

Mill City Church Elementary Activities

Experiences for K-5th Grades

Prior to doing the activities, I encourage you to click on the digital video links on our resource page and watch the video Bible story presentation. The activities here on this current page are geared for further discussion for our Mill City families.

You've got this! Choose just one thing and give it a try. No judgement, have fun with it.

Video links:

<https://churchnetworkresources.com/homekidministry/>

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

Today's Key Question: How can you use what you've been given?

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 (NIRV)*

Monthly Life App: Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

1. Bible Story Extension

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Bibles, Box containing a random item for each kid; such as, a hanger, coin, water bottle, shoe, baby toy or diaper, (the sillier and more unusual the better)

What You Do:

- Provide a pump of hand sanitizer for each kid before beginning this activity.
- Set out the prop box then let kids choose one item but don't tell them what it is for.
- Challenge family to work to prepare a one-minute retelling of today's Bible story.
- Explain that they must use all their props in some significant way as they tell the story.
 - If kids need help remembering the parable Jesus told, have them use their Bibles or Bible app to look up Matthew 25:14-30.
- Give kids five minutes to prepare then let them take turns presenting their story reviews.
- Remind kids that, like the props they put to use in retelling today's story, God wants us to take all that we've been given by Him and use it well.
- Discuss the meaning of the parable by asking questions that help kids consider its application to life.
 - It's clear that God gives each person different types and amounts of talents and gifts. Why do you think He doesn't give everyone exactly the same?
 - Regardless of the specific gifts, talents, and possessions God gives us, what are we expected to do with them?
 - Finish this sentence: "To make the most of what God has given me means . . ."
- Encourage each kid to discover and develop the talents or skill God has given them.
 - If you know your kids well, point out a unique ability you've observed in them.
 - Challenge them to ask someone who is good at those same things to teach them more about it.

Note: It's easy for kids to identify certain talents such as being smart, good at sports, art, or a music, but help them to think about skills that may not be as obvious but are talents God can use in unique ways. For example:

- *love of animals*
- *cooking or baking*
- *sense of humor*
- *creativity*
- *physical strength*
- *compassion*
- *calm and quiet spirit*
- *technology*
- *writing*
- *love of helping wherever needed*
- *hard working*
- *friendly*

2. Discussion Questions

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- Fill in the blank to finish this sentence: If I could _____, I would make the most of it by _____.
- What are some reasons why people might waste the gifts God has given them?
- Of the following reasons, which do you feel are hardest for you to overcome when it comes to using what you've been given?
 - Being afraid to use my gifts because I might fail or be made fun of
 - Being lazy
 - Being too busy with other things
 - Not really knowing what to do with my gifts
 - Not really sure what my gifts are
 - Waiting until I'm older to use my gifts
- How important do you think it is to *know* the gifts God has given you? Why?
- What are some ways you can make the most of what God has given YOU this week?

3. Verses to Take with You (Extra activity if you're feeling brave)

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bibles, ketchup, baking soda, tray, spoon, foam cup or container

What You Do:

- Invite someone to read aloud Luke 16:10a.

- Ask:
 - What are some small responsibilities you are trusted with?
 - What does being responsible in little ways show others?
 - Give an example of a way you or someone you know was trusted with a small responsibility that grew into a bigger, more important one because you did well with it.
- Point out that Luke 16:10 shows us that responsibility is related to trust. When we show we are responsible or trustworthy, we can be trusted with more.
- Follow the steps below to create a Ketchup Volcano.
 1. Fill an 8-ounce cup or container about half full with ketchup.
 2. Read the first half of Luke 16:10a. (*“Suppose you can be trusted with something very little.”*)
 3. Suggest that the ketchup represents our life.
 4. Read the rest of Luke 16:10a. (*“Then you can also be trusted with something very large.”*)
 5. Stir 1-2 tablespoons of baking soda into the ketchup.
 6. Suggest that the baking soda represents the way God can use even the smallest gift in us to do great things.

Note: The baking soda will immediately begin to react with the vinegar in the ketchup by foaming and overflowing the container. It's not at all explosive or fast, but it can be messy, so be sure to work on a washable surface.

- Discuss the kids' reactions to the experiment.
 - What did we need to do in order for the ketchup to “grow” into something bigger?
 - What do we need to do in order for God to use the gifts He has given us?
 - How can you go about discovering your gifts and strengths?
- Based on what you know about your few, suggest some ways kids can develop talents and use what they have been given for God.
- Remind kids that if they can be trusted with what's expected of them this week, even if it's a small task and it seems unimportant, they might find their responsibilities growing into bigger, more exciting ways to use what they've been given by God for His purposes.

4. 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: Checkers, checkerboard

What You Do:

- Remind kids that the story Jesus told about the talents isn't just about wasted money; it's also about wasted opportunity.
 - God has given them talents, abilities, opportunities, family, love, health and life itself because He has a purpose for their lives.
 - It's up to each of us to make the most of what we've been given (whether we have a lot or a little) and not let it go to waste.
- Give each kid a checker piece.
- Tell kids to place their checker on the corner of the checkerboard that best fits the way they would finish the following sentence: “This week I need God's help to . . .”
 - not waste my time (point to a corner)
 - work at developing a talent I have (point to a corner)
 - look for fun ways to use my gifts (point to a corner)
 - not be afraid to use what I have to serve God (point to a corner)

- Allow kids a few minutes to share any details they'd like about their choices then encourage them to pray aloud or silently for themselves and others in the group.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You for entrusting us with so many good things. Help us to be responsible with them and increase all You have given us for Your glory. Amen.”