

“Buried Treasure” - LESSON 1

“Whose Treasure Is It?”

Main Focus:

We must be good stewards of God's money.



Power Verse:

“The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”
- Psalm 24:1



Whatchagaddaknow:

“My Money Is God's Money, So I Will Use It WELL!”

LEADER'S INFO

Kids grow up hearing phrases like “my money,” “my toys,” and “my stuff,” so it's easy for them to assume they own everything in their lives. In this lesson, the children will learn about “stewardship.” God owns everything, and we are managers of His blessings. From the air we breathe to the money we earn, everything comes from Him.

Using Jesus' Parable of the Talents, kids will discover that God expects us to use His gifts wisely. We honor God when we use our time, talents, and money to please Him—not hide them away or use them selfishly. Kids will learn that when they are faithful with what God gives them, He promises to bless, trust, and reward their obedience.

The goal is to help children see themselves as stewards, not owners, and to learn that when God is the Owner, He gets to be the Boss.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Did Somebody Say Treasure?”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Peggy Sue teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Wacky Wally”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“My Cup Overflows Relay”



Bible Story

“The Parable of the Talents”



Power Verse Video

“The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”

- Psalm 24:1



Call To Action

“Whose Treasure Is It?”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

We must be good stewards of
God’s money.



Power Verse:

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everything in it. The world and all
its people belong to him.”
- Psalm 24:1



Whatchagaddaknow:

“My Money Is God’s Money, So I
Will Use It WELL!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Wacky Wally” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “My Cup Overflows Relay” Graphic
- Two Large Spoons
- Two Small Cups
- One Large Bowl
- A Bag Of Marbles

Bible Story

- “Lesson 1 - Bible Story” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 - Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Lesson 1 - Call To Action” Graphics
- A Diaper
- A Baby Rattle
- A Pacifier

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bibles
- Greed Monster Print Piece
- Marker
- Bean Bags
- Paper Or Dry-Erase Board
- Psalm 24:1 Print Piece
- Pencils, Crayons, Or Markers

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Offering Time

Game Time!

“My Cup Overflows Relay”

Bible Story

“The Parable of the Talents”

Power Verse Video

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Call To Action

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Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today we are starting a brand new series called “BURIED TREASURE!” In this series, we’re going to dig deep—like REAL treasure hunters—to discover what Jesus said about our money and possessions.

Let me ask you something... have you ever wished you could find real buried treasure? Maybe you’ve always wanted to find a treasure chest filled with gold coins, jewels, or cash money? *(allow kids to respond)*

Well, in this series, we’re not searching for pirate treasure. We’re searching for something way more valuable... the truth about how God wants us to take care of everything He gives us!

Before we jump into our first lesson, I want you to check out this cool video...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)

Leader: Wow! The truth is everything we have - EVERYTHING - comes from God! Our money, our toys, our clothes, our homes, our talents, everything... it all came from Him!

And guess what? It’s not our stuff at all...it’s HIS stuff. God is the Owner, and we are what is called “stewards.” That means we’re in charge of taking good care of everything God has trusted us with. When we use God’s money God’s way - that’s good stewardship.

That’s exactly what you are going to learn about in today’s lesson. But, before we get too far into it, we need to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Wacky Wally” *(Wacky Wally thinks of himself as the “world’s greatest Superhero – in training.” He is hyperactive, compulsive and obsessed with everything there is to do with comic books.)*

Wally: *(Runs out onstage with his arms outstretched and making “whooshing” noises. Stops in front of the leader and strikes a heroic pose)* There’s no need to fear! Wacky Wally is here!

Leader: What is going on?

Wally: *(Turns to look at the leader)* Have no fear, citizen! It is I, Wacky Wally - The world’s GREATEST Superhero *(under his breath)* in training.

Leader: YOU’RE a Superhero? That’s really...distressing.

Wally: *(Gasps, excited)* A citizen in distress! My hour has arrived! Don’t worry, puny weakling! *(Flexes muscles)* I will save you! *(Runs over and tries to pick up the leader, strains hard, unable to pick up the leader at all)* Oh wow, you’re a...HEAVY citizen!

Leader: I am NOT. Would you stop that please?

Wally: *(Lets go, doubled over in pain)* There you go, you’re saved.

Leader: Thanks, I think.

Wally: *(Stretches his back to standing upright)* That’ll be 10 dollars.

Leader: 10 DOLLARS? That’s outrageous! You didn’t even do anything!

Wally: Hey! You insulted me! That’s an extra 15!

Leader: You’re a SUPERHERO! You’re not supposed to charge the people you save!

