

City SG—May 29th-31st, 2021

Today's Bible Story: Gotta Live (Widow's Mite) • *Mark 12:41-44*

Today's Bottom Line: Practice living for God.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises to help for the life you are now living and the life to come.* 1 Timothy 4:8, NIV

1. 4 Corners

What You Need: Hand sanitizer, paper (4 sheets per group, per service), and marker

What You Do:

- Instruct each kid to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Write "Hear," "Pray," and "Talk" in large block letters in the center of three pieces of paper, one word per page.
- Flip the pages over and label them #1, #2, and #3.
- Write #4 on one side of the fourth piece of paper.
- Set the pages, number side up, in the four corners of your small group space.
- Play four corners.
- Select a kid to stand in the middle of the group and close their eyes.
- Instruct that kid to count to ten as the rest of the group runs to a corner.
- Once the countdown is up, direct the kid in the center to call out a number between one and four then open their eyes.
- All kids in that corner are out.
- But before the kids who are out sit down, direct the kid in the center to call on someone from that corner to flip the page over and read the word on the back.
- Ask one of the questions below for the group to discuss.
- Have the kid in the center close their eyes and count again as kids run to one of the three remaining corners.
- Remind kids frequently not to bunch up together too closely in one spot.
- Repeat the game until all corners have been called and all faith skills discussed.
- Questions:
 - HEAR: What is one way you can hear from God? (*read the Bible, listen to those you trust who are older and follow God*)
 - PRAY: What are some of the things Jesus taught us to pray for? Do you remember any of the parts of His pattern for prayer? (*tell God He's awesome, ask for what you need, seek forgiveness, ask for help to make wise choices*)
 - TALK: Who do you talk to about God? How does our small group help you grow or practice your faith?
 - Blank: This is a chance for kids to share their own experiences.
 - Which of the three ways—hearing from God, praying to God, talking about God—is easiest for you? Why?
 - Which is hardest? Why?

2. Opening Activity

What You Need: Coins (2 bags per Group) and tweezers (2 pairs per Group)

What You Do:

- Divide into two teams.
- Give each team an equal stack of coins and a pair of tweezers.
- Compete in a coin stacking relay.
 - Have each team place a coin on the floor to start their tower.

- Say, “Go!”
- One at a time, instruct kids to take turns stacking one coin on top of another, handing the tweezers off to the next player as each kid finishes.
- After three minutes, call time, check the towers, and declare a winner!

What You Say:

“What can you buy with a few coins? Not a lot, huh? **[Transition]** In our Bible story, we’ll hear about a woman who gave very little. But she impressed someone important with her generosity. Let’s go find out what happened.”

3. Coin Rubbings

What You Need: Bibles, coins (8 per group), crayons(bag per group), and paper (1 sheet per kid)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a coin, a piece of paper, and a crayon.
- Review the Bible story with the questions below.
 - As Jesus and the disciples watched people bring their offerings, what did they notice the rich men do? (*dropping handfuls of coins in; making a big show of the large amount of money they gave*)
 - What did they see the widow give? (*two coins*)
 - Who impressed Jesus more: the men who gave large amounts or the widow who gave so little? Why? (*the widow because she showed she trusted God by giving ALL she had*)
 - What are some ways we can **[Bottom Line] practice living for God** that don’t involve money?
- Show the kids how to place their coin on a hard surface (like a tabletop or clipboard), lay the piece of paper over it, and use the side of the crayon to rub over the penny. What happens?
- Encourage the kids to create a title for today’s Bible story and write it at the top of the page.
- Instruct the kids to write **[Bottom Line] “practice living for God”** at the bottom of their paper.

What You Say:

“If I put a bag of gold next to this penny, which amount is greater? (*Pause.*) The bag of gold, of course. But on that day when Jesus watched the people bring in their offerings, which one cost the giver MORE: the bags of gold or the two coins? (*Pause.*) Yes, the two coins. The rich men made a big show of their giving that day, when in fact it didn’t really affect them. They still had plenty of money left to spend. While the widow, whose husband had died and who didn’t have any way to make money, quietly gave ALL she had. She chose to trust God completely, believing that He would provide all she needed. And THAT—her complete trust and faith in God—is what impressed Jesus.

“There are so many ways we can **[Bottom Line] practice living for God** that don’t have anything to do with money. We can help. We can serve. We can make wise choices that protect us and the people around us. Every time we have a choice, we can ask ourselves: Does this choice honor God? Does what I’m about to do show love to others? These questions will help you as you make a commitment to **[Bottom Line] practice living for God.**”

[Make it Personal] (*What are some choices you’ve made in the past that you know honored God—especially those that might seem silly to others? How did those choices protect you and strengthen your faith and trust in God?*)

4. Coin Collecting Memory Verse

What You Need: “Memory Verse Coins” (1 set per Group), Bibles

What You Do:

- Scatter the “Memory Verse Coins” around your Small Group area.
- Direct the kids to form a big circle around the coins on the floor.
- When you say, “Go,” the kids should hop on one foot to grab one coin from the floor and set their coin in a common pile outside the circle.
- Remind kids they may only grab one coin.
- Repeat two more times, allowing kids to grab one coin at a time.
- If there are still coins left, pass them out randomly to the kids.
- Instruct the kids to open a Bible to 1 Timothy 4:8 and work together to put the coins in the correct verse order.
- As the kids begin working, they will realize that there are some extra words that don’t fit in the verse.
- Once the kids have the verse in order and have excluded the extra words, direct them to sit down.
- Invite a kid to read the verse out loud to the group.

What You Say:

“This month, we’ve learned all about commitment—making a plan and putting it into practice. Just like you make a plan to grow healthy physically, we need to make a plan to grow in our faith! So far, we’ve learned that we can practice hearing from God, praying to God, and talking about God. But we actually need to **[Bottom Line] practice living for God!** As our verse reminds us, growing in faith isn’t just good now, it makes a difference forever!”

5. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Index cards and pens

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to write one of the following questions on the front of their cards:
 - Does this HONOR God?
 - Does this show LOVE to others?
- Encourage the kids to take these cards home and place them in their backpacks or somewhere so they can see them each day as a reminder to **[Bottom Line] practice living for God.**
- Ask if there are any volunteers who would like to pray.
- Close the group in prayer.

What You Say:

“These two questions are GREAT to ask as you **[Bottom Line] practice living for God** this week. When you have a choice, think about whether that choice HONORS God or shows LOVE to others. If the answer is ‘no,’ ask God to help you make a different choice. The great news about following God is that He is with you and will help you, always. Let’s pray.

“Heavenly Father, You are a great, awesome, and mighty God. Thank You for this group and the opportunity we have to learn about You each week. Help us ask ourselves these questions this week as we practice living for You. We love You. We ask these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

HAND OUT THE GOD TIMES SHEET.