

“Dollars And SENSE” - LESSON 1

“Put God First”

Main Focus:

God must come first in our money and possessions!



Power Verse:

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” – Matthew 6:33



Whatchagaddaknow:

“If I Put God First, He’ll Take Care Of The Rest!”

LEADER’S INFO

The best way to use good SENSE when it comes to our money and possessions is to remember that God gave us everything we have.

In this lesson, the children will learn about obeying God with the tithe. Good SENSE in our money and possessions starts with the tithe - giving 10% of our income to build the Kingdom of God. It is the starting point, not the ending point.

Through the story of Cain & Abel, the children will see how important it is to give God the “first fruits” of our income and labor. No matter how much or how little they make, the important thing is that they are obedient.

It’s not about the AMOUNT you give; it is all about being obedient and giving the first 10% - the tithe - to God.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Put God First”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Boudreaux teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Money Mike”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Noodle Joust”



Bible Story

“Cain And Abel”



Power Verse Video

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” – Matthew 6:33



Call To Action

“Put God First”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

God must come first in our money and possessions!



Power Verse:

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” – Matthew 6:33



Whatchagaddaknow:

“If I Put God First, He’ll Take Care Of The Rest!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Money Mike” Theme Graphic/Music
- Oversized business jacket
- Large gold chain necklaces

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Noodle Joust” Graphic
- Two styrofoam “pool noodles”
- Two large hats

Bible Story

- “Cain And Abel” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Put God First” Graphics
- Bowl of steaming hot spaghetti
- Bowl of dried-up, nasty spaghetti
- 10 one-dollar bills

Rewind!

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

Small Group Experience

- Bibles
- Paper plates
- Marker
- A way to play music
- Crayons or markers

“The Spark” Intro Video

“Put God First”

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Boudreaux teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”

Character Skit

“Money Mike”

Offering Time

Game Time!

“Noodle Joust”

Bible Story

“Cain And Abel”

Power Verse Video

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” – Matthew 6:33

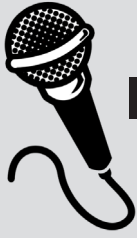
Call To Action

“Put God First”

Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Welcome to our series, “Dollars And SENSE”! It’s all about using good SENSE when it comes to our money and stuff! Where do we learn how to have good SENSE? Is it the bank? Is it a TV show about money? Nope! The place we go to find out how to use good sense is in the Bible!

You see, we don’t want to just learn how to make a lot of money and invest it. Nope! We want to find out how to use it to build the Kingdom of God and how to use it in a way that will honor and glorify God. We are going to learn all about that in this series. To find out more about that, I want you to watch this awesome video...

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

Leader: Putting God first in how we use our money and possessions is a very important thing! I have a question for you, though. Is it always EASY to put God first? *(allow response)* No, it isn’t always easy. Sometimes we are tempted to put ourselves first, spend our money on what WE want, and not even think about what God wants. But that is NOT the way we are supposed to live. That’s not using good SENSE! You’re going to find out more about that in your lesson today, but before we get too far into that, we need to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Money Mike” *(a little flashy, wears oversized business jacket, large gold chains, and is always smiling)*

MIKE: HELLO! HELLO! HELLO! HEY THERE! What a NICE looking group you have here!

Leader: Hey, thanks. I...

MIKE: *(slaps leader on the back, interrupting)* You want to know who I am? I am the great MONEY MIKE!
(waves hands at audience for applause)

Leader: *(amused)* Okay. Hi. Nice to meet you, Money Mike.

MIKE: *(points at leader)* Yes, it is nice to meet me. I am going to tell you how to make some serious cash. They don't call me Money Mike just for alliteration's sake.

Leader: Well, Money Mike, it's not the best time to talk money-making right now. We are having a church service.

MIKE: *(doubles over laughing)* Bahahah hahaha! Are you serious? Wow, you are hilarious! There is never a wrong time to talk about MONEY! Aha, am I right, or am I right?

Leader: *(concerned)* Uh, Money Mike, we should put God FIRST in our lives.

MIKE: What? No, the steps go like this: 1 - Put YOURSELF first. 2 - Keep the best stuff, and give God the rest. 3 - Make money to take care of your needs. Wham-kablam, sweeter than SPAM!

Leader: Oh, no. That's all backwards. The Bible teaches us to put God first, to not give Him our leftovers, and that GOD will take care of our needs.

MIKE: *(interested)* REALLY?!

Leader: *(smiles)* Really, Money Mike. Isn't that great news?!

MIKE: *(excited)* That is GREAT NEWS! So you will join my team, right? I only need five more people on my team now!

