

Two Masters – School age
Luke 16:1-13
September 18, 2022

Opening Arrival Activity and prayer

Give each kid four sticky strips – each one a different color.

Say: Try to be the first person with four of the same color. There are no set rules saying how to win. You can be honest or not. You can trade or be tricky. You can show people which colors you have, or you can hide them all. It's up to you to decide the best way to get four matching colors.

Continue playing until it's time to start the lesson.

Say: How many people were successful? How many were honest? Dishonest? Is it more fun to play with rules or without? Today we're going to get into the story of Two Masters. It's about being generous and sharing what you have. The key person in the story is a manager who doesn't play by the rules.

Say: On each sticky note you have; write something you own and that you really like. *Give kids time to write.* We've got a lot of cool stuff to be thankful for. I'm going to start our prayer by saying, "Dear God, thank you for ...". Then you can take your sticky notes and put them on the wall. As you stick things up, read our loud what you wrote on them as part of our prayer. Once everyone goes, I'll close with Amen.

**Dear God,
Thank you for....
Amen.**

Open the Bible

– Two Masters

Say: What's a manager? (*Caretaker, looks after stuff*) Who'd like to be the manager. *Pick someone to be the manager.* You're going to work for someone rich. Go ahead pick somebody to be the rich man or woman. Now we need one person to take care of the wheat and one person to take care of the oil. *Pick two kids and give each a sheet of paper. Now let's read our story.*

Say: I need one person to read it aloud but stop whenever one of the characters has a line and we'll let them read their own lines. *Stop after verse 6. Have the olive oil kid hold up the piece of paper.* If this piece of paper represents the 100 units of olive oil, how much of the paper would 50 units be? *Tear the paper in half.* So, the manager only got half of what was owed, but even half was better than nothing.

Read verse 7. Repeat the paper tearing for the wheat to show how much debt was forgiven. Read verses, 8-9.

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Say: So, this manger couldn't get all the stuff back, but by being shrewd, or tricky, he was able to get enough back to please his boss, the rich man. I need one more person to read through verse

Say: So, it sounds like the whole parable is about wealth. Being tricky with money. Getting money. Money this, money that. But when Jesus closes by saying you can't serve wealth and God. He turns the whole thing upside down. It's not about wealth, it's about God. When we serve God, we're able to be generous and share what we have because we don't serve that stuff, we serve God.

One Not-So-Shrewd Dude

Read the leaflet and use these questions to discuss.

Ask: Does this remind you of any situation you've been in? how would you react if you were the parent? How do you think your parent would react if you did what the seventh-grade brother did? How did the parent and the principal handle the debt in the end?

Crafty Clay Trading Coins – Craft

Supplies: assorted items that represent the Christian faith (fish, cross, crown, butterfly, etc.), placemats or a vinyl tablecloth, air dry clay, cookie cutters or glasses, rolling pins, straws, cording, markers. (Items that represent the Christian faith will be pressed in to the clay to make impressions. Cover the worktable with placemats or a vinyl tablecloth)

Say: Jesus taught about money many times in the Bible. In today's story, Jesus taught his disciples that people can't be greedy and serve themselves if they want to serve God. Jesus taught the disciples to make sure that God was the most important thing in their lives. The central theme of what he taught was this: Love God, not money.

1. Roll the clay approximately 1/2" thick.
2. Invite kids to make coins by pressing into the clay with the round cookie cutter or glasses.
3. Have kids make 4-6 coins (depending on the different symbols available), choosing different Christian faith items to press into their clay.
4. Show kids how to press a straw into one side of a coin to make a hole. When coins are dry, give kids a length of cording to go through the hole in each of their coins.

Say: I hope you can do something special with these coins – they can be part of a special prayer piece, or you can give them to other people as a sign of faith. Whatever you do with them, I'm sure they'll be a great reminder to love God, not money.

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Other lesson activities if time.

The Home Time Crew – Activity

Supplies: whiteboard and marker, paper, pencil

Write the following on the board:

What do you have to share that doesn't cost money?

- *Project idea*
- *Materials needed*
- *Time to complete*

Say: One way to serve God instead of wealth is to be generous and share what you have. God has given all of us gifts. Some gifts are things we own, some gifts are people we know, and some gifts are talents we have. One way to be generous and share what you have is to use your talents to help someone else. Today, you're going to make plans to help someone in your home.

1. Have kids find a partner to work with.
2. Hand out paper and pencils to each group.
3. Say: let's imagine we are members of the Home-Time Crew. As part of the crew, we go into our homes and perform a service for people living with us. Point to the board. Here is your assignment.
4. Direct partners to work together to come up with a project each person can do in his or her own home. Think about the talents God has given you (organizational skills, good singing voice, babysitting skills, etc. (. What can you do for someone else? What help do you need? What supplies will you need? How long will it take?

Say: this is only the first part of the project. Now, take it home and do it! Be generous