



INITIATIVE | WEEK 3 | MAY 18, 2025

## Elementary Lesson

# Use Somebody

**Monthly Virtue:** Initiative—seeing what needs to be done and doing it

**Bible Story:** Use Somebody (Parable of the Talents) • *Matthew 25:14-30*

**Key Question:** How can you use what you've been given?

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

**Memory Verse:** None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. *Philippians 2:4 (NirV)*

### LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*Getting started can sometimes seem like the hardest part of meeting a need. But it actually starts before then. First we have to see the needs around us. Initiative isn't just some practical principle; it's really a spiritual principle that starts with God. God took initiative on our behalf by seeing that our relationship was broken and needed to be fixed. So God sent Jesus to make it right. And because we are made in God's image, we are wired to be able to take initiative and get things done too.*

**Key Question:** How can you use what you've been given?

Can you think of a time someone has complimented you about something that seemed to come naturally to you? God has given each of us unique gifts and wired us all differently, not just for the betterment of ourselves, but to impact those around us too. We hope this question allows preteens to start thinking about how the ways God made them are impactful.

In week 3, we head to **Matthew 25:14-30** Jesus told His disciples a story about a rich man who left for a long journey and entrusted his servants with some of his money. Each one received a different amount, but at the end of the journey, the man was proud of his servants for using what they were given to double the investment. All except for one...

#### **Pre-Service Check List**

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

#### **Morning Flow**

Doors  
Open  
9:15/11:00

Large Group  
Starts  
9:35/11:20

Small Group  
Starts  
10:05/11:50

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN AND WELCOME (3 Minutes)

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN, SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)

LGL: “Welcome everyone! I’m so glad you are able to come hang out with us in KidCity today. My name is [INSERT NAME]. We are going to have a lot of fun today, but before we do let’s go over these announcements/KidCity Expectations.

**(SLIDE: BAPTISM)** *(Said on the fourth weekend of the month only)* “Today are baptisms at Hope. Baptism is a way of telling the world that you love God and have made the decision to follow Him with your life. It’s a big deal! Is there anyone here who is getting baptized today? *(Pause and if someone is, go ahead and give them a high five and get the kids to clap).* Awesome!”

**(SLIDE: KIDCITY EXPECTATIONS)** “Now, let’s quickly go over our KidCity Expectations (rules) so we can make sure that we make the most of our time today: *(Don’t dwell on these too long, but make sure you review them briefly so we can set everyone up for success.)*

1. Be Kind
2. Be Safe
3. Have Fun

### LARGE GROUP GAME (5 Min)

#### FOUR CORNERS

(No Supplies)

“Let’s check out our virtue for the month.

**(SLIDE: VIRTUE)** Initiative—seeing what needs to be done and doing it

“Initiative is a big word so let’s say it and the definition together on the count of 3. Ready? 1, 2, 3...

“It can be easy to let others step up and take care of things. Think about it, you probably do that all the time! Your mom probably cooks dinner most nights. Your teacher probably cleans up the classroom at the end of the day. Your coach probably plans how each of your practices are going to run.

“But initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it without being asked and with the right attitude! And it’s not just with tasks. It can also be with how we treat others. Check out our verse for the month.

**(SLIDE: MEMORY VERSE)** None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. Philippians 2:4 *(Nirv)*

*Take a minute to explain that ‘Philippians’ is a book in the New Testament, and that*

*the first number means 'chapter' and the second one means 'verse'. 'NirV' is what translation the Bible is in. The Bible wasn't originally written in English! There are different translations.*

"You'll have more time to practice this month's verse, but for now let's play a game!"

### **(SLIDE: GAME SLIDE with MUSIC)**

#### **HOW TO PLAY**

- Assign each corner a number 1-4. Make sure the kids know which corner is which.
- Pick a volunteer to be the first counter. They will stand separate with their eyes closed and count to 10. At the end of counting, they will blindly pick a corner.
- OPTIONS:
  - *For a smaller group:* Anyone in the corner picked is out.
  - *For a larger group/faster game:* Anyone who is NOT in that corner is out.
- Continue play until there is either 1 winner or time (about 4 minutes) runs out.

"That was so fun! Now everyone stand up and let's worship God!"

### **WORSHIP (6-7 Minutes)**

**(VIDEO: GOD IS ON THE MOVE, RIVER)**

### **BIBLE STORY (12 Minutes)**

**(No Supplies)**

"I want you guys to picture this. Imagine that every week when you did your chores and homework, your parents gave you a \$10 allowance. Would it be better to spend that \$10 every week on things like V-Bucks or candy, or would it be better to save each week so you could eventually have enough money to buy something that you really wanted that was more expensive?"

"While it might feel good in the moment to buy a new skin on Fortnite or to have a bag of Sour Patch Kids, you may have regrets later once those things are gone or not as cool as you thought it would be. Plus, if you spent all of your money right away, you wouldn't have an opportunity to give some to someone in need if you wanted to!"

"The same idea is true of our time and talents. Is there a way to waste our time and talents? Is there a better way to invest them so it's more about others and less about ourselves?"

"Great questions! As with all great questions, we can look to the Bible for wisdom in our every day lives. Let's check out a parable that Jesus told."

**(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY 5 MIN)**

"So, not really a happy ending for Jesus' story, huh? At least for the third servant. But remember, Jesus was telling this story as a way to help people understand an important truth about God. So,

let's think about this story for a moment.

