



# Biblical Stewardship



# Bible Study Series

## *Using Well What God Gives Me - Children's Teaching Plan -*

**MATTHEW 25:14-30**

*For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. Matthew 25:29 NIV*

### **Materials**

- printed copies of the accompanying handout for each child
- clip pictures from lots of magazines, old curriculum pieces, and posters or postcards that children may use in an activity in the lesson
- construction paper
- glue (or glue sticks)
- scissors
- various colored markers
- variety of stickers

### **Preparation**

- Read the scripture passage.
- Read and study the lesson guidelines.
- Gather all of the items needed to implement the lesson.
- Make a simple banner or write on the chalkboard "Using What God Gives to Me."
- Pray for the children's hearts to be prepared and for the lesson to be practical.
- Practice what you will be teaching to the children so that the lesson's reality is true in your own life.

### **Lesson**

1. As the children enter the class, ask them to take turns and tell about a time when they have been asked to take care of something that didn't belong to them (helping with a neighbor's puppy dog, watering their mother's plant, playing with their sibling's toy, etc.). Allow them time to think and share and follow up with questions such as:

How does it feel to do a good job?  
How does it feel when you don't do your best?

2. From a translation that children can understand well, read the story from Matthew 25:14-30 about how the workers took care of the things the master gave to them. For younger children, open your Bible and point to what you are reading so they will understand the concept that this story is directly from God's Word. For older children, ask them to open their own Bibles and follow along as you read. A good older reader may even read some or the entire story for the class.

Emphasize that some of the workers did a good job following the master's request but someone did not.

3. Draw the children's attention to the posted lesson title (on a banner or written on the chalkboard).

Ask them what they think the title means?

In the Bible story, the workers were given money to use well. Ask the children to think about whether money is the only thing that God gives to us to use well?

4. Invite the children to make a list (on sheets of paper or on the chalkboard) of things that they know that God expects them to have responsibility over. As the children mention various things, which will likely include material items, encourage them to think of not only their belongings but also think about their friends and family. Give time for this activity and guide the children's thoughts so that they can realize that actually everything that they have ultimately comes from God.
5. Allow the children to choose one thing (a tangible item, a talent, an idea, or a character trait) that they know God has given to them. Teachers may guide children as they try to decide what they will choose. A child might have a happy smile that they share easily or be good at playing the piano or always show a sharing attitude, etc. Help the children understand that all that they have comes from the Lord. Just as in the Bible story when the master entrusted his possessions to the workers (Matthew 25:14), God trusts each of us with the things He chooses to place in our lives. Children can also understand that God puts things in our

lives matched to exactly what He knows is best for each of us, just as the master in the Bible story matched what he gave to each worker (Matthew 25:15).

6. Provide a stack of magazine pictures including lots of various items from which the children may choose. Ask them to find two or three pictures that remind them of the one very special or important thing they know that God has given to them. Have the children make a collage with their chosen pictures (they may glue the pictures to a piece of construction paper in whatever design they choose). Provide stickers and markers so each child may design and decorate his or her collage in a personal way. Tell them that they may take the collage home as a reminder of how God has blessed them.
7. Ask the children what happened to the worker who did not use what the master gave to him correctly. Help them to understand that whatever God has given to them as a blessing is something that He expects them to use to bless others. Children may also realize that when a person uses what God gives in a wise way, just as the worker in the Bible story (Matthew 25:21), God recognizes and celebrates what that person does.
8. Provide each child with a copy of the printed handout. Help them write the thing (which they have previously chosen) that God has given to them as a blessing and three ways that they can use it to bless someone else. For instance, if the child plays the piano, he might agree to play a song for an older neighbor who does not have many friends. If the child saves her allowance regularly, she might give an extra offering to help her church share

Jesus with others. If several children enjoy singing, they might ask to sing a song together in church on a Sunday evening. If the boys and girls want to combine their funds, they might ask the pastor about someone in their community who needs some help to buy groceries. Every person counts and everything God has given to us can be used to bless someone else. Teachers will need to guide children's thinking at this point since ideas such as this may be hard to consider initially. However, once the children understand the concept, they will quickly suggest ways to use their God-given abilities to bless others.

### **Follow-Up**

1. Lead the children in prayer, thanking God for the gifts and abilities He has given to each of them and asking Him to help them share with others.
2. Ask each child to make a commitment to follow-through with one of the items listed on their handout. Tell them that everyone can report back next week about what occurred when they followed through with their commitment.



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God has blessed me with: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I will bless others by doing these things:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank You, God,  
for blessing me!**