

November 2020, Week 4

Today's Bible Story: New Attitude (The Story of the Workers in the Vineyard) • *Matthew 20:1-15*

Today's Key Question: What is keeping you from being grateful?

Today's Bottom Line: Adjust your attitude.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Give thanks to the LORD, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever.* Psalm 136:1 (NirV)

Monthly Life App: Gratitude—Letting others know you see how they've helped you

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Note from Erika: I understand that some of the materials listed for these activities are not things we can find just laying around in our homes. I will try and modify the material lists to make them easier to gather needed supplies. There will probably be some supplies I don't know alternatives for. If this happens, it's totally okay to skip the activity if you don't have the required materials, or you can use whatever ideas you can come up with! Also, if there are any activities that require a group of kids, consider involving the whole families in these activities! Even though the lesson plan is meant for elementary age children, it doesn't mean everyone in the family won't benefit from participating 😊 You can choose to do as many (or as little) of these activities as you want!

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction (15 Minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

(Choose one or both of these activities.)

1. Just for Fun

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need:

- Offering container
- Ball or inflated balloon; one for every two kids (If using balloons, inflate a few extra in case some pop during use.)

2. Opening Activity

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need:

- Print the "Job Interview" Activity Pages on three different colors of paper and cut apart; one set

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

(Choose as many of these activities as you like.)

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.*

*** 1. Take a Snapshot**

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

What You Need:

- Bibles
- 12 oz. plastic cup
- 12 oz. bottles of water; two
- Cotton balls; 25
- Towel

2. Bible Story Extension

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

What You Need:

- Bible
- Hand sanitizer or sink with soap and water
- Play-Doh®
- Tray
 - Form a ball of Play-Doh for each kid. Make each ball using a different amount of Play-Doh ranging from tennis ball to marble size then place them all on a tray.

3. Discussion Questions

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

4. Verses to Take with You

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need:

- Bible
- One roll of crepe paper

Note: In preparation for next week, contact one of your church leaders who would be willing to share with the kids the way your church performs Communion then answer any questions kids might have.

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal processing and application

What You Need:

- Bible
- Pick-Up Sticks or "Gratitude Stix" prepared in Week 1

HOME: Prompting Action Beyond the Experience

- Print on cardstock or email this week's GodTime devotionals and Parent Cue cards (these can be found on Timberview's website).
- There are additional family resources here: **Studio252.tv** and the **Parent Cue app**.

SOCIAL: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Today's Bible Story: New Attitude (The Story of the Workers in the Vineyard) • *Matthew 20:1-15*

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Monthly Memory Verse: *Give thanks to the LORD, because he is good. His faithful love continues forever.* Psalm 136:1 (NirV)

Monthly Life App: Gratitude—Letting others know you see how they've helped you

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

Before you begin, pray that your kids would recognize times in their lives when they have difficulty being thankful and expressing gratitude. Ask God to give you insight into your kids individually so you can minister to them in that way.

1. Just for Fun

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Offering container, balls or balloons

What You Do:

- **Invite** kids to place their offerings in the container.
- **Form** teams of equal number then line up at one end of the room.
- **Give** a ball to the first kid in line on each team.
- **Explain** that at your signal they must "Turkey Trot" to the other side of the room and back again while holding the ball (or balloon) between their knees. If the ball drops (or the balloon pops), they must start over.
- **Repeat** the relay with other variations. The same rules apply.
 - Kids hold the ball under their chins.
 - Partners press the ball between the left shoulder of one kid and the right should of the other.
 - Two kids stand back-to-back with the ball pressed between them as they walk sideways.

