

“Living Large” - LESSON 1

“Follow The Leader”

Main Focus:

I must follow God’s plan for my money and stuff



Power Verse:

“Follow God’s example in everything you do...”

– Ephesians 5:1



Watt’s Up:

“I Will Follow God’s Plan For My Money And Stuff!”

LEADER’S INFO

Money is a huge part of today’s culture. Everything costs money. Everyone wants money. Money is power. Money, money, money - it’s what we all want more of. We’d all like to be “Living Large!”

However, the Bible has a unique approach to money and possessions - much different than the world’s approach. In this lesson, the children will learn to follow God’s example instead of the world’s example.

From the story of the Rich Young Ruler, they will learn that Jesus wants us to give *Him* all of our devotion, not the things of this world. The Rich Young Ruler missed out on truly “Living Large” by putting his stuff before Jesus.

The children will learn about following and obeying God’s instructions and being known for their love for God instead of their love for money or stuff.



“The Spark” Intro Video

Living Large



“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”



Character Skit

“Matilda Valentina”



Offering Time



Game On!

“Simon Says”



Bible Story

“Rich Young Ruler”



Power Verse Video

“Follow God’s example in everything you do...”
– Ephesians 5:1



Call To Action

“Follow The Leader”



Brain Drain

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

I must follow God’s plan for my money and stuff



Power Verse:

“Follow God’s example in everything you do...”

– Ephesians 5:1



Watt’s Up:

“I Will Follow God’s Plan For My Money And Stuff!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “The Spark” Intro Video

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

- “Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video
- “Watt’s Up?” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Matilda Valentina” Theme Graphic/Music
- Track suit
- Big fake jewelry
- Sunglasses
- Giant gray hair
- Cell phone

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game On!

- “Game On!” Bumper Video
- “Simon Says” Graphic

Bible Story

- “Rich Young Ruler” Graphics
- Bible

Power Verse Video

- “Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Follow the Leader” Graphics
- A Bible
- A jar of 100 pennies
- Ten \$1 bills
- A Walmart hat
- Picture of Sam Walton’s truck

Brain Drain

- “Brain Drain” Bumper Video
- “Brain Drain” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Money Verse Print Piece
- Paper sacks
- Scissors
- Follow God’s Plan For My Money & Stuff Print Piece
- Pencils, crayons, or markers

“The Spark” Intro Video

Living Large

“Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video

Skittles teaches “Watt’s Up?”

Character Skit

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Offering Time

Game On!

“Simon Says”

Bible Story

“Rich Young Ruler”

Power Verse Video

“Follow God’s example in everything you do...” – Ephesians 5:1

Call To Action

“Follow the Leader”

Brain Drain

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey kids! Today, we are starting a brand new series all about money called “Living Large.” Have you ever heard that phrase before? What do you think it means? *(allow a few children to respond)* Living Large means you are doing great - living a good life. If you’re living large, you have all you need in life - you’re blessed! A lot of people look at rich and famous people and say, “They are living large!” But in this series, we’re going to learn what God considers living large - and how we can start living large, the way God wants us too! Before we get too far into our lesson, I want you to check out this awesome video!

(play “The Spark” Intro Video)

Leader: Today, we’re learning that we can’t live our lives like the rich and famous in this world. Instead, we have to put God first. God has to be more important to us than our money and possessions. When people see us, they shouldn’t see a super rich person that loves money and stuff more than anything else. Instead, they should see someone who loves God more than anything else. We’ll find out more about that in a few minutes, but right now, it’s time to check in with Skittles and find out “Watt’s Up?”

(play “Watt’s Up?” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “**Matilda Valentina**” (a stereotypical New Jersey grandma - track suit, big fake jewelry and sunglasses, giant gray hair, cell phone)

MATILDA: (comes out talking on her phone) No, Madge, I told you - I am not a tuna salad kind of girl.

Leader: Oh, hello ma'am, can I help you?