Wally: Hey, I’ve got to make some money somehow! I’ve got to take care of my stuff! It takes a lot of money to be a superhero in training! I’ve got my gym membership, my dry-cleaning bill, and what do you think pays for this heroic grin? *(Smiles)* Batman has a cool car! Iron Man has that awesome suit! Spider-Man has...um...SPIDER STUFF! Well, this is MY stuff. And it’s all junky! I need NEW stuff! So pay up!

Leader: Whoa, haven’t you ever heard of stewardship?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(Continued)

Wally: Who's Stewart?

Leader: No, I mean STEWARDSHIP. We're starting a series called “Buried Treasure.” Today, we are learning about stewardship – you know, taking care of God's stuff?

Wally: Oh, well it's a good thing I don't OWN any of God's stuff. I'd hate to crack God's teapot or something.

Leader: Actually, everything you own belongs to God.

Wally: Excuse me? You mean MY stuff? I've paid for ALL of this. I've even gotten my name written on all of it!

Leader: Nope. God is the creator of everything. Since He made everything, He owns everything. Everything we have, from our clothes, to our food, and even our families are a gift from God!

Wally: But I bought this! With my money! Doesn't that mean I have a right to it?

Leader: Not really. God gives us all of these things because He loves us, and He wants us to be responsible with them. He gives us things to see if He can trust us with them!

Wally: Why would He do that?

Leader: Because He wants to bless us! If you're faithful in taking care of the little things, God will bless us with BIG things!

Wally: So, you're telling me that all this stuff isn't really mine? It's all a gift from God, and if I take care of this, He'll see I can be responsible with other stuff?

Leader: Exactly! That's what stewardship is all about!

Wally: Wow! Looks like I need to take better care of the stuff God has already given me. *(Strikes a heroic pose)* Onto my next mission!

Leader: Where are you going?

Wally: The nearest sewing machine. I've got a rip in my superhero undies that's KILLING me! WACKY WALLY, AWAAAAAAAY!

(EXITS WHILE THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“My Cup Overflows Relay”

Items Needed For Game:

Two large spoons, two small cups, one large bowl, a bag of marbles

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Preparation:

Divide your children up into two teams. Give each team a large spoon. Place a large bowl of marbles in the front of the line in between both teams. Place a small cup for each team at the opposite end of the room.

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How To Play:

This is a relay race. When you say, “Go!” the first two children in line should scoop up some marbles onto their spoon, race down to the other end of the room and drop the marbles into their team’s cup. Then, they should run back and hand the spoon off to the next person in line. This continues until one of the teams fill up their cup with marbles. The team who fills up their cup first and it overflows wins.



Bible Story

“Parable of the Talents”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

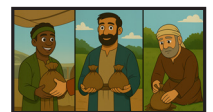
Familiarize yourself with the story in Matthew 25:14-28; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Matthew chapter 25. It’s a story that Jesus told His disciples to illustrate what “stewardship” was all about. The story begins with a master and his three servants. (*show pic*) The master explained to his servants that he was about to go on a trip. But, while he was gone he had a few assignments for the servants.



(*show pic*) He gave each servant an amount of talents. A “talent” was equal to one bag of silver. To one servant, he gave five talents. To another, he gave two talents. To the final servant, he gave one talent. You may wonder, “Why didn’t he just give everyone the same amount?” Remember, - he is the owner. It is HIS money. He can give out his money as He chooses.



The master explained to the servants that he wanted them to put the money to good use while he was gone. When he returned, he would ask them what they did with the money. With that, the master went off on his trip.



While the owner was gone, the servants got busy. (*show pic*) The servant who was given five talents “put them to work,” (maybe he bought a business) and he ended up earning five more. The servant who had been given two talents put them to work, (maybe he invested them) and he earned two more. The servant who had been given the one talent decided he would just bury it in the ground and wait for his master to return.



When the master returned, he asked for a report of what the servants had done with the money he loaned them. He was pleased with the two servants who used his money wisely and expanded his kingdom. He told them, (*show pic*) “Well done, good and faithful servants! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.” However, he was not pleased with the servant who had wasted the money by burying it in a hole. (*show pic*) To this servant he said, “You wicked lazy servant! Even what you have will be taken away from you!” Then, he took back the money and sent the servant on his way.

In this story, the master represents God. We are the servants. God has given all of us money and possessions to use to build His Kingdom. Today, we are going to learn how to use His money and possessions correctly!



Call To Action

“Whose Treasure Is It?”

Materials Needed:

The “Lesson 1 CTA” graphics; a diaper, a baby rattle, a pacifier

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “Whose Treasure Is It?”

