

Today's Bible Story: Never Enough (Bigger Barns) • *Luke 12:13-21*

Today's Key Question: What do you have that you can share?

Today's Bottom Line: Share what you have.

Monthly Memory Verse: "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."
Luke 16:10

Monthly Virtue: Responsibility—Showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.

ACTIVITY 1

What You Need: "Story Strips" Activity Page, pencils, colored pencils (or markers)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a copy of the "Story Strips" Activity Page.
- Give each kid a pencil.
- Set out the colored pencils (or markers).
- Direct the kids to use the comic strip boxes in the "Story Strips" Activity Page to illustrate and tell a story of something that happened to them recently.
 - Share that it doesn't need to be an elaborate story. It could be something as simple as a trip to the grocery store with a parent.
 - Remind the group that their drawings can be super simple—especially for the kids who don't feel confident in their artistic abilities.
- Once everyone has had a chance to finish their comic strips, invite each kid to share their story with the group while showing their illustrations.
- Say: "One of the ways we can share what we have with others is to share what God has done in our lives. Sometimes that can feel scary or intimidating. Maybe we aren't sure how people will react. But one of the best ways we can begin feeling more comfortable with sharing what God has done in our lives is by sharing with people who make us feel safe. Our small group should always be a place where everyone feels safe!"
- Ask: "Would anyone like to share a story with the group that tells a little about what God has done in their lives?"
 - It may take your prompting for the kids to think of a story to share.
 - For example, this could be a short story about how they made the decision to follow Jesus. But it could also be a story about a time when they could tell that God was helping them. Maybe they moved somewhere new, and God provided them with a friend. Or maybe they asked God to help them do their best during baseball tryouts and they made the team.
- ***[Make It Personal] (Share your story with the group about how you came to have a relationship with Jesus. This should be brief, authentic, and also considerate of what may or may not be age appropriate. Or share about a time you felt God was with you.)***

ACTIVITY 2: . Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Prepared shoeboxes including: tape, scissors, pipe cleaners, and toothpicks; prepared gallon zip-top bags including: craft sticks, construction paper (or cardstock), brown paper lunch sacks, raffia, and markers **YOU COULD PROBABLY FIND STUFF AROUND YOUR HOUSE THAT WOULD WORK**

What You Do:

- Ask: “Would anyone like to recap the parable we read today in Luke 12:13-21? Can anyone share a part of what they remember?”
- After the kids have shared, review the following details:
 - Jesus was teaching a crowd of people about God when a man asked Jesus to tell his brother to divide their family properly.
 - Jesus warned the man not to want more and more things, and then used a parable to explain what He was trying to teach.
 - Jesus told a story about a rich man who had so much food that he did not have enough room in his barns to store it all.
 - The man decided he would build even bigger barns, instead of sharing the food he had.
 - Because of the man’s selfishness, God told him his life would be taken away from him.
 - Jesus explained to the people that we should be rich in God’s eyes; not because of what we store up for ourselves.
 - It’s okay to have nice things, but those things shouldn’t get in the way of loving God and people.
- Divide your group into pairs.
- Encourage the pairs to spread out to a place where they have plenty of space.
- Give each pair of kids a prepared assortment of supplies.
 - Give half of the pairs a prepared shoebox.
 - Give the other half of the pairs a prepared zip-top bag.
- Instruct the kids to use the supplies they were given in order to design and build a barn.
 - Not everyone will have the same supplies, but each pair must only use what they were given.
- Give kids five minutes or so to build their barns.
- After five minutes, invite kids to look around at the different barns that were built among the group.
- Give them a chance to see what kinds of supplies other kids may have been given that would have been useful for their barn.
- Say: “The barns you built were great! But perhaps you could build even better barns if you shared supplies with each other.”
- Instruct the pairs of kids who were given a shoebox to group up with a pair of kids who were given bags.
- Give the new groups another five minutes or so to use all their combined supplies to create better barns together.
- If you had an uneven number of pairs, have one pair of kids join another group or give them the opposite prepared supply items.
- When all the groups have finished, give each group a chance to show their new and improved barn with the rest of the group.
- Ask:
 - Why was it challenging to build the first barn?
 - What made it better when you combined with another group?

- How did you and your new group use your different skills to work together to build the barn?
- Say: “You were able to do a better job once you were given the chance to share with each other. Not only did everyone have different supplies that were useful, but each person has different skills that could be used when building the barns! God has given each of us different talents and abilities, and it’s our responsibility to share them with the world.”