MATILDA: (holds up a finger to the leader) Just a second, hun. This is a very important call. (back on the phone) No, I don't like baloney either. It makes my burps smell like death. (looks to the leader) Hold on, Madge - somebody's here. (to the phone) No, I don't know who they are. (pause) Ok, I'll ask. (to the leader) What's your name, hun?

Leader: (says their name)

MATILDA: Your name's (leader's name)? Really? You gonna stick with that?

Leader: I guess so.

MATILDA: (on the phone) They guess so. (pause, laughs) I know, right? (pause) Well, how am I supposed to know? (back to the leader) If you had to choose between a pastrami and a turkey sandwich, what would you pick?

Leader: Uh..turkey.

MATILDA: Oh, ok! (back on the phone) Make mine a pastrami sandwich. (pause) Okay, I'll see ya soon, Madge! Buh-bye! (hangs up phone, laughing, pauses noticing the leader) You're still here. Why are you still here? Why am I still here. (looks around) Hold up, where is here? Who are you? What's going on?

Leader: You're in church, and my name is -

MATILDA: (interrupts) Ohhhhh oh oh yeah, that's right! You're name is (voice trails off, mumbling gibberish) this is church, and you RUDELY interrupted my phone call. But that's okay - Matilda Valentina is a forgiving lady.

Leader: Who is Matilda Valentina?

MATILDA: (scoffs, laughs hard) Why, that's ME, hun! Matilda Valentina - richest retired granny this side of Tallahassee. Maybe you've heard of my son? Ricky Valentina - the shower curtain king?

Leader: I'm sorry, I haven't. I'm not big into uh...shower curtains. Who were you talking to on the phone?

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

MATILDA: Oh - that was my friend Madge! We were planning our weekly Home Shopping party!

Leader: What's a home shopping party?

MATILDA: *(gasps, excited)* Oh - oh - oh - they are just the BEST! Ever since my son hit it big in the shower curtain business, we've gotten ALL. THIS. MONEY! I love to shop - but I don't like going to the mall. It smells. Kinda like...old socks and nacho cheese. ANYWAY, me and my friends get together every week and watch the Home Shopping Network - and we just BUY BUY BUY, whatever we want! My house is just FULL of all kinds of fancy stuff - I love it!

Leader: Wow. I guess that could be...kind of fun. Are you sure that's what God wants you to do with all of that money?

MATILDA: *(laughs)* What does God have to do with it? God owns the entire universe - what would he possibly want with my stuff? I mean, is God going to use a remote controlled potato peeler?

Leader: I doubt it - but you know, God is the reason you have that money to begin with.

MATILDA: That's very true, and I'm very thankful! Just the other day I was telling Him, "Thank you Lord, for my solar-powered bunny slippers!"

Leader: Well, that's good that you are thankful, but if you REALLY love God wouldn't you be willing to listen to what He says?

MATILDA: Of course I would! What are you even talking about?

Leader: What if God asked you to give all of your stuff away?

MATILDA: *(gasps, clutches her heart and hangs onto the leader)* WHY WOULD YOU SAY SUCH A THING?!

Leader: Calm down, Matilda! It sounds like you could use some help with this. How about you hang around for a little bit and listen to today's lesson?

MATILDA: I guess I could do that. But I can't stay longer than 1:30. It's Bingo Day and I wanna break in my platinum, diamond encrusted Bingo Card! I'll see ya later, hun! My name's Matilda Valentina - if it's sassy and it's classy, I GOTTA HAVE IT! Bye!

(gets back on her phone and exits as her music plays)



GAME ON!

“Simon Says”

Items Needed For Game:

none

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Preparation:

Either play the game with the entire group OR choose an even number of boys and girls to compete in this game.

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How To Play:

The is the classic game of “Simon Says”. Instruct the children to listen closely to what you say. When you say, “Simon says...” before any instruction, they are to obey that instruction. However, if you give an instruction without saying, “Simon says...”, they are NOT to obey that instruction. Those that obey the instruction when you did not say, “Simon says...”, are out of the game. The last child left in the game is declared the winner.