2. Opening Activity

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates concrete application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: “Job Interview” cards (Activity Page)

What You Do:

- **Give** each of the kids one “Job Interview” card in each color.
- **Explain** that the cards describe unique qualities they will pretend to have as they interview for a job as a farmhand. (If needed, explain to kids that when a person applies for a job, they are often called in for an interview to talk about their responsibilities and to see if they are a good fit.)
- **Invite** kids to take turns convincing you, the farm owner, that they have what it takes to help you with your farm and why you should hire them.
 - The abilities on their “Job Interview” cards have little to do with being a farm hand, so the challenge (and silliness) of the game is for them to think of creative ways to convince you that they are qualified for the job based on their unique abilities described on the cards.
 - If you have shy kids, allow them to pair up and be interviewed as a team.
- **Prompt**, if needed, by asking kids questions to help move the “interview” along.
 - Tell me about yourself.
 - How do you see your abilities helping me with my farm?
 - What are some of your strengths?
 - If I hire you, how can you make my farm better?
- **Show** excitement about their ridiculous or unrelated abilities and how your farm will thrive with them working for you.

What You Say:

“You’re all hired to work on my farm! I bet you can’t wait for your first paycheck, right? **[Transition]** That’s how some employees in today’s Bible story felt but they were in for a surprise at the end of their workday. Let’s go find out how they handled it.”

Watch Bible Story. The video can be found on Timberview’s website!

GROUPS: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

1. Take a Snapshot

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands-on experimentation and discovery

What You Need: Bibles, plastic cup, bottle of water, cotton balls, towel

What You Do:

- **Set** the cup on the floor or table with a towel underneath it then fill it to the brim with water.
- **Observe** the cup and ask kids if they agree that the cup is FULL.
- **Challenge** the kids to take turns *gently* adding a cotton ball to the top of the water as they share answers to the Snapshot Questions below. Kids can answer different questions or can respond to the same one.
- **Add** another cotton ball when the previous one begins to sink.
- **Continue** until the cup starts to spill over. The water will hold a surprising amount of cotton balls.
 - Snapshot Questions:
 - What word best describes someone who is full of gratitude?
 - Even on your worst day, what can you still be thankful for?
 - Last spring, when the pandemic began, what could you still be grateful for even though so many things were different?
 - What are you grateful for today?
 - What is one attitude that can get in the way of gratitude?
 - What should we focus on when we feel ungrateful because life feels unfair?
 - How does your response to a disappointing or unfair situation show how grateful you are?
- **Point out**, as kids observe how the cup continued to hold more cotton balls, that it's a great illustration of how there's really no limit to the amount of gratitude we can have.

2. Bible Story Extension

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create: an activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

Note from Erika: This would be a great activity to get other members of the family involved!

What You Need: Bible, Play-Doh® balls on a tray, hand sanitizer or sink with soap

What You Do:

- **Gather** in a circle and pass around the hand sanitizer (or ask kids to wash their hands).
- **Pass** the tray of Play-Doh you prepared earlier and let kids each take one.
- **Tell** kids, after they have made their choice, to pass their ball of Play-Doh to the right.
- **Tell** them to exchange their Play-Doh with the person who is directly across the circle from them.
- **Explain** that you will read today's Bible story found in Matthew 20:1-15. As you read, they should create something with their Play-Doh that illustrates any part of the story they choose.
- **Suggest**, if needed, some sculpting options such as the ones below.
- If kids complain about the amount of dough they were given, encourage them to be as creative as they can and do their best with what they've been given.
 - Flatten the dough then use a pencil to etch a mini-mural or picture.
 - Sculpt the dough into the shape of a person in the story.
 - Create an object found in the story.
 - Spell out a key word related to the story.
 - Make an abstract symbol to represent the way someone in the story may have felt.
- **Invite** kids to share their sculptures when you're done reading the story.
- **Discuss** Matthew 20:1-15 together.
 - If you were disappointed or upset about the way the Play-Doh was distributed, how was that similar to the way the vineyard workers may have felt?
 - What could you be grateful for if you were one of the workers who worked all day? What if you had worked for only one hour?
 - What should we do when we don't get something we feel we deserve?
- **Invite** kids to share situations they or others have faced that are similar to what the vineyard workers experienced.
 - Have they ever faced a time when they didn't get what they felt they deserved or when others got something they didn't deserve?
- **Talk** through best ways to respond to unfair situations such as the ones they shared. What can we do to adjust our attitude?
- **Remind** kids that we can be grateful when we choose to focus on what we DO have instead of what we DON'T or on what seems unfair.

