

“LEVEL UP” - LESSON 1

“What Is Stewardship?”

Main Focus:

God has given me responsibility
of HIS stuff!



Power Verse:

“The earth is the Lord’s, and
everything in it. The world and all its
people belong to him.”

- Psalm 24:1



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I’ll Be A Good Steward And Take
Care Of God’s Stuff!”

LEADER’S INFO

“Stewardship” is a word we often hear in church, but it is rarely defined. Kids have no concept of what a “steward” is because this term is rarely used in our society anymore.

In this lesson, your kids will begin to understand what stewardship is all about and how it applies to our lives. They will learn through the Parable of the Talents how God has entrusted each of us with time, money, and talent. How we use these assets determines how good of a steward we really are.

Throughout this series, the children will be challenged to move up the Stewardship Pyramid. They will learn the levels of obedience, generosity, and sacrifice and what it takes to move up each level.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“What Is Stewardship?”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Wiggy Pop teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Max Maverick”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Plunger Pass”



Bible Story

“Parable of the Talents”



Power Verse Video

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The
world and all its people belong to him.”

- Psalm 24:1



Call To Action

“What Is Stewardship?”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

God has given me responsibility
of HIS stuff!



Power Verse:

“The earth is the Lord’s, and
everything in it. The world and all its
people belong to him.”

- Psalm 24:1



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I’ll Be A Good Steward And Take
Care Of God’s Stuff!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Max Maverick” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video

- “Plunger Pass” Graphic

- Four Plungers

- Eight Balloons

- Masking Tape

Bible Story

- “Parable of the Talents” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “What Is Stewardship?” Graphics

- A Diaper

- A Baby Rattle

- A Pacifier

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video

- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Print Piece

- Crayons, Pencils, or Markers

- Power Verse Print Piece

- Bean Bag

- Paper or Dry-Erase Board

- Psalm 24:1 Print Piece

“The Spark” Intro Video

“What Is Stewardship?”

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

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Offering Time

Game Time!

“Plunger Pass”

Bible Story

“Parable of the Talents”

Power Verse Video

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Call To Action

“What Is Stewardship?”

Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey kids! We are starting a brand new series called “LEVEL UP.” It’s all about going to the next level when it comes to “stewardship.” Has anyone ever heard of the word “stewardship” before? *(allow kids to respond)* Stewardship is a word that we may not hear about a lot. I want to teach you what it means. But, before I explain what stewardship is, I want to show you something cool. Check out this awesome video...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)

Leader: God has given us everything we have - our money, clothes, houses, toys, possessions, talents, time - everything! In fact, it’s not our stuff at all - it is HIS! How well we take care of the stuff God has given us determines how good of a “steward” we are. If we honor God by taking good care of the stuff He has allowed us to borrow while we are here on Earth, then we are practicing good “stewardship!”

We will learn all about that today. Right now, it’s time to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Max Maverick” *(He is a passionate and creative game developer determined to create his own masterpiece. He is optimistic, energetic, and always sees the silver lining of every setback he faces. He turns every challenge into an adventure.)*

Max: *(Walks in excitedly playing a handheld video game)* I am the ultimate video game genius! No one can beat me at any game! *(Plays his game aggressively)* Oh, you think that move can confuse me? HA HA! Take that! BOOM! I win, as usual! I am truly the greatest.

Leader: Welcome, sir! You are the greatest what?

Max: Oh, hi! *(Looks around)* Wait, where am I?

Leader: You have found your way to our kid’s service!

Max: Kid’s service? Oh, goodness! I was headed to the restroom!

Leader: Haha! It seems like you became sidetracked because of your game.

Max: That’s putting it lightly! Every time I play my games, I win! I MUST win! I have a reputation to uphold.

Leader: Well, to get to the restroom, you go back out this door...

Max: Oh, never mind that. I don’t have to go anymore.

Leader: OK then. Since you’re here, who are you?

Max: I am Max Maverick. Video game extraordinaire!

Leader: Nice to meet you, Max! You seem like you really enjoy your video games.

Max: Enjoy? I eat, sleep, and breathe this stuff! It’s my life!

Leader: It’s great to be confident in your abilities, but remember, with great power comes great responsibility.

Max: Responsibility? Ha! I am the master of all things video game! No one can tell me what to do.

Leader: *(Smiling)* Max, do you know who truly owns everything in this world?