Leader: *(looks around)* What are you talking about? What team?

MIKE: *(goes into infomercial mode; talks fast)* I'm talking about Team Awesome! We will get a team of seven
(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

together to be professional cow petters. Doesn't that sound amazing?!

Leader: *(confused)* Did you say, “a team of cow petters”?

MIKE: *(still in infomercial mode)* That's right! And for just a nominal fee of \$48 a month, you can be part of that team. We will get paid by the cow owners to come out and spend time with the cows, petting and encouraging each cow to be their best self.

Leader: *(shakes head in disbelief)* You want me to pay you a monthly fee to pet and encourage cows? And how much money would I make doing this?

MIKE: *(gets still and quiet)* Well, at first, nothing because we have to prove our system is helpful. But after that, we could make MILLIONS!!!

Leader: I think I'll pass on this one, Money Mike.

MIKE: *(gets desperate)* But don't you want to pet cows? And make money so you can dress like me? You have to be on my team - you said God will take care of my needs, and I NEED you on my team!!!

Leader: Having a team of people who pet cows for money doesn't fall under the category of NEED. How about you hang out backstage and listen to today's lesson to understand it a little better?

MIKE: *(happy)* Why, thank you! I will take you up on that offer, as long as you agree to hear out my other offer that could make you some BIG BUCKS! What do you say? *(puts hand out for handshake)*

Leader: *(smiles)* I can do that, but it will have to be later. I have to get back to the church service.

MIKE: *(shakes hands with leader)* It's a deal! See you around, and remember not to take any wooden nickels, haha haha!

Leader: *(confused)* Okay. I'll remember that. Thanks for the reminder. See you, Money Mike!

MIKE: Goodbye now! *(exits, walking backwards and waving to everyone as his theme music plays)*



GAME TIME

“Noodle Joust”

Items Needed For Game:

Two styrofoam pool noodles (*four-foot-long styrofoam tubes used as a swimming pool toy*), Two large hats

.....

Preparation:

Choose three boys and three girls to participate in this game.

.....

How To Play:

Choose one boy and one girl to compete against each other first. Place a hat on each of their heads, making sure it is not tight. Have the contestants stand approximately three to four feet apart from one another, facing one another. Give each of the contestants a pool noodle. Have them each hold the pool noodle in one hand and place the other hand behind their back.

When you say, “Go!” the contestants must use their pool noodle to try to knock the hat off of their opponent’s head. The first one to do so is declared the winner. Do three rounds of the game, allowing the other contestants to compete against each other. The team who wins the best two out of three is the winning team!



Bible Story

“Cain And Abel”

Materials Needed:

“Cain And Abel” Graphics; 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 Genesis 4:1-15; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Genesis chapter 4. It’s a story about the first two children in the Bible. You remember Adam and Eve, the first man and woman? They had two boys named Cain and Abel.



Cain grew up to be a farmer. He grew crops and fruits and vegetables. Abel enjoyed taking care of the animals - the sheep, lambs, and goats. You remember how we have talked about the “tithe” today? Remember - the “tithe” is the FIRST 10% of the money we make. We are commanded to give that FIRST 10% to God.



This began way back when human beings were first created. Cain and Abel knew all about this. One day, they were both preparing offerings to give to God. Now, you have to remember that there was no such thing as money back then. So they didn’t give the first 10% of their money. Instead, they gave of their possessions.



(*show pic*) Abel brought God a wonderful offering of the best lambs that he had raised. They were beautiful and spotless. He gave them as an offering to God. God was very pleased with Abel’s offering. After all, Abel had been obedient and brought God his BEST.



Abel’s brother, Cain, had a different plan. (*show pic*) He decided to pick some of the leftover crops - the stuff he didn’t really want - and give that as an offering to the Lord. He definitely wasn’t giving God his best. Do you think God was pleased with Cain’s offering? No, he wasn’t.

(*show pic*) Cain was upset at God for not accepting his offering. God had a warning for Cain. God said, “If you refuse to do what’s right, watch out! Sin is crouching at your door!” God was telling Cain that if he didn’t obey and change his heart, he was likely to fall into sin. And, sadly, that is exactly what happened. He fell into sin. Cain got so jealous and angry at his brother, Abel, that he took Abel out into the field and killed him! His disobedient heart led him to even worse behavior. It was so sad. The same will happen with us. It most likely won’t be the SAME sin that Cain fell into, but disobedience will always lead to sin.

In today’s lesson, you will learn all about the importance of putting God FIRST by giving Him the first 10%!



