

Virtual Roots Leader Guide

January Week 4

Today's Bible Story: Golden Slumbers (Parable of the Bags of Gold) • *Matthew 25:14-30 (NIV)*

Today's Bottom Line: Make the most of what you've been given.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large.* Luke 16:10a (NIV)

What You Need:

- Ask families to make sure kids have paper and coloring supplies before joining the Small Group meeting.

SUNDAY MORNING

(Bring kids in from waiting room)

WORSHIP

Begin this as soon as kids come in from waiting room. **Emcee What You Say** "Good Morning everyone! Let's praise God this morning through worship! Sing along with me."

WELCOME:

Emcee What You Say: What a wonderful way to start our time together! I love being able to worship Jesus and tell him how I love him. Thank you for worshiping with me! Well, hi everyone! Good morning (greet each child by name)! My name is (introduce yourself and the other teachers) and I'm really excited to see you all today! We've been talking about Rules for Life these past couple weeks and this week we're going to hear a story about making the most of what we've been given by God. Jesus shared this story in a parable. Let's check it out!

Play Week 4 Video beginning at 2:47. End at 13:25.

ACTIVITY:

Teacher 1 What You Say: "Was that a new Bible story for any of you? It's not a story we hear a lot, so before we begin our activity let's remind ourselves what happened in this parable.

1. How many servants did the master leave his wealth to? (*three*)
2. What did the first servant do with the five bags of gold he was left? (*he earned double the bags of gold, so ten total*)
3. What did the second servant do with the two bags of gold he was left? (*he earned double the bags of gold, so four total*)
4. What did the third servant do with the one bag of gold he was left? (*he buried it and didn't earn anything*)
5. What did Jesus want to teach us through this story? (*God wants us to make the most of what we've been given.*)

God doesn't always give kids a whole bunch of money to use to serve Him! But He *does* give you time, talents (things you're good at), relationships with friends and family, and a brain to think of unique ways to use those blessing for him.

I want you to think about what God has given to you and I want you to draw a picture of how you can make the most of what you've been given. Maybe it's something you can do with extra

time God has given you. Or maybe you're talented in something and you can use that to be serving God. Grab a paper and something to draw with and let's spend a few minutes drawing your idea. *(Encourage creativity and "thinking outside the box." Make sure kids know they can ask you for help as they think of what they've been given by God.)*

(After a few minutes ask kids to share their drawings with the group)

It's obvious by your pictures that God has given you a lot! Sometimes you just need to get creative with how you use what He's given you. Maybe God has given you a talent, like you're a good artist. How can you make the most of that talent? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes! Maybe you could draw pictures to encourage someone in the hospital or a nursing home or your little sister if she's sad.

"God wants you to make the most of what He gives you. He wants you to make the most of your time. He wants you to make the most of your talents. And He wants us to make the most of our friendships. He wants you to **[Bottom Line] make the most of what you've been given.**"

MEMORY VERSE:

Teacher 2 What You Say: Today for our memory verse you'll have to really pay attention. I'm going to start to say the verse and then I'll pause. Raise your hand if you can continue the verse from where I left off. Are you ready? "Suppose you can" *(do this a few times stopping at different parts or asking kids to start the verse and then pause)*

(Full verse is: Suppose you can be trusted with something very little. Then you can also be trusted with something very large. Luke 16:10a)

PRAYER:

Teacher 2 What You Say: Before we end our time together, let's talk to God. Who would like to pray today? *(create an order of the kids who want to pray and then close the prayer time)*

"Dear God, thank You for giving us everything we need to live out the plan You have for us. When we face situations where we are left wanting more or for something different, help us cling to the truth that You take care of all our needs. Help us remember that each and every day we can show responsibility and **[Bottom Line] make the most of what you've been given.**"

CLOSE OUT

Emcee What you Say: I really liked the creative ideas you all shared for making the most of what you've been given. Try this week to put those ideas into action. I can't wait to hear about what happens when you do! I'm so glad you were here today and I already can't wait for us to be together again on next weeks call! See you then everyone! Bye!

End Call