The Message: *(title slide)*



In our Bible Story, we learned about a boss who left some money with some of his servants. Two of them used the money well...the third one just buried his “treasure.” We learned that wasn’t a wise move. It wasn’t good “stewardship.” Earlier, we learned that stewardship is “taking care of someone else’s stuff.”

I am going to hold up a few items. I want you to tell me what kind of person might use them. *(hold up the diaper, baby rattle, and pacifier; allow the kids to respond)* That’s right, a baby would use all three of these things. Now, babies have a very particular way of thinking. One of the first words they seem to learn is “MINE!” If you try to pick something up that is close to them, they grab it and yell, “MINE!” Even if it doesn’t really belong to them, if they like it and they want it they claim it by yelling, “MINE!”

Sadly, many people grow older and never grow out of that “MINE” mindset. They think that anything and everything they have here on Earth is theirs. But, there’s something important that you and I must learn...

You Don’t Own Anything! God Owns It All! *(slide)*



James 1:17 teaches us that “Every good and perfect gift come from the Father above.” *Psalms 24:1* says, “The Earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.” You see, God owns everything. Everything I have comes from Him. God just lets me borrow it for the amount of time I am here on Earth and asks me to manage it. He owns it; I manage it. See – it’s not MY money – it’s HIS money. It’s not my stuff, it’s HIS stuff. Everything I have, I have because He has entrusted it to me.

Just like the servants in our Bible Story, God has given us all different amounts of time, money, talent, and ability. We have to remember that ALL of these are HIS. He just gives them to us to use for the short time we are here on Earth. Why is it so important that we understand we aren’t owners, but stewards? Well...

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Call To Action *(Continued)*

If God Owns It, He’s The Boss *(slide)*



Too many people view themselves as the “Boss” of their money and stuff. So, they say things like, “I have the right to choose whether or not I want to give in the offering at church.” Or, “I have the right to decide where my money is spent. Who cares if I waste it? I have the right to choose what to spend MY money on.”

The problem with this is that you are NOT the boss. You are just the steward. You see, the owner (God) has the right to choose what He wants to give and to whom. That’s why not everyone has the same amount of stuff. I don’t know why God chooses to give more to some and less to others. It’s like the owner in our Bible Story. He gave five bags to one servant, two bags to another servant, and one bag to the final servant. He had the right to do whatever he wanted because as the owner, he was the boss.

The stewards didn’t have the right to do whatever they wanted with the owners money. The stewards had a responsibility to be wise with the owner’s money. That’s why those who invested the money wisely were commended while the one who just buried it and didn’t use it wisely was scolded. He didn’t handle his responsibility well.

What does this mean for you and me? You see, God has given each of us a certain amount of money, time, talent, etc. If we waste it, we are not being good stewards. If we are selfish and see it as OUR time, money, or talent, then we are not being good stewards. But, if we realize that we have a responsibility to invest our time, money, and talent into building God’s Kingdom, giving to others, helping others, then we will be good stewards.

What happened to the bad steward? He was punished. What happened to the good stewards? The same thing that happens to you when you are faithful with what God has given you...

If You Are Faithful, You Will Be Blessed *(slide)*



If you show that you will be faithful with what you have, then God will bless you with more. That’s what happened to the good stewards in our Bible Story. They showed they could be faithful with a little, so the owner gave them even more to be responsible with. That’s what each one of us should long for - the day when we stand before God and He says, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” Won’t that be wonderful? That’s why it is SO important to be a faithful steward. Don’t “bury” your “treasure.” Use it to build God’s Kingdom!

ALTAR RESPONSE *(play soft music)*

Pray with the children to always remember that they are stewards of God’s resources. They may not have much money or possessions now, but if they are faithful with the little that they currently have, God can bless them with even more. They can use their time, money, talent, and possessions to build the Kingdom and to bless others.



Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “My Money Is God’s Money, So I Will Use It Well!”

2. How many servants did the master have in our Bible Story?

Answer: Three

3. How many of the servants were rewarded when the master returned?

Answer: Two

4. What did the third servant do with his money that made the master angry?

Answer: Buried It

5. What did the master do for the two good servants?

Answer: Gave Them More Money

6. According to our lesson today, “You Don’t Own Anything! _____ Owns It All!”

Answer: God

7. According to our lesson today, “If God Owns It, He Is The _____.”

Answer: Boss

8. According to our lesson today, “If You Are _____, You Will Be Blessed.”

Answer: Faithful

9. True or False: “My money is my money.”

Answer: False

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Psalm 24:1