Discussion Questions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask:

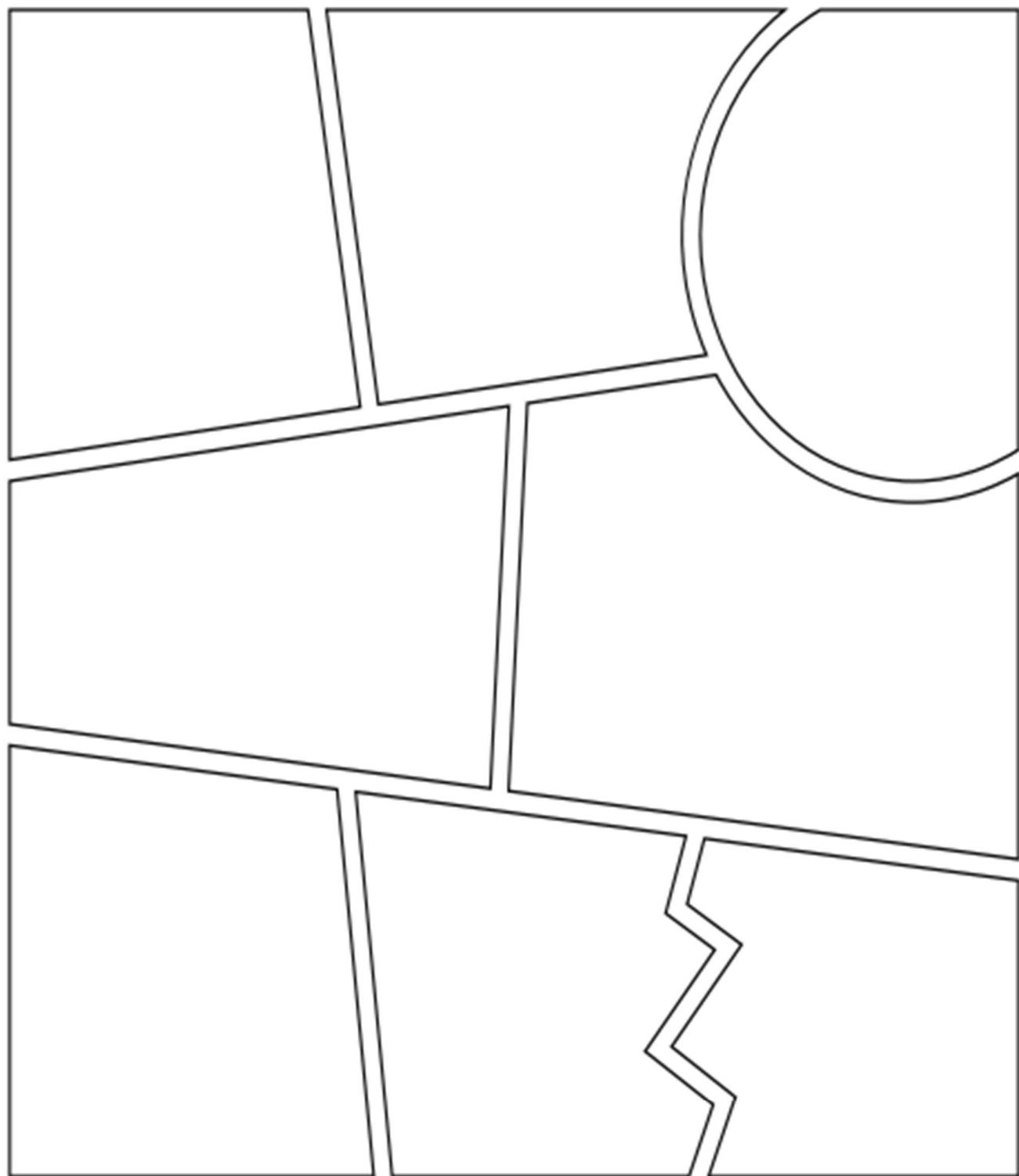
- What do you have that you can share?
- Why is it sometimes hard to share?
- Is it more difficult to share your things or your story?
- Why do we have a responsibility to share with others?
- Who are some people you can share with?

Verse for this Month

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.” Luke 16:10

Next page contains the Story Strip for Activity 1

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What to Do:
Print on cardstock. Provide one page for each kid.

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"Story Strips" Activity Page
January 2024, Week 2, Preteen Small Group
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