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CHARACTER SKIT *(continued)*

Max: *(Puzzled)* Um, me? I mean, I have all these video games and gadgets. This is just a handheld device. You should see my room! And in my closet, under my bed, in the bathroom closet, in the tub, and the basement! I have it all, and it's mine! ALL MINE! *(Crazy laugh)*

Leader: Actually, God owns it all. We are just stewards of what He has given us.

Max: *(Surprised)* What? But I thought I was the master of all this!

Leader: You can be the master of all things video, Max. But God wants you to acknowledge the fact that He owns EVERYTHING! Today we are going to talk about all this and more.

Max: That does sound right. I will need to examine this further. Right now, I'm trying to create the world's coolest video game! When I'm finished, I will be on top!

Leader: *(Seriously)* Max, being a steward means taking care of what we have and using it wisely. It's not about owning everything or being on top, but about using what we have for good. I hope you succeed in your game creation, but just remember to give God praise for it all!

Max: *(Reflecting)* I never thought about it that way. Maybe I should be more mindful of how I use my video game skills and resources.

Leader: *(Encouragingly)* That's the spirit, Max. Remember, humility and stewardship go hand in hand. Let's work together to make a positive impact with your talents.

Max: I can do that! So, do you know anything about creating video games?

Leader: Absolutely nothing. Sorry.

Max: Well, that's ok. I'll keep watching YouTube videos. They seem to be helping. Well, I better get going. Nice to meet you guys! I am Max Maverick, and well, you will want to know that one day! I really need to find that bathroom!

(EXITS WHILE HIS THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Plunger Pass”

Items Needed For Game:

Four plungers; Eight balloons; Masking Tape

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Preparation:

Choose two boys and two girls to play this game. Inflate the balloons enough that they sit on top of the head of the plunger instead of inside. Mark a starting line, middle line, and finish line with the masking tape.

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How To Play:

This is a relay race! One player from each team will stand at the starting line with a balloon on their plunger while their teammate stands at the middle line. When you say, “Go!” the player at the starting line must get to their teammate without dropping their balloon. Once they reach their teammate, they must pass their balloon to their teammate’s plunger without the balloon hitting the ground. Once the second player has the balloon, the first player must run back to the starting line and grab a second balloon while their teammate walks to the finish line without dropping their balloon and deposits the balloon there. Once the balloon is left at the finish line, the second player runs back to the middle, repeating the process with a second balloon, then a third, and a fourth. The first team to get four balloons across the finish line wins!



Bible Story

“Parable of the Talents”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Matthew 25:14-28; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Matthew chapter 25. It’s a story that Jesus told His disciples to illustrate what “stewardship” was all about. The story begins with a master and his three servants. (*show pic*) The Master explained to his servants that he was about to go on a trip. But, while he was gone he had a few assignments for the servants.



(*show pic*) He gave each servant an amount of talents. A “talent” was a measure of silver. Basically, one bag of silver equals a “talent”, just to make it easier to understand. To one servant, he gave five talents. To another, he gave two talents. To the final servant, he gave one talent. You may wonder, “Why didn’t he just give everyone the same amount?” Remember, - he is the owner. It is HIS money. He is able to distribute his money as He chooses.



The master explained to the servants that he wanted them to put the money to good use while he was gone. When he returned, he would ask them what they did with the money. With that, the master went off on his trip.



While the owner was gone, the servants got busy. (*show pic*) The servant who was given five talents “put them to work” (maybe he bought a business) and he ended up earning five more. The servant who had been given two talents put them to work (maybe he invested them) and he earned two more. The servant who had been given the one talent - he decided he would just bury it in the ground and wait for his master to return.



When the master returned, he asked for a report of what the servants had done with his money he had loaned them. He was pleased with the two servants who had used his money wisely and expanded his kingdom. He told them, (*show pic*) “Well done, good and faithful servants! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.” However, he was not pleased with the servant who had wasted the money by just burying it in a hole. (*show pic*) To this servant he said, “You wicked lazy servant! Even what you have will be taken away from you!” Then, he took back the money and sent the servant on his way.

In this story, the master represents God. We are the servants. God has given all of us money and possessions to use to build His Kingdom. Today, we are going to learn how to use HIS money and possessions correctly!



Call To Action

“What Is Stewardship?”

Materials Needed:

The Lesson 1 Call to Action graphics; a diaper, a baby rattle, a pacifier

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “What Is Stewardship?”



The Message: *(title slide)*

Today, we kicked off this series called “LEVEL UP.” Starting next week, we will begin to learn the three levels of stewardship and what it takes to “LEVEL UP”, taking our stewardship to the next level. First, we have to understand what stewardship truly is. Earlier, we learned that stewardship is “taking care of someone else’s stuff.”

