognize that everything, including your money, belongs to God. If you can do that, it can change the way you spend your money, the way you save it, and yes, the way you give it away.

CG: *Bottom Line*

“The one thing to remember today is this: **[Bottom Line] Use your money wisely.** When you do this, you spend money on things that matter instead of wasting it. You save with a goal in mind. AND you give not just because you know you’re supposed to. Instead, you give cheerfully because you are grateful to God for giving you the ability to give in the first place.

“I’m so glad we’re talking about this today, because it’s SO important! And now you get to talk some more in your groups about what it means for you. Have a great time, and we’ll see you next time!”

Dismiss children to their small groups.

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