



God is Provider – The Parable of the Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

God Statement: God is Provider

KEY VERSE: “My God will meet all your needs. He will meet them in keeping His wonderful riches. These riches come to you because you belong to Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:19, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(Until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God is Provider!

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God is Provider!

SAY:

Who remembers the God Statement we have been learning this month? **Let kids answer - God is Provider.** Last week, we learned that provider means to make available or supply something. Can you think of an example of how God provided for you this week? **Let kids respond.**

Have you ever been trusted with something before? How did that make you feel? What were you entrusted with? **Let kids respond.** Sometimes we are entrusted with items like money, toys, or jewelry. And other times we are entrusted with a task, like cleaning the living room, or folding laundry, or helping set the table. We can use each item or task we are entrusted with, to glorify God.

Today, we are going to hear a story in the Bible about three people who were given money to hold onto. Some of the men were smart with the money, and some were not so smart with the money. God Provided and blessed each man. God is our provider! Let's say God is Provider together – ready? God is Provider! Before we jump into our lesson, let's do an activity.

MAKE: Coins in a Bag

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Supplies: one bag per child, one set of coins per child, markers/crayons

Directions: Have children color their circle coins on the strip of paper. Help them cut out all four coins. Pass out one colorful bag per child. Have them place their coins in the bag.

SAY: Today we get to learn about God taking care of us and giving us wisdom! He gave wisdom to some special people in our story and some of them listened well, others not so much! Before we dive into our lesson, let's make a craft and create some coins to remind us of this story.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

**** After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.****

KEY VERSE**Host**

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

****Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.****

***“My God will meet all your needs. He will meet them in keeping His wonderful riches. These riches come to you because you belong to Christ Jesus.”
(Philippians 4:19, NIRV)***

**** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.****

OPENING WORSHIP**Worship Leader**

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- Child of Love
- Help Me Live in Step
- Closing: Nobody

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY**Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: *God is Provider – The Parable of the Talents*

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: worship song in PowerPoint, ribbons or instruments if accessible

SAY: We've been learning that God is provider! What do you think it means that God is provider? ***Let a few kids respond.*** Everything we need comes from God. He created everything, including us, and He has made everything with a purpose! Today, we talked about how each of us have special talents that God wants us to use for Him! What are some special talents you have? ***Let a few kids share.***

Those are all amazing talents. And God gave each one of you those special gifts to use for Him!

PRAISE & WORSHIP ACTIVITY:

SAY: Let's take a moment to praise God for who He is and what He has already done in our lives and what He will continue to do. We can use our gifts God has given us to show others who Jesus is! We're going to sing a song about that, called Nobody. As you sing the words, think about what it means to live for the world to see nobody but Jesus! Even if you don't know the motions, you can dance along however you want to as we praise Jesus.

Turn on "Nobody" in PowerPoint. Let kids praise and worship however they want to in this space. After the song is over:

SAY: Thank you, God, that you are provider! Let's praise God for that one more time. Can you cheer and clap loudly and say "Thank you, God!" on the count of 3? 1, 2, 3 – Thank you, God!

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

****After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the “Compassion International” slide.****

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

****After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – Praying for Schools

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the PowerPoint to display important announcements.

Praying for Schools

SAY: What gets you the most excited about going to school? ***Let kids respond.***

Sometimes school can be challenging but there are also so many things to look forward to! The friendships you have. The encouragement and guidance you receive from your leaders. Fun field trips. Cool projects and experiments. Would you say that these are all some of the things that make school pretty awesome?!? ***Pause for a moment.***

There are many people around you who show God's love by assisting with the activities and programs that you can participate in throughout the school year. Some of these individuals are volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to serving students just like you.

We have created a monthly prayer guide to help you and your families pray for our ACTS School Partners, like our volunteers, throughout the 2023-24 school year. What better way to show our appreciation than through prayer!

Invite someone to come up and pray for the school year ahead!

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING**Host**

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

May you believe that God is provider! He has made you uniquely and wonderfully with many talents and He loves you!

SMALL GROUP**Classroom Teachers****(10 minutes)****Younger Kids:**

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today's story: The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25: 14-30)**
 - **What did the man give to each of his servants?** (He gave one man five bags, another man 2 bags, and the third man he gave 1 bag.)
 - **What did each servant do with their gold?** (The man with five bags worked hard and doubled his bags, the man with two bags worked hard and doubled his gold, and the man with one bag buried his gold so he made no more money.)
 - **How did the master respond to the men when he came back?** (He told the men who had worked hard and doubled their money that he would give them more. He took the money from the third man who buried it and gave it to the man with the most money.)
3. **God wants us to use the gifts and talents that He gives us to help others and honor Him. He doesn't want us to be scared or lazy with the gifts he has given us. All of our gifts can be used to help others or to honor God! Show me your most proud smile as you think of a gift or a talent that God has given you and then raise your hand if you would like to share it!** (Before you allow kids to share, perhaps share one of your God-given talents and how you can use it to help others and honor God. As kids share, help them to see what they can do with their gift that is helpful to others and God-honoring. If time remains, allow kids time to share with the people around them what their gifts are.)

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read scripture: Matthew 25: 14-30**
 - **What did the man give to each of his servants?** (He gave one man five bags, another man 2 bags, and the third man he gave 1 bag.)
 - **What did each servant do with their gold?** (The man with five bags worked hard and doubled his bags, the man with two bags worked hard and doubled his gold, and the man with one bag buried his gold so he made no more money.)
 - **How did the master respond to the men when he came back?** He told the men who had worked hard and doubled their money that he would give them more. He took the money from the third man who buried it and gave it to the man with the most money.)
3. **God wants us to use the gifts and talents that He gives us to help others and honor Him. He doesn't want us to be scared or lazy with the gifts he has given us. All of our gifts can be used to help others or to honor God! Show me your most proud smile as you think of a gift or a talent that God has given you. Yes! Now scratch your head and think about how you can use that special talent to help others or serve God and raise your hand if you would like to share!** (Before you allow kids to share, perhaps share one of your God-given talents and how you can use it to help others and honor God. As kids share, help them to see what they can do with their gift that is helpful to others and God-honoring. If time remains, allow kids time to share with the people around them what their gifts are.)

Close small group in prayer. *Take a few minutes to share prayer requests as a group. This is a great time to write requests down on the prayer tags for leaders to take home!*

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

PLAY: Find the Coin

Supplies: gold coins (one per team)

Directions: Have kids get into two teams. Give each team a gold coin. Have one child from each team sit on the floor and close their eyes. Have another child from each team hide the coin in the room. When both coins have been hidden have the “finders” open their eyes and try and find their teams’ coin. The “hidiers” can play ‘hot and cold’ (telling their team mate ‘hotter hotter hotter’ if they are getting closer to their hidden heart and; colder colder colder’ if they are farther away). Once the coin is found the finder can share one way God gives them wisdom or helps them. Then have another child from the team hide the coin and have another child be the “finder”. Play until all team members have had a chance to find the coin.

SAY: Today we got to learn about how God gives us wisdom! Our story shared how three slaves were trusted with coins! Some did the right thing, and others were foolish. Let’s play a game to remind us that God gives us wisdom!

CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.