

# Living Richly KidZone Curriculum



**April 30-May 21**

## **Sermon Series: "Living Richly: Stewardship in the Kingdom of God"**

This sermon series looks at four different aspects of stewardship. Starting with the heart, and correctly aligning our lives around God's will, not our own, we will discuss what it means to focus on stewardship as "God first." Next, we will look at the corporate nature of stewardship, sharing with our neighbours, friends, and even people we don't like. The third week will look at the internal nature of stewardship being contentment in all circumstances. Finally, the fourth week will look at giving of ourselves through our time, money, and gifts. There is a print resource that will be available on the site as well called "Living Richly for Kids." These are additional devotional exercises that kids can do at home during the week with their families.

# God First



**Date:** April 30

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 6:19-34

**Lesson Summary:** When we seek God first and foremost in our lives, everything else comes into alignment under Him. This is where we start looking at stewardship, not as giving stuff away so we can tick off a box, or tithing for brownie points in heaven, but as a heart correctly turned toward God. Stewardship starts with the heart. And we know from scripture that where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Making God the center of it all is where stewardship must begin!

**Supporting Activities:**

**Craft:** <https://www.dropbox.com/s/aktiwjqiymtqfs/Mary%20and%20Martha.pdf?dl=0>  
(Coloring Activity recommended ages 3-7)

**Memory Verse Obstacle Course:** Matthew 6:33, "But seek first [God's] kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

**Discussion Questions:** (for some of the older kids) What does it look like to put God first in your life? Do you ever worry about some of the things of this world? What worries you? What feelings do you have when you hear that if you seek God first "all these things will be given to you as well"? What does this mean?

**JOY bracelets:** Make bracelets using the craft supplies and lettered beads. Make sure everyone gets a J, O, and Y. Talk about how we put "Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself third." This aligns with what we are learning about in stewardship.

# Sharing is Caring



**Date:** May 7

**Bible Passage:** Acts 2:43-47

**Lesson Summary:** In the early church, all of the Christians actually brought their resources (money, land, food, etc) together and shared it all. They had a practice of pooling their resources and giving out from the pool to each person as they had a need. Communal-style living was their go-to. But even before that time, way back in the Old Testament, God shared his rule for how to share things with others. In Leviticus, God asks his people to plant their full fields, but to only harvest the inside part, leaving margins on the outside for foreigners and the poor. Sharing is very different in our day where everyone seems to want “more.” But what would it look like if we adopted a biblical understanding of stewardship corporately?

## **Supporting Activities:**

**Small Group Activity:** Take a large bag of M&Ms for your class, (supplies will be available). Show them a globe and talk about the different parts of the world that have more and less resources. Split the class into six groups, representing each of the inhabited continents. Have more kids in Africa and Asia than anywhere else. Then divide the bag of M&Ms giving a few pieces to Africa, Asia, and South America, and the majority to North America and Europe, and a remainder to Australia. Talk about how there is actually enough food to go around the world, and many still go to bed hungry every night. Read this article, and use some of the hunger stats from it: <https://www.thelifeyoucansave.org/Causes/Hunger-and-Nutrition?gclid=CP60mMXo09MCFUK4wAodDSwBww>. Discuss with the group that life isn't actually fair, and we are called to share with those who don't have as much as we do. Hopefully the kids will realize by the end of the conversation that they should share the M&Ms equitably on their own. If not, help them to get there.

**Memory Verse Obstacle Course:** Acts 2:44-45 “All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.”

**Discussion Questions:** Are you good at sharing? What things are easy for you to share with others/what things are harder? What emotions come to mind when you think of sharing “everything” with others? Are there ways that we could be more intentional about sharing with people who don't have everything we have? Is there a difference between “needs” and “wants”? How can we give up some of our “wants” so that others can have their “needs” met?

# Being Content



**Date:** May 14

**Bible Passage:** Philippians 4:11-12, "...I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation..."

**Lesson Summary:** The apostle Paul had some pretty awful circumstances (read from 2 Corinthians 11:23-28). But he didn't let his outward circumstances define his happiness or contentment. Part of being good stewards is being content with whatever we have (or don't have). Sometimes we complain about a lot of things. But complaining is the opposite of how God wants us to act. We are supposed to be grateful in all things. Being good stewards of our lives deals with being content no matter what we are going through, because we know we are never alone when we have Jesus in our lives.

## **Supporting Activities:**

**Small Group Activity:** Have everyone take part in several "activities" and in between each talk about what "being content" looks like in each. First have the kids stand in a line "waiting" for something. Then talk about what it means to be content even standing in line. Then have the kids do jumping jacks for a minute. What does it mean to be content doing jumping jacks? Then go to the gym and play freeze tag. What does it mean to be content whether you are still in the game or "frozen?" These are simple ways to test being content whether you are having fun or just "waiting" around.

**Blessing Pick-Up Sticks:** Use different coloured straws and dump them out. Play "pick-up sticks" with them, but with every straw someone picks up, they have to name a blessing in their life. Red: a person you are thankful for. Orange: place, Green: food, Blue: thing, Purple: anything.

**Memory Verse Obstacle Course:** Philippians 4:12-13, "I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

**Discussion Questions:** What does it look like to be content in all circumstances? What are some things in your life that you find it difficult to be content in? What are some blessings in your life that are easy to be grateful about? Why can we be at peace/content regardless of circumstances/things?

# Giving It Away...



**Date:** May 21

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 25:21 “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

**Lesson Summary:** (Read the whole story here: Matthew 25:14-30) The parable of the talents talks about how God gives us certain spiritual gifts, resources, and blessings so that we can cultivate them and use them for the benefit of others. The three points in this talk are about using our resources (the physical/material items that we have) that can benefit others; our blessings (the immaterial items, like family, that we can share with others); and our spiritual gifts (the talents that God has given us to further his kingdom).

## **Supporting Activities:**

### **Small Group Activities:**

In preparation for this, read this article on children’s spiritual gifts, starting with “Spiritual Genetics”: <http://childrensministry.com/articles/spiritual-gifts-inventories-for-preteens/>. For the older grades (teachers use your own discernment on this), proceed with that activity, helping kids define their spiritual gifts.

For the younger grades, talk about doing random acts of kindness. Have these “acts” written on the small notecards when the kids come in to the class. Talk about these, and then have each kid select which act they would like to do this coming week. Have them take the notecard and bring it home with them: <http://www.theottoolbox.com/2014/02/random-acts-of-service-and-kindness-for.html>.

**Craft:** Colouring page activity: Give thanks... <http://fromvictoryroad.com/2014/11/23/give-thanks-psalm-1071/>.

**Memory Verse Obstacle Course:** Matthew 25:21 “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

**Discussion Questions:** How can we be good “givers?” What can we give to others, even as kids? How can we use our spiritual gifts to help others?

## **KidZone Graduation and Party!**



**Date:** May 28

**Please join us for the annual KidZone 6<sup>th</sup> grade graduation and celebration. We hope that all of the leaders can join us, but they will not need to plan activities. Please let Konnie know ahead of time how many kids will be graduating from your class, and names.**