Bible Story

“Rich Young Ruler”

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 passage in Matthew 19:19-29; 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 19. There was a young man (*show pic*) who came up to Jesus and asked Him, “What must I do to receive eternal life?” He was obviously ready to put his faith in God. (*show pic*) Jesus answered him, “Obey the commandments.”

The young man didn’t miss a beat. He responded to Jesus saying (*show pic*), “I’ve done this ever since I was a little boy. What else must I do?” This young man thought, “That can’t be it! That can’t be all I have to do! There must be more to it than just keeping a list of rules.” He had been doing this all of his life, yet he still felt empty inside.

Jesus knew this young man had kept the commandments in the scriptures, but He also knew there was something this young man loved very much - TOO much, in fact. You see, this young man is known in the Bible as the “Rich Young Ruler.” He had a LOT of money. He LOVED his money. (*show pic*) Jesus said, “Sell all you have and give it to the poor.” WOW! Jesus told this young man to sell EVERYTHING he owns and give the money he makes to the poor. That’s huge! How do you think he responded? Do you know what he did?

The Bible says (*show pic*) the young man walked away sad because he loved his money and his stuff too much. It’s not that Jesus really wanted him to be poor. Jesus just wanted him to be willing to put God ahead of his money. The sad thing is, because he loved his money so much, he ended up losing out on being Jesus’ disciple - and he missed out on eternal life.

Boys and girls, in your lesson, today, you are going to learn that when you love money, possessions, power, and popularity, it will destroy your relationship with God. Instead, you must put GOD at the #1 spot in your life.

When Jesus is your leader and you follow His commands and put your trust in Him, He will bless you!





Call To Action

“Follow the Leader”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; a Bible; a jar of 100 pennies; ten \$1 bills; a Walmart hat; pic of Sam Walton’s truck

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled “Follow the Leader”



The Message: *(title slide)*

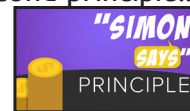
Today, we’re learning all about how we should handle our money and our possessions. This world is full of people who love money and love their stuff a LOT! Have you ever seen someone on TV or in a movie - or perhaps you knew someone personally - that loved their money and their stuff a whole lot? *(allow response)* Well, we’re learning that, as Christians, we can’t treat our money and possessions the way the rest of the world does. As Christians we have to live differently. Today, we’re going to learn four different principles to help us handle our money God’s way, not the world’s way. Here’s the first principle....



“Follow The Leader” Principle *(slide)*

Have you ever played “Follow the Leader?” Well, we’re going to play it right now! *(pick three children, play a short round of “Follow the Leader,” and have the children be seated)* That is a fun game, but what in the world does it have to do with money? Well, when it comes to our money and possessions, we need to follow the leader! God is the ultimate leader when it comes to our lives, and He gave us a big book full of wisdom to help us out. Can anyone guess what book I’m talking about? *(allow response)* That’s right, the Bible! *(hold up Bible)* The Bible is our guidebook for living.

The Bible is full of stories and scriptures about how to handle our money. In our Bible Story about the Rich Young Ruler, Jesus told the young man, “If you really want to follow me, you’ll prove you love me more than your riches.” Do you remember how the young man responded? *(allow response)* That’s right - he walked away sad. He had a choice - follow the leader or keep all of his riches. Boys, and girls, we all have a choice when it comes to obeying Jesus with our money. That brings us to our second principle....



“Simon Says” Principle *(slide)*

Remember Simon Says? If Simon says to do something, you do it. If Simon doesn’t say to do something, you don’t do it. What happens if you do something Simon didn’t say to do? *(allow response)* You lose! That’s how the game works. If you want to win, you have to obey Simon’s commands. It’s the same for our money.

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Call To Action (Continued)

If you want God to bless you, you have to obey His commands. Otherwise, you lose out like the Rich Young Ruler. Not only did he lose out on being one of Jesus’ close disciples, but he also missed the chance to have eternal life. That was a HUGE loss.

