

RESPONSIBILITY

Verse of the Month: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much." (Luke 16:10)

Bible Story: Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

Bottom Line: When you can be trusted with a little, you can be trusted with a lot.

ELEMENTARY

2nd-3rd Grade

September 13, 2026

BEFORE LARGE GROUP

Early Arriver Idea

✂️ SUPPLIES:

- Early Arriver (Activity Pages) - 2 sets per group
- Scissors - 1 pair per 2 kids
- Markers and colored pencils

≡ HOW-TO:

1. Cut out the character game pieces as kids are arriving.
2. When a kid arrives, have them pick a character.
3. Make sure each kid writes their name on their game piece.
4. Have them create a stand for their game piece by folding one end back on the fold line.
5. Let the kids share the game pieces they chose.
6. Find out how their week went, using the **"HIGH FIVE"** questions below.
7. Collect all the game pieces to use for a game later on.

HIGH FIVE (Optional Conversation Starters):

1. **It's September! Does anyone have a birthday this month?**
2. **How's everyone liking school so far?**
3. **What's your favorite video game to play?**
4. **If you could be in any video game, which one would you be in and who would you be?**
5. **Would you rather do tons of schoolwork during the day at school and have no homework, or play all day at school and have tons of homework?**

NOTE: Gather all the game pieces and tell the kids that they'll use them again after Large Group!

Opening Activity

✂️ SUPPLIES:

- Game chips (or buttons) - 1 per kid
- **FOR LARGE GROUP:** 5x7 notecard - 1 per group
- **FOR LARGE GROUP:** Something to write with - 1 per group

≡ HOW-TO:

1. Each kid must keep a game chip on their forehead while doing each motion below as a group.
2. If their chip falls, that kid is out, and must sit down. The last kid with a chip on their forehead wins.
3. If time allows, play again and make up your own actions for the kids to do.
4. Collect all the game chips before everyone heads to Large Group.

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MOTIONS

- Spin in a circle
- Touch your toes with one hand
- Act like you're surfing
- Do a jumping jack
- Squat all the way down and stand back up
- Act like you're riding a bicycle
- Balance on one foot for ten seconds

REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR MARKER AND INDEX CARD TO LARGE GROUP!

HEAD TO LARGE GROUP > > >

AFTER LARGE GROUP

Bible Story and Bottom Line Review

&< SUPPLIES:

- Bottom Line Review (Activity Page Game Board, 11" x 17") - 1 or 2 per group
- Die - 1 or 2 per group
- Game pieces from Early Arriver

≡ HOW-TO:

1. Lay the game board in the center of your group. If you have more than ten kids, divide them into two groups and give each group a game board, a die, and their game pieces.
2. Have each kid put their game piece on "START" to play a game about responsibility.
3. Each kid will roll the die and move that number of spaces. Each space has a "trusted with very little" scenario on it. Based on that, they'll choose a response from "trusted with much" on the right-hand side of the board.
4. The game continues around the group. Whoever crosses the finish line first wins!

🗨 SAY THIS:

What's something that you are responsible for at home? Do you feel like you do a good job taking care of it? Do you feel like you could be trusted with a lot or not? If you can be trusted with very little, you can be trusted with much! This week, let's not just do our jobs and take care of our responsibilities... let's DO THEM! Let's say our Bottom Line together: **[Bottom Line] When you can be trusted with a little, you can be trusted with a lot.**

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Today we learned that [Bottom Line] When you can be trusted with a little, you can be trusted with a lot.

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If you haven't had a chance to pray with your small group yet, take the time now.

Prayer

Be sensitive to any visitor during this activity, and don't ask them to pray out loud if they're not comfortable.

SUPPLIES:

- No supplies needed

HOW-TO:

1. Have the kids huddle up to pray.

SAY THIS:

Dear God,

Thank you so much for loving us. Thank you for showing us how important it is to be responsible. And even if it seems like something small now, we know that when we can be trusted with a little, one day we can be trusted with a lot. We love you. Amen.

Verse Activity

SUPPLIES:

- Bibles – 1 per 2 kids
- Verse Cling Activity Page – 1 per group

HOW-TO:

LEARN IT! (Find the verse and understand what it means.)

The Bible is full of wisdom from God. Let's look up our verse to learn what God says about being responsible for the things he's trusted us to take care of.

1. Divide the kids into pairs and give them each a Bible. Explain that the Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament. Demonstrate how to find the verse.
2. Have them find the book of Luke under the New Testament heading in the Table of Contents.
3. Have them find chapter 16 (big number), verse 10 (little number).
4. Read the verse aloud.

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LOCK IT! (Memorize the verse to lock it in our hearts.)

1. Review the motions below.
2. Have the kids line up single file on one side of your small group area. Designate a spot on the other side of your area with one of your supplies (like a pencil box or a cart).
3. The first kid will run to that spot and do FIVE jumping jacks while saying the first part of the verse ("Whoever can be trusted with very little...").
4. They will then run back, tag the next kid, and go to the back of the line.
5. That next kid will run to the designated spot and say the second part of the verse ("...can also be trusted with much") while doing 10 jumping jacks.
6. Continue until every kid has had a turn.

MOTIONS

Whoever (point out around the room)

can be trusted (lock hands like you are shaking hands with yourself)

with very little (hold thumb and index finger close together, a typical sign for something really small)

can also be trusted (lock hands like you are shaking hands with yourself)

with much. (spread arms wide)

Luke 16:10

SAY THIS:

LIVE IT! (Apply the verse to the way we live every day.)

Now that we've learned the verse and locked it in, we need to live it out. Living out the verse is knowing what it means and applying it to the way we live every day.

Do you know what "trust" means? It means that others can depend on us. Think about your chores at home. What things are you responsible for? (Let kids answer.) What happens if you get those things done? How could following through on those responsibilities lead to bigger ones later on? (Let kids answer.) Yes! When you're responsible for things now, like playing with your little sister while your mom is busy, it might lead to more responsibility later, like babysitting for someone in the neighborhood. When we take responsibility for small things now, we show that we can be trusted with bigger things later on.

You'll get a verse cling like this (hold up Verse Activity Page) when you leave. Put it in a place where everyone will see it, and practice the verse this week with your family!