

WEEK 2 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

We can give back to God.

BIBLE

The Parable of the Bags of Gold:
Matthew 25:14–29

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Every person on a film crew is given a different job to do, and they all work together to make the best movie ever. This week, kids will hear Jesus share a story about some workers who were trusted with different amounts of gold. God gives everyone different gifts, and **we can give back to God** by making the most of our gifts!

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Coin Hunt

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll want to hide gold coins like [these](#) around the room before kids arrive or while their eyes are closed. Show one of the coins to the kids and let them know they are hidden around the room. Have the kids go around finding all the coins. Once they are found, count the number of coins together. You may want to tell kids to collect only one and provide hints for kids struggling to locate a coin so that everyone can participate.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Use old CDs or coins cut out of paper instead of plastic coins, as they are less likely to get ingested.
- You found all the coins! **Let's see how many there are.** In today's Bible story, Jesus tells a story about what three different people did with three different bags of gold.

ACTIVITY | Five, Two, One!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, choose a simple action like jumping jacks, clapping, spinning, hopping, or saying a silly sound like "boop!" Then, call out either the number five, two, or one, indicating that kids should do the chosen activity that many times. Practice all three numbers together slowly. Then, the numbers are called out increasingly faster and out of order. You may choose to repeat with a different movement.
- Great job at listening to the numbers and doing our moves today. Today's story has something to do with the numbers five, two, and one. You'll have to listen carefully!
- **Who's ready for today's story?**

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | The Parable of the Bags of Gold (Matthew 25:14–29)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Teach this passage by reading from a preschool-friendly Bible translation, Bible storybook,

or using the talking points provided below. Set up the space like a movie theater, with kids seated in rows facing you. Play an old-fashioned movie countdown (similar to [this](#)) before you begin teaching. For today's story, prepare thirteen "bags of gold" (plastic or paper bags filled with plastic gold coins) underneath a small table that you'll bring out to help you teach today's Bible story.

- It's time for the *Big Picture*! **Who likes watching movies?** Me too! Movies are a fun way to tell a story. Jesus, God's son, sometimes told stories called "parables." Parables helped people learn true and important things about God.
- Today's *Big Picture* parable is about a wealthy man about to go on a very long trip. He trusted three workers to care for his money while he was gone.
- *Make a pile of five bags on the table.*
 - The man gave the first worker one, two, three, four, five bags of gold. Wow, that's a lot!
 - **Can you show me five fingers?** Yes, the first worker got five bags of gold!
- *Make a pile of two bags on the table.*
 - The man gave the second worker two bags of gold. Wow, that's a lot, too!
 - **Can you show me two fingers?** The second worker got two bags of gold.
- *Set one bag on the table apart from the other two piles.*
 - The man gave the third worker one bag of gold. You might not think that's a lot, but remember, it's a bag filled with gold!
 - **Can you show me one finger?** The third worker got one bag of gold.
- Then, the master went on his trip. He trusted the workers to take care of his gold.
 - **What do you think they did with all these bags of gold?**
 - Maybe let's see what happens next.
- The workers who got five bags and two bags of gold worked very hard. They used the money to make more money for their boss. They made double the amount they started with.
 - *Add five more bags to the pile with five bags.*
 - That means five bags of gold turned into ... six, seven, eight, nine, ten bags of gold!
 - *Add two more bags to the pile with two bags.*
 - And two bags became ... three, four bags of gold!
- The third servant did not do anything with his bag of gold. He dug a hole in the ground and buried the bag there until the master came back.
- **Do you think the master would be happy about this?** Let's see what he said!
 - When the master returned, he was really happy with the first and second workers. He said they were good and faithful. They cared about their boss and worked very hard.
 - But he was not happy with the third worker. Not at all. The worker did not do anything at all while the master was away. He didn't do anything good with what he was given. He called the third worker wicked and lazy and took away his one bag of gold.
- **Which workers showed they could be trusted with lots of things?** The first and second workers. They took what the master gave them and did something amazing with it.
- Jesus told this story to remind us that God gives us lots of good things. We can find a way to give everything we have to God instead of hiding it away.

BIG IDEA | We can give back to God.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write one word of the Big Idea on separate sheets of yellow paper. Crumple up each of those papers along with blank sheets, and place them in a large popcorn bucket (like [this](#)). Invite kids to come to the front, one at a time, and pull out a "popcorn" from the bucket. For added fun, throw the "popcorn" in the air and have kids scramble to grab one. Give them a chance to smooth out the paper. If their paper contains a word, read it out loud for them. Once all the words are found, put them in order and have kids repeat after you

while learning the motions below.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** When toddlers and older preschoolers are in the same room, you can include all ages in any activity with songs and sensory input. It's an easy way to ensure every kid in your room feels loved and included.

