



# GROWING SPIRITUALLY

## Family Devotional/Adult & Teen Discussion Guide

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FEBRUARY 11, 2018

**1. PRIMARY STATEMENT:** Last week, we looked at God's big vision for 2018, 700 new people reached with the gospel and growing spiritually as part of the church.

It's awesome - we want to see it... but how are we supposed to go about accomplishing it?

## 2. DISCUSSION

### Prepare yourself.

1 Peter 3:15 [GW] *"But dedicate your lives to Christ as Lord. Always be ready to defend your confidence in God when anyone asks you to explain it."*

**Q. Why do you choose to live with Christ as Lord of your life? Take a moment to explain it out loud, or if it helps, write it down.**



**Q. You don't need to quote the entire Bible to lead someone to faith in God, but it would help to know a few verses by heart. Test yourself right now - can you remember verses that explain God's plan for salvation? If not, what's one verse that you should start memorizing today?**

## 3. CHALLENGE

### Engage the world

**Matthew 13:3-8 [NLT]** *"Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. 4 As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath... 5 Other seeds fell on shallow soil... 7 Other seeds fell among thorns... 8 Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"*

It's not our job to make people accept Christ. Jesus told us, not everyone will choose Him, but it is our job to spread the gospel like seeds everywhere we go.

**Q. The best gospel presentation you can make is your life. What elements of your life would support your claim that Jesus is Lord? What elements might contradict that message?**

**Q. Not every interaction with people is a "harvesting" moment. Sometimes our role is to plant a seed; we give people something to think about, to get the wheels turning in their minds and hearts. What are a few examples of what that might look like through your life?**



## 4. PRAYER FOCUS

Take a few minutes as a family: thank God for entrusting you with sharing the gospel. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you prepare to share your faith, and to open up opportunities with people who need a relationship with Him.



# “MONEY MATTERS”

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### 1. POWER VERSE: Psalm 24:1 *“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.”*

#### Watts Up: “I’ll Be A Good Steward And Take Care Of God’s Stuff!”

This week we answer a very important question... “What is Stewardship?” It’s important for our children to not only know what it means to be a “steward,” but also know how to take care of the stuff God gives them!

### 2. BIBLE VERSE:

Read: Matthew 25:14-28

“...A man was going on a journey. He sent for his slaves and put them in charge of his money. He gave five bags of gold to one. He gave two bags to another. And he gave one bag to the third. The man gave each slave the amount of money he knew the slave could take care of...The slave who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work. He earned five bags more. The one with the two bags of gold earned two more. But the man who had received one bag went and dug a hole in the ground. He hid his master’s money in it. After a long time the master of those slaves returned...The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you trusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have earned five more.’ His master replied, ‘You have done well, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you trusted me with two bags of gold. See, I have earned two more.’ His master replied, ‘You have done well, good and faithful slave! You have been faithful with a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man. You harvest where you have not planted.’”



*“You gather crops where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid. I went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’ His master replied, ‘You evil, lazy slave! ...Well then, you should have put my money in the bank. When I returned, I would have received it back with interest.’ Then his master commanded the other slaves, ‘Take the bag of gold from him. Give it to the one who has ten bags.’”*

### 3. DISCUSSION:

Q. How many servants were there in our Bible story? What did each servant do with the “talents” or money he was given? What did the third servant do wrong with his “talent” or money?

That’s right! The third servant buried his talent. Instead of making good use of it, he wasted it. The master was not happy. In the same way, God does not want us to waste our money, instead He wants us to be good “stewards!”

Q. What does it mean to be a good steward? Who does our money and stuff really belong to? (God) How can we be good stewards of the things God has given to us?



### 4. PRAYER FOCUS

Everything we have comes from God! He is our source. It’s important that we remember as “stewards” it’s our job to take good care of what we have because all of it comes from God and really belongs to Him! Pray that you and your children will recognize God as your source and focus on being good stewards of the things you have!