I am going to hold up a few items. I want you to tell me what kind of person might use them. *(hold up the diaper, baby rattle, and pacifier; allow the kids to respond)* That’s right, a baby would use all three of these things. Now, babies have a very particular way of thinking. One of the first words they seem to learn is “MINE!” If you try to pick something up that is close to them, they grab it and yell, “MINE!” Even if it doesn’t really belong to them, if they like it and they want it they claim it by yelling, “MINE!!!”

Sadly, many people grow older and never grow out of that “MINE” mindset. They sound a lot like the birds on “Finding Nemo” - “mine, mine, mine, mine!” They think that anything and everything they have here on Earth is theirs. But, there’s something important that you and I must learn...



You Don’t Own Anything! God Owns It All! *(slide)*

James 1:17 teaches us that “Every good and perfect gift come from the Father above.” *Psalms 24:1* says, “The Earth is the Lord’s and everything in it.” You see, God owns everything. Everything I have comes from Him. God just lets me borrow it for the amount of time I am here on Earth and asks me to manage it. He owns it; I manage it. See – it’s not MY money – it’s HIS money. It’s not my stuff, it’s HIS stuff. Everything I have, I have because He has entrusted it to me.

Just like the servants in our Bible Story, God has given us all different amounts of time, money, talent, and ability. We have to remember that ALL of these are HIS. He just gives them to us to use for the short time we are here on Earth. Why is it so important that we understand we aren’t owners, but stewards? Well...

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Call To Action *(Continued)*

An Owner Has Rights! A Steward Has Responsibilities! *(slide)*



Too many people view themselves as the OWNER of their money and stuff. So, they say things like, “I have the right to choose whether or not I want to give in the offering at church.” Or, “I have the right to decide where my money is spent. Who cares if I waste it? I have the right to choose what to spend MY money on.”

The problem with this is that you are NOT the owner. You are just the steward. You see, the owner (God) has the right to choose what He wants to give and to whom. That’s why not everyone has the same amount of stuff. I don’t know why God chooses to give more to some and less to others. It’s like the owner in our Bible Story. He gave five bags to one servant, two bags to another servant, and one bag to the final servant. He had the right to do whatever he wanted because he was the OWNER.

The stewards didn’t have the right to do whatever they wanted with the owners money. The stewards had a responsibility to be wise with the owner’s money. That’s why those who invested the money wisely were commended while the one who just buried it and didn’t use it wisely was scolded. He didn’t handle his responsibility well.

What does this mean for you and me? You see, God has given each of us a certain amount of money, time, talent, etc. If we waste it, we are not being good stewards. If we are selfish and see it as OUR time, money, or talent, then we are not being good stewards. But, if we realize that we have a responsibility to invest our time, money, and talent into building the Kingdom of God, giving to others, helping others, then we will be good stewards.

What happened to the bad steward? He was punished. What happened to the good stewards? The same thing that happens to us when we are faithful with what God has given us...

If You Are Faithful, You Will Be Blessed *(slide)*



If you show that you will be faithful with what you have, then God will bless you with more. That’s what happened to the good stewards in our Bible Story. They showed they could be faithful with a little, so the owner gave them even more to be responsible with. That’s what each one of us should long for - the day when we stand before God and He says, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” Won’t that be wonderful? That’s why it is SO important to be a faithful steward.

ALTAR RESPONSE *(play soft music)*

Pray with the children to always remember that they are stewards of God’s resources. They may not have much money or possessions now, but if they are faithful with the little that they currently have, God can bless them with even more. They can use their time, money, talent, and possessions to build the Kingdom and to bless others.



Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “I’ll Be A Good Steward And Take Care Of God’s Stuff!”

2. How many servants did the owner have in our Bible Story?

Answer: Three

3. How many of the servants were rewarded when the owner returned?

Answer: Two

4. What did the third servant do with his money that made the owner angry?

Answer: Buried It In The Ground

5. What did the owner do for the two good servants?

Answer: Gave Them More Money

6. According to our lesson today, “You Don’t Own Anything! _____ Owns It All!”

Answer: God

7. According to our lesson today, “An Owner Has Rights! A Steward Has _____!”

Answer: Responsibilities

8. According to our lesson today, “If You Are _____, You Will Be Blessed.”

Answer: Faithful

9. True or False: “My money is my money.”

Answer: False

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Psalm 24:1