

Fully Alive

Family and Children's Devotional



OCC | Orillia Community Church

Orillia Community Church

64 Colborne Street E

Orillia, ON, L3V 1T6

705.327.5726

occweb.org

info@occweb.org

occweb.org/ministries/occkids

Scripture quotations marked (NIV) are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version[®], NIV[®]. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. TM Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.zondervan.com The "NIV" and "New International Version" are trademarks registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office by Biblica, Inc. TM

WEEK SIX | Financially Alive

Day 1

READ: LUKE 12:15

Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."

Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus tells us that he will take care of our needs.

SAY: Jesus says in Matthew that being fully alive is about putting God's kingdom before stuff or money. Have you ever made a list of presents that you wanted someone to buy for your birthday or Christmas? The list usually gets pretty long. Rarely would we get everything on the list. Sometimes we get jealous of others when they have something we want, and that can make us mad. But Jesus shows us a better way.

It's okay to want things but we should not get upset when we don't get everything on our list. The Bible teaches us that Jesus will give us everything that we need. Jesus warns us to avoid wanting more and more things, because owning things will never make us fully alive.

DO: Make two lists, one with the things you are thankful for, and another with a list of things we want. Compare the lists. Will having everything on the second list make us happy?

In the coming days, ask your children if the things they see on commercials will make someone truly happy? Commercials only show the immediate gratification of having something new. But, every toy or game is soon lost or broken. Tell a story about buying something that you thought would make you happy and why your happiness didn't last. Things do not bring happiness. Only Jesus can make you **fully alive**.

PRAY: Jesus, help us to see the truth that lots of stuff will not make us happy. Help us not to be greedy. Help us to be thankful for you and all that you have given us. Amen.

WEEK SIX | Financially Alive

Day 2

READ: PROVERBS 22:7

Rich people rule over those who are poor. Borrowers are slaves to lenders.

More on this topic: Jesus tells a parable about borrowing and lending money in the gospel of Matthew. Get out your bible and read it in **Matthew 18:23-34**.

SAY: Imagine you forgot your lunch at school and a friend loaned you \$2 to buy your lunch. The next day you offered to pay him back but he said that you owe him \$3? The extra \$1 is his fee for loaning you the money. You would say, *“No way! Friends don’t treat each other like this.”*

Adults often need to borrow money. We go to the bank to get money for a car or a house and then we have to pay interest on the money we borrowed. This is how banks make a profit. It is also something the Bible warns about. When we borrow and owe people money, we aren’t as free to use our money the way God wants us to.

Instead of borrowing money, what else can a person do to get things they want or need? One way is saving money. When we save money, we put a little bit at a time into a piggy bank or bank account until we have enough money to buy the thing we want. Being patient is difficult but it allows us to have more in the end. God wants us to be in control of our finances by avoiding high interest and debt. This way we have more freedom to honor God with our money.

DO: If you have borrowed money or something like a toy from someone, make a plan for how you will repay them or return what you borrowed. Follow through with your plan as quickly as you can.

Also, think of ways you can save money. Ask yourself, is it more important to eat out or to save the money for something that we really want or need? Saving money is an important habit that helps us to be **fully alive**.

PRAY: God, help us to be good stewards of the money you give us. Help us avoid interest and debt whenever possible. Amen.

WEEK SIX | Financially Alive

Day 3

READ: ACTS 20:35

In everything I did, I showed you that we must work hard and help the weak. We must remember the words of the Lord Jesus. He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

SAY: Do you like giving gifts? Some people love making and giving gifts or donating their money to others. A person who is always generous to those in need is called a philanthropist. Philanthropists have discovered that giving to others is a greater blessing than buying things for themselves. A pastor named John Wesley once said *"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."* He knew the importance of generosity.

When people are greedy with their money and possessions, it means they have a hard time giving things away to people who need them. But, if you know that being **fully alive** is not about how much you have, then it is easier to give when others have needs. We will be happier when we are generous with our money, possessions and even our time to help those in need.

DO: Look around the house for things you no longer need. Be sure that these things are in good condition. Sometimes God may even ask you to give away your very best: a favourite toy or money you have been saving for a new video game. When this happens, God sees your willingness to be faithful and bless others. Be sure to talk to someone about what you feel God is telling you to do. You should always pray before giving things away.

PRAY: Father, help us to be a family that is giving and generous. Help us love people more than things. Lead us to people who are in need so we can show them your love by being generous. Amen.

Day 4

READ: LUKE 21:1-4

As Jesus looked up, he saw rich people putting their gifts into the temple offering boxes. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "What I'm about to tell you is true," Jesus said. "That poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these other people gave a lot because they are rich. But even though she is poor, she put in everything. She had nothing left to live on."

SAY: Who is more generous: a rich person who gives some of their money, or someone who gives the only two cents they have? Why do you think this is the case? There are many people in the world who have very little, and yet they are willing to give sacrificially. Even though the poor widow in this story had almost no money left, she gave it away. Jesus said that she had given more than the rich people who gave only as much as they wanted.

Giving isn't necessarily about how much you give; it is mainly about the attitude you have when you are giving. In **2 Corinthians 9:7** it says, *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn't give if you don't want to. You shouldn't give because you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver."* If you are giving money to God at church for the wrong reasons, it doesn't make God happy. Sometimes we feel like we have to put money in the offering, and some people make a big show out of giving their money. That's not what God wants. When we give cheerfully, it is a way of saying thank you to God for what he has given us. This attitude pleases God. And when you give cheerfully, it will bless you, too.

DO: Brainstorm ways that everyone in your family can participate in being a generous giver. Think of a way you can serve someone and do it.

PRAY: Lord, help us to remember that when we give we are giving to you. Help us to be generous and to have good attitudes when we give our money, possessions, and time. Amen.

WEEK SIX | Financially Alive

Day 5

READ: 1 JOHN 4:19

We love because he loved us first.

SAY: This week we've talked a lot about giving and being generous as an act of love. But where does this love come from? It doesn't come from us; it comes from God. God's love is so big that he loves the whole world. And his love never runs out! God shows us what love is and he teaches us how to love others.

Following Jesus fills us up with God's love. When we are filled with God's love, we will want to be generous and boldly talk about how God loves everyone. In order to love others this way, we need experience it ourselves. When Jesus died on the cross, it was his greatest and most generous act of love. Sin is doing things that go against God's plan for how to be **fully alive**. Sin steals life away from us. Everyone sins and needs to experience the love of Jesus. Without this fill-up of God's love, we simply don't have much to give to others.

DO: Have you asked Jesus to be your forever friend so he can fill you up with his never-ending love? If you haven't and want to, it is as easy as ABC.

A stands for **Admitting** to God you have sinned
and **Asking** him to forgive you.

B stands for **Believing** that Jesus died on the cross for your sins
and has forgiven them.

C stands for **Choosing** to follow Jesus,
believing he is the only one who can help you to be **fully alive**.

If you already consider yourself a follower of Jesus, do you tell people about his love? Do you try to be a generous person? There are lots of people who don't know Jesus and aren't yet filled with his love. Think of one such person and take time this week to share God's love with them.

PRAY: Thank you God for Jesus' death and resurrection so that I can receive your love and be part of your family. Help me to show others how much you love them and give me the courage to say and do things that will point them toward your love.