"Jesus talked about three servants who were given much while their boss, the rich man, was away. When the man came back, he celebrated the two who multiplied their money and gave them more. But the rich man scolded the man who did nothing with what he had. The message of Jesus' story was clear. Those who take some initiative and are responsible with what they're given will be given more! But those who waste it will end up with nothing!

"While Jesus told this story to the disciples, His words also make sense to us today! Whether you know it or not, God has given us SO much. Now, maybe God hasn't given you bags of cash, but God has given you words to say that can help people know about Jesus. Maybe you've been given some influence in the lives of the kids in your class or on your team. Maybe you've been given the ability to cook really good food. Whatever God has given you, it isn't something that should just be kept to yourselves. It's meant to be shared, to help others! It's important for us to make the most of what God has given us.

"Jesus made the most of His time with people. He showed love to everyone and helped them understand what's most important to God.

"Check out our Basic Truth for this week...

**(SLIDE: BASIC TRUTH)** I am loved by God no matter what so I can trust God to guide me.

"We don't always know how to use what God has given us, and we don't always know how using what God has given us will make a difference. We don't have to have all the answers. In fact, we are not called as followers of Jesus TO have all of the answers! We ARE called to have faith and to trust God. To trust that God will use all things for our good and His glory. He will guide us if only we trust Him!

"As we head to Small Groups, we want you to consider this question:

**(SLIDE: KEY QUESTION)** 'How can you use what you've been given?'

*Have kids turn and talk to their shoulder partner for 60 seconds. Your KQ slide on Playlister will keep track of time for you. While kids are talking, walk around and listen in to what they are saying and give prompts if needed. Don't try to resolve anything, kids will have a further discussion within their small group time.*

"Ok friends, come back together in 3, 2, 1....

"I heard some great thoughts floating around. You are going to have more of a chance to talk about this in small group time, but for now let's pray.

"Dear God, I pray that these kids come to have a growing, right relationship with you and learn to fix their eyes on you always! Amen."

**DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS**





## SMALL GROUP

**Monthly Virtue: Initiative**—seeing what needs to be done and doing it

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### TALK ABOUT IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*There are no right or wrong answers but try to challenge the kids to think deeper.*

**Key Question:** How can you use what you've been given?

*(Answers will vary: I can tithe, I can not waste my time doing frivolous things, I can choose to make myself a budget where I prioritize others before myself, etc.)*

### LOOK IT UP (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*Grab Bibles, look up, and read the following passage.*

**Look Up: Matthew 25:14-30**

Say: "The book of Matthew is found in the New Testament. It is one of the four 'Gospels' - which tell the story of Jesus."

### PRACTICE IT (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

*(Index Cards - at least 6, Markers/Crayons, Cups - at least 6, Fake Coins or Bingo Chips - 10 per kid, "Talents Activity Page" - 1 per group [optional])*

#### What You Do:

- Take the blank index cards (or fill them out ahead of time) and write both wise and unwise ways that kids can 'invest' their talents. You can use the follow examples or make up your own knowing your kids (Or have your older kids help you come up with some categories!):
  - Giving to Others (Charity, Missions, Helping a Friend)
  - Learning and Growing in Faith (Reading the Bible, Praying)
  - Using Their Talents for Good (Music, Art, Sports, Kindness)
  - Spending Time Wisely (Helping Others, Studying)
  - Wasting Time (Playing Video Games All Day, Ignoring Responsibilities)
  - Keeping Everything for Themselves (Greed, Selfishness)
- Give each kid 10 coins/bingo chips. Tell them that you are trusting them each with the same amount of 'talents' and they must choose how to invest it. Have them imagine their week and how they generally 'invest' their time.
- Place an index card next to an empty cup so the kids have a place to put their coins. If you haven't already, be sure to read out each card to kids know what they say.
- Each child must distribute their 10 coins however they choose.
- Once all the coins are placed, discuss where they invested the most and why. Don't shame

kids who may have put some in the ‘unwise’ categories. That is the reality of life!

- Ask the following discussion questions:
  - “Why do you think Jesus told this parable? What does it teach us about how God wants us to use what He has given us?”
  - “What do you think it means to “invest” in God’s kingdom? How can we do that in our daily lives?”
  - **“If you had all of your talents (coins) back, are there some areas that you should invest more in or take some out?”**
  - “What are some ways we “bury” our talents instead of using them? What happens when we do this? (*Reference Matthew 25:26-28, but also mentioned that we can miss out on being a part of what God is doing in the lives of others if we ‘bury’ our talents.*)

## GET STRONGER (K-5<sup>th</sup>)

(Supplies Vary)

### What You Do:

- Follow the instructions for the “Bible Literacy” activity that is in your bin.

## PRAYER

“Prayer is a conversation we get to have with God anytime, anywhere! This month, we will pray using the word “TACO”.

- T = Thanks
- A = Adoration
- **C = Choices**
- O = Others

“Choices are things we choose to do or not to do. You can talk to God about your choices—good ones and even ones that may not have been the best.

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to take care of our greatest need. Thank You for the Holy Spirit, who helps us take the initiative to use our gifts and talents to make a difference in the world around us. Sometimes, it’s hard to focus on others because we get caught up thinking about ourselves. Please forgive us for those moments, and help us to see what You are doing when You make a way for us to use what we’ve been given. Show us how to use the gifts You’ve given us—big or small—to share Your love with others. Help us to see the needs right in front of us clearly and to take action to make a difference. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, kids should stay in their small groups!