- Our poppin' new Big Idea for today is ...
 - **We can** (Point to all the kids.)
 - **give back** (Both palms face up in front of you.)
 - **to God.** (Point up.)

VIDEO | *Big Picture*, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | Give To God Challenge

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, have kids follow the different actions you call out as you describe and act them out. Encourage kids to yell out new "ways to give to God."
- God gives us many things. Think about what you have in your life. A place to live? People to love? Things to do? Stuff to learn? There's so much!
- But just like we learned in today's Bible story, **we can give back to God** with what we have. Let's try doing that right now.
 - **If God gave us the gift of singing, what could we do? We could sing for God!** (Sing together a simple church song kids know.)
 - **If God gave us the gift of jumping, what could we do? We could jump for God!** (Jump as high as you can while shouting, "We love you, God!")
 - **If God gave us the gift of leading, what would we do? We could lead for God!** (Have kids form a train and walk around the room.)
 - **If God gave us the gift of love, what could we do? We could love others!** (Go around hugging all the kids.)
- **What other gift can we give to God?**

PRAYER

- God, thank you for everything you have given us. Show us ways we can give back to you every day. Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | Movie Popcorn

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For snacks this month, serve popcorn in popcorn bags or small brown paper bags with different mix-ins or flavors—M&Ms, goldfish crackers, raisins, marshmallows, cereal, cheese flavoring, cheese puffs, and more. You can provide a variety each week for kids to choose from or focus on one each week. As kids enjoy their movie snack, you may choose to show a fun clip like this [video](#), "How Kids Change the World" (0:15-1:50), [this retelling](#) of today's parable (start at 0:48), or something similar.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Popcorn is a choking hazard for toddlers. Offer toddlers some oat cereal as an alternative. You can serve them in boxes like [these](#) for fun.
- **What would you do if you got bags of gold?** Those are fun ideas! Whatever God gives us, we can give it back to God. God can take what we give and make something amazing happen.
- Raise your hand if you're three, four, or five years old! We are never too young or too old. **We can give back to God!**

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids sit in a circle. Use a bag of coins to pass around. As you ask the questions, whoever has the bag of coins gets to answer first.
- **The first worker in Jesus' parable took the five bags of gold, and did he make more or less?** More! He made five more bags of gold.
- **What about the worker who had two bags of gold? How many more bags did he make?** The second worker made two more bags of gold.
- **What did the third worker do with his one bag of gold?** He dug a hole and buried it in the ground.
- **What can we give back to God?** Everything! The gifts God has given us —things we have or things we love to do — we can use them for God.
- **Who can give back to God? We can give back to God!**

ACTIVITY | Bags Of Gold Craft

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, give each kid a copy of the [printable](#), yarn, and [two-inch gold labels](#). Have them cut out the pouch and stick the gold labels inside the pouch outline. Kids can draw things they have or love to do with pencils to make them look like engravings on the labels. To finish it up, punch holes where indicated and help kids weave a length of yarn through the holes and knot the ends.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Cut out the pouch and add the string ahead of time. Peel off stickers for toddlers to make it easy to stick on their pouch.
- We all have talents, and we have different talents. Some of us are really good at encouraging our friends, and some of us are great at math. Maybe your talent is making everyone laugh or baking amazing cookies.
 - What are some of your talents?**
- Our talents are not for us to hide and keep to ourselves but to share so **we can give back to God.**

MEMORY VERSE | Jeremiah 33:3 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids learn this month's memory verse by setting the words (including the Scripture reference) to the tune of "Jesus Loves The Little Children." You can also have kids repeat the verse after you in small chunks, say it using silly voices, or create simple hand motions for keywords.
- **"Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know."**

PLAY TIME

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print and distribute [the coloring page](#) along with crayons or markers. You can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse as the kids color.

ACTIVITY | Coin Count

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this free play activity, prepare muffin tins with each compartment labeled with different numbers and plastic gold coins. Have kids count out coins and place the correct amount in each numbered compartment.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Avoid using plastic coins with toddlers. Instead, offer toddlers a toy cash register and play paper money to play with.

ACTIVITY | Bags For Others

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, have preschoolers participate in a small service project. Gather materials that might go in a care package for shelters or missions abroad. Set up an easy assembly system, and have

kids help you put items in each bag or box. Make sure you explain what they are doing and who they are helping.

✖ **TODDLER HACK:** You can also use this as an opportunity for toddlers to be helpers! You can have them follow you and help you with simple tasks like "Can you put the crayons in the box?" or "Can you pick up that toy?" Make sure you give them specific praise for being big helpers.