Call To Action

“Put God First”

Materials Needed:

The “Put God First” graphics; Bowl of steaming hot spaghetti; Bowl of dried up, nasty spaghetti that has been sitting uncovered in the fridge for several days; 10 one dollar bills

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “Put God First”



The Message: *(title slide)*

Today, we are learning about “Dollars And SENSE!” It’s all about using good sense when it comes to our money and possessions. Well, the place we can go to find out the BEST knowledge in any area is the Bible. There are several important principles that we need to understand as we seek to use GOOD SENSE when it comes to our money and possessions...



Everything I Have Belongs To God! *(slide)*

God made everything. He made you. He made me. He gave us life. He also gave us the strength and the abilities we have that help us make money. If God created me and everything I have is a result of the gift of life He gave me, it only makes sense that everything I have is from God, right?

You see, the Bible teaches that all things were created by God and belong to God. He chooses to give those things to His children. We must realize that everything we have belongs to God. We can’t say, “This is MY money!” We can’t say, “This is MY stuff!” Everything that we have we received from Him. He is just letting us use it while we are here on Earth.

I hear so many people say, “I can’t give that much of MY money to God. I know it is important to pay the tithe (*ten percent of all money we make is to go to the church to help tell others about Jesus*), but I just can’t afford to give that much of MY money to God.” Remember - it’s not YOUR money.

I also hear people say, “Well, I will use my money to pay my bills, buy important stuff for me, and if I have some money left over, I will give that to God. If not, then oh well.” That’s not OBEDIENCE. Obedience is the very first level on the “Stewardship Pyramid.” It’s the very LEAST we can do. We must give God the FIRST 10% of the money we make - whether that is birthday money, allowance, or whatever.

Picture this with me. You are invited over to someone’s house. They are honoring you as their guest. They say, “You are my guest. I am honored that you are here. Please sit down at my table. I have a special meal I have prepared for you.” Then they bring out some steaming hot spaghetti they have prepared just for you.”

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



Call To Action (Continued)

(bring out the HOT spaghetti and play it up) Now, that would be awesome, wouldn't it? You would definitely feel honored.

Now, picture this with me. You are invited over to someone's house. They are honoring you as their guest. They say, "You are my guest. I am honored that you are here. Please sit down at my table. I have a special meal I have prepared for you." Then they bring out some nasty, dried up spaghetti that they had fixed several nights earlier. *(bring out the dried up, leftover spaghetti and play up how gross it is)*. They are giving you leftovers. Now, does that make you feel honored? Of course not. That is exactly what we do to God sometimes. We give Him what is left over - IF we even have any money left over after we spend it on ourselves.

I Must Not Give God My Leftovers *(slide)*



Many times we say we will give to God if we have some left over. Instead, we should be choosing to put God FIRST in our lives. We give to Him FIRST. That is how we show that we honor Him. That's called obedience!

Remember our PowerVerse today? It says, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else..." That means to put God FIRST! You see, the tithe is supposed to come out of the FIRST ten percent of the money we make, not the LAST. If you put God first, that shows that you honor Him. *(hold up the 10 one dollar bills and demonstrate how one dollar is ten percent of the ten; that is the tithe)*

I know what many of you are thinking. "But what do I do if I pay my tithe and I don't have enough to pay for the things I need?" Well, what did the rest of our PowerVerse say? "...and He will give you everything you need." That means...

If I Put God First, He Will Take Care Of My Needs *(slide)*



If we are obedient and honor God by putting Him first, recognizing that He owns everything anyway, He will make sure our needs are taken care of. Now, that doesn't mean that we can pay our tithe and then make a Christmas wish list of all the things we want God to give us. But it does mean that if we put God first, before money, then He will make sure our needs are met.

ALTAR RESPONSE *(play soft music)*

Pray that the kids will always be obedient and put God FIRST in their lives. Pray that they will be faithful in their tithe. Being a good steward starts with obedience!



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: “If I Put God First, He’ll Take Care Of The Rest!”

2. What were the names of the brothers in our Bible Story?

Answer: Cain & Abel

3. What did Cain bring as an offering to God?

Answer: His Leftover Grains And Fruits

4. What did Abel bring as an offering to God?

Answer: His Best Sheep

5. Whose offering did God accept?

Answer: Abel’s

6. According to our lesson today, “Everything I Have _____ To God!”

Answer: Belongs

7. According to our lesson today, “I Must Not Give God My _____.”

Answer: Leftovers

8. According to our lesson today, “If I Put God First, He Will Take Care Of My _____.”

Answer: Needs

9. How much of our money is “the tithe”?

Answer: 10%

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Matthew 6:33