Boys and girls, it is SO important that we obey God’s commands and put Him before our money and stuff. In fact, God created a way for us to show Him that we love Him more than our money. It’s called tithing. To tithe is to give ten percent of any money you earn or receive to God. You say, well how do I know how much I’m supposed to give? Well, let me explain with our next principle...



“You Are Here” Principle *(slide)*

Deciding how much you are supposed to give as your tithe is kind of like finding directions on a map. When you go to the mall, you can walk up to a big giant map, look for the store you want to go to, and then find out how to get there. How do you know how to get there? You find out where you are first. *(show pic of map)* The big maps at the mall always have a big arrow that says, “You Are Here!” To know how to get there from here, you have to know where here is.

It’s the same for tithing. To know how much to give, you have to know how much money you have. When you get money for your birthday, you count it all up to see how much is there. If you sell lemonade at a garage sale, at the end, you count the money to see how much is there. Once you know how much you have, you find out what ten percent is. Let me show you.

(hold up a jar of 100 pennies) If you have a dollar - that’s 100 pennies - how much is ten percent? It’s ten cents. *(count out ten pennies into your hand)* That’s not bad - you still have ninety pennies to yourself. God only asks for ten percent. *(hold up ten \$1 bills)* If you have ten dollars, how much is your tithe? It’s one dollar. *(pull out one \$1 bill)* You still have nine dollars to yourself. You get to keep ninety percent. If you have trouble with the math, ask your mom and dad, “How much is ten percent of ____?” They’ll help you! Now, one more principle....



“Sam Walton” Principle *(slide)*

Sam Walton is the man who founded Walmart and Sam’s Club. *(put on Walmart hat)* He was extremely rich. He had tons of money because of all the hard work he did to build his huge company. Being that Sam was so rich, can anyone guess what kind of car he had? *(allow a few children to guess)* Well, he actually didn’t drive a fancy sports car or ride in a limo. Instead, he drove an old beat-up pickup truck. *(show pic of Sam Walton’s truck)* Sam Walton was rich, but he didn’t want to be “known for” being rich.

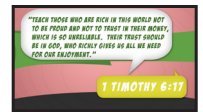
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Call To Action (Continued)

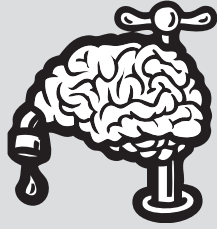
The young man in our Bible Story was “known for” being rich. He was known for loving his money and his stuff. In fact, that’s why we call him the Rich Young Ruler. He showed off his riches and power everywhere he went. He wasn’t humble at all. He was proud of his stuff. But we learned from our Bible Story, if we want to follow Jesus, we can’t go around flashing our money and bragging about our stuff. Instead of being known for our money, we should be known for how much we love and serve God.

Boys and girls, it’s important that we follow these principles and make sure we put God first - not just with our money or our stuff. 1 Timothy 6:17 says it this way: *(show slide) “Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.”* When we put God first and follow his example and instructions, He will bless us and take care of all we need!



ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Pray that the children would trust God with their money and possessions. Pray that they would choose to put God first in their life, trust Him by tithing, and begin to see His blessings in their lives.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; “Brain Drain” Bumper Video

Preparation:

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

1. Watt’s Up today?

Answer: “I Will Follow God’s Plan For My Money And Stuff!”

2. Who approached Jesus in the Bible Story?

Answer: The Rich Young Ruler

3. What did the Rich Young Ruler ask Jesus about?

Answer: How To Get Into Heaven

4. What did Jesus ask the Rich Young Ruler to do?

Answer: Sell His Possessions And Give The Money To The Poor

5. True Or False: The Rich Young Ruler obeyed Jesus and became His disciple.

Answer: False

6. According to our lesson today, we should remember the “Follow The ____” Principle.

Answer: Leader

7. According to our lesson today, we should remember the “____ Says” Principle.

Answer: Simon

8. According to our lesson today, we should remember the “You Are ____” Principle.

Answer: Here

9. According to our lesson today, we should remember the “Sam _____” Principle.

Answer: Walton

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Ephesians 5:1

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