3. Discussion Questions

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

- Why is it dangerous to compare what you have with what others have? How does that feed an attitude of ingratitude?
- How might taking time to adjust your attitude actually make your life better?
- What are some things you can be grateful for every day no matter what?
- If someone told you to “adjust your attitude” when you were complaining, what choices would you need to make in order for that to happen?

4. Verses to Take with You

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Bible, roll of crepe paper

What You Do:

- **Sit** together in a circle.
- **Give** one of the kids the crepe paper.
- **Explain** that you'll be reading three verses found in Philippians 4:11-13.
 - The goal is for the kids to completely unroll the crepe paper and be done EXACTLY when you reach the end of the verses.
 - You'll be reading fast at times and slow at others.
 - They will know you're almost to the end when you pause briefly and say, "Time to Adjust!"
 - They should then *adjust* by speeding up or slowing down as needed.
- **Tell** kids to begin unrolling the crepe paper by passing it around the circle, as soon as you turn around and begin reading.
- **Read** Philippians 4:11-13 at varying speeds.
- **Repeat** by reading the verses again but this time kids pass the crepe paper *back* and completely *re-roll* it by the time you finish.
 - Once again, give them a warning that you're almost done by pausing for them to adjust by speeding up or slowing down.
- Set the crepe paper aside.
- **Review** Philippians 4:11-13 by asking kids what they heard in that passage that sounded like the writer was adjusting his attitude because of the situations he faced. (You might need to read portions of the passage again since kids may have been focusing more on passing the crepe paper than the words of the verses.)
 - If you need to adjust your attitude in order to be grateful, how does contentment help?
 - Can a person be grateful but not content? How about content but not grateful?
 - We often base our feelings of gratitude on how great things are going or how much we have. Why is that not the best reason for being grateful?
 - What are some situations that trigger a lack of gratitude in you?
 - What choices can you make this week to avoid falling into the trap of being unthankful?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Bible, Pick-Up Sticks or prepared “Gratitude Stix”

Note from Erika: If you still need the link for Pick-Up Stick, here it is 😊

https://www.amazon.com/Pressman-Toys-Giant-Pick-Sticks/dp/B000VRE5G2/ref=sr_1_4?crd=2G9ML1UR39YV3&dchild=1&keywords=pick+up+sticks+toy&qid=1605816739&sprefix=pick+up+%2Caps%2C448&sr=8-4

What You Do:

- **Read** Psalm 118:28-29 as you challenge kids to adjust their attitude by being grateful for the day the Lord has made—even if it’s a tough day.
- **Set out** the Pick-Up Sticks (or the Gratitude Stix you prepared in Week 1).
- **Follow** the same steps as in Week 1 for using the Pick-Up Sticks.
- **Use** the following color chart (different from last week) to lead kids in prayer. Modify the prayer categories if your set of Pick-Up Sticks contains different or additional colors.
 - Red: Ask God to help you adjust your attitude toward someone you have a hard time being grateful for.
 - Green: Ask God to help you adjust your attitude about a situation in your life that is not easy to be grateful for.
 - Yellow: Ask God to help you adjust your attitude about something you cannot have that you really want.
 - Blue: Ask God to help you adjust your attitude about showing more gratitude to your family.
 - Orange: Ask God to help you adjust your attitude about something at school that you don’t like.

What You Say:

“Dear God, when we feel like life is unfair, help us remember that You are ultimately the One in charge. Nothing happens without You knowing it and being in control. Give us what we need to adjust our attitudes by making the choice to be grateful. In Jesus’ name, amen.”