

3-6 | July 12

Bible Story: The Parable of the Bags of Gold • *Matthew 25:14-30 NIV*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you.

Conversation Starter: What has God given you?

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering container
- ☐ Gold coins
- ☐ Latex-free balloons

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Cut twenty-five or more yellow circles with the circle punch/scissors.
- Scatter the yellow circle "coins" on the floor in one part of your activity area.
- Blow up the balloon(s), and tie the end in a knot.

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Ask one kid to come stand at the coins, and give them the balloon.
- Explain the game: "When I say, 'Go,' bop your balloon into the air, and reach down and collect some coins. Continue to bop the balloon once each time you collect coins. Keep going until you've collected all the coins. But if the balloon hits the ground, your turn is over."
- On "Go," let the first kid start while the other kids watch and cheer them on.
- Once the balloon hits the ground, help the kid count how many coins they collected, then return the coins to the ground for the next kid to have a turn.
- Cheer for everyone's effort.
- Continue until every kid has had a turn.
- For a fun twist, let two kids go at the same time, and see who can collect the most coins with one balloon bop.

What You Say:

"Great job collecting all those coins! It was tough to keep your balloon up and collect coins at the same time. Jesus told stories or parables to teach us about God and His kingdom. Today, we're going to hear a story Jesus told about some people who were given something valuable, like gold coins. Let's go find out what they did with what they were given!"

2. Video on Jellyfin

Lead the children in worship to one song and then watch today's video lesson.

3. Pray

"Let's open up today in prayer. Dear God, thank You for all the wonderful gifts and talents You've given us. Help us not to hide them. Show us how to use our talents, our gifts, and our kindness to help other people and to show them Your love. We want Your kingdom to grow bigger every day. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

4. Keychain Coins

What You Need:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ "Keychain Coins" (one per child)
- ☐ Metallic gold and silver paint pens
- ☐ Hand wipes

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Prep the key chain coins by connecting the pieces in the kit together for the kids.

During the Activity:

- Read Romans 14:17 for the children.
- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Review any words that might be unfamiliar to the kids.
- Give each kid one of the keychain coin sets.
- Encourage kids to decorate both sides of their "coin" with paint pens.
- Say the Memory Verse out loud together as the kids work.
- Set aside to dry.

What You Say:

“These keychains are so cool! They remind us of the parable of the bags of gold. Jesus taught His disciples about God’s kingdom. Jesus wanted them to know that when we live in God’s kingdom, we’re called to use what we’ve been given to love God and love others, and God will do great kingdom things with what we do.

“The rich man in the story knew his servants were good at different things, so he gave them different amounts of money to take care of while he was gone. The rich man wanted his servants to use that money to make even more money for him. The first two doubled the amount of money they were given, but the third buried the money in the ground because he was afraid. So the rich man took the one bag of money from that servant and gave it to the servant with ten bags of gold.

“Jesus, our master, has gone away to heaven, but He’s coming back. And in the meantime, God wants you to use everything—absolutely everything—He’s given you, and He will do great kingdom things with it. As we see from our Memory Verse, that kingdom God is growing is full of good things—like things that are right, peace, and joy! [Bottom Line] God’s kingdom grows when you use what He’s given you.”

5. Bible Story Extension

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Snowballs

What You Do:

During the Activity:

- Open the Bible to Matthew 25:14-30 NIV, and review the parable of the bags of gold.
- Share:
 - Jesus told us this story to teach about God’s kingdom.
 - In the story Jesus told, a rich man went on a long trip and left three servants in charge of bags of gold while he was gone.
 - The rich man gave each servant an amount of bags based on that servant’s ability. The first servant got five bags of gold, the second servant got two bags of gold, and the third servant got one bag of gold.
 - Two of the three servants doubled the bags of gold the rich man had entrusted them with while he was on his trip, and the rich man was so happy! He told the two servants they were “good and faithful” (Matthew 25:21, 23 NIV).
 - The third servant put the bag of gold he was given into the ground because he said he was afraid. He did nothing with it. And when the rich man returned, he was upset with the servant who didn’t use what he had been given.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Play a game of dodgeball, but with a review twist.

- The Kids will do a round of dodgeball and when they are hit by a ball they are to immediately sit down on the side.
- After about 5 kids get hit, stop the round.
- For the kids who got hit by the snowball, they must answer a review question about the parable of the bags of gold.
 - How many bags of gold did the first servant get? (*Five*)
 - What did the second servant do with his two bags? (*He put them to work and gained two more.*)
 - Why did the third servant say he hid his bag? (*He was afraid.*)
 - What did the master call the first two servants? (*Good and faithful*)
- If they get the answer right, they can stay in the game. If they get it wrong, they're out.
- The last team with the most players remaining wins.

What You Say:

"Great game! In the Bible Story, the first two servants were not afraid to take a risk and use what they were given. The third let fear stop him.

"Jesus told this story to teach us about God's kingdom. He is the master who is going on a long journey. Jesus is in heaven right now, but He's coming back! And in the meantime, He wants us to use every little thing He has given us.

"So be bold with your gifts. Be bold with every little thing God has given you. Maybe you really like to bake, and when you look in the pantry, you find all the ingredients to bake cookies. You can ask yourself, 'How can I make Jesus happy with those ingredients and my baking skills?' Maybe bake some cookies and share them with a lonely neighbor. Or share them with your brother or sister, who is really hard to get along with sometimes.

"Every single situation you enter in, ask yourself, 'How can I use this to make God happy?' Ask yourself that in swim practice, when you pick up a gaming controller, or when your family is rushing somewhere to get to the next thing.

"God doesn't give you talents for you to keep them hidden. He doesn't give you opportunities for you not to use them. When you use what God has given you, He will do great kingdom things!

[Bottom Line] God's kingdom grows when you use what He's given you."