



## LESSONS FOR CHILDREN

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### INTRODUCTION

*“Sometimes I struggle with what to teach my children about money because I have a difficult time talking about money myself.”* —Jeremy, age 39, Episcopal Priest

When asked to describe an early experience of money, people will often provide narratives that come from experiences in faith communities. Even if not directly asked to give or not taught about the ministry of stewardship, children learn about “not having enough” or “not being enough” while also hearing of their salvation. It is so very important for children to have a healthy relationship with money not only to sustain faith communities, but also for the spiritual health of those in the communities themselves.

The intended outcome of each of these lessons is not necessarily to create a classroom of givers. Rather, the lessons are designed for children to creatively explore and articulate their relationship with money within the identity of being loved wholly by God. As children interact with the lesson, teachers are encouraged to remain curious. As adults, we come with our own experiences of money and thoughts of our relationship to God.

### HOW TO USE THESE LESSONS

The following are lessons for children to claim their identity as beloved while creating their own foundational narratives of money. These lessons align with the Our Money Story weekly themes: *Remember, Release, Reimagine, & Restore.*

Each week contains a “Main Message” for the week, songs to sing together, and two lessons: one for the Hebrew Bible scripture and one for the Gospel scripture. In each lesson, you’ll find the related scripture, questions to open the lesson, a script to use in communicating the main idea, a short prayer, and an extension activity that requires little preparation and few (*if any*) supplies. Children do not need to be readers to engage in any part of the lesson.

We hope you’ll use and adapt these lessons however is best to serve your community. You could use both lessons each week—using one in Sunday school and one in worship—or just choose one of the lessons to engage. You could use all the elements together for a children’s Sunday school lesson, use selected parts for the Time with Children in worship, or send parts of the lessons to parents each week for children to engage at home. However you use this resource, we hope that the children in your community learn how much they are loved and how they can help imagine a world where everybody has enough.

## WEEK ONE REMEMBER

### MAIN MESSAGE

God loves me and makes sure there is always enough.

### SONGS TO SING "Jesus Loves Me," "Give Me Oil in My Lamp"

### HEBREW BIBLE LESSON | EXODUS 16:1-18

**Open with curiosity:** Have you ever been on a trip? Maybe to the grocery store? Maybe somewhere out of town? Who went with you? Did you go alone? When you leave your house, what does that feel like?

What do you suppose it would feel like to be on a trip when you didn't know where you were going or when you would get there? Have you ever felt like that? Did you begin to ask questions? What sorts of questions might you ask if you were on a big journey like the Israelites were in the desert?

**Tell the story:** The Israelites in this story began wondering how they would eat. They packed their bags and were ready for a trip, but after a while, they ran out of their packed food. And, worse yet, they were in a desert which meant they didn't have a lot of plants or animals around. But God still gave them food to eat!

In the Bible, there are stories that have been handed down from year to year and generation to generation. We tell stories about God to remind ourselves of our history and how much God loves us.

Can you recall a moment when you felt loved? Maybe it's right now, sitting here in this space with us. Maybe it's with a family member or friend.

Did you know that you are loved by God? You ARE! We can remember when God showed up and did something important. God provided each person with enough. Enough bread to eat and enough to share with everybody in their community.

**Close in prayer:** Dear God, thank you for always taking care of me. Help me always remember how much you love me. Amen.

**Extension activity:** Pretend you are the Israelites going on a long trip. Pack a picnic basket, either with real packaged food or with play food. (*An adult should also keep some "manna"—some sequins or confetti—within reach and out of sight.*) Say, "Today is the first day of our trip. What will we eat today?" Take a few items out of the basket and then have everyone close their eyes and pretend to sleep. On the next "day," invite the children to open their eyes and say, "Today is the second day of our trip. What will we eat today?" Then remove a little bit more food. Continue until the basket is empty. Make a big deal about this: "Oh no! What will we do tomorrow? I'm so worried that we've run out of food! I guess we better sleep on it." etc.

That "night" while children pretend to sleep, sprinkle confetti or sequins on the ground. When children open their eyes, ask them what happened—God has provided manna! Have the children gather all of it, and repeat your worry about the next "day." (*"But what about tomorrow? We ate all of the manna! I'm so worried! Let's sleep on it."* etc.) While children are "sleeping" sprinkle more "manna" on the ground. When they wake up, act surprised and say, "Oh, I remember! God said there would always be enough! Do you think God will provide manna tomorrow, too?"

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1 All songs listed in this resource are featured on the *Wee Sing Bible Songs* album. Split tracks are also available for accompanying children's choirs. You can find these on YouTube or Spotify by searching the song name followed by "Wee Sing split track" in the search bar.