



I Take Care of My Room

Spills and messes are a natural part of being a young child. Children are familiar with cleaning up and putting away toys. It's sometimes an overwhelming job for a little one. But cleaning up becomes easier when the job is broken down into smaller tasks. And it can even be fun. Teach young children that God has given us all the things we have, and he wants us to take care of them.

Unit Goals

- By the end of this unit, the child should
- Know that God wants him to take care of his room and possessions.
 - Want to take care of his room and possessions.
 - Take care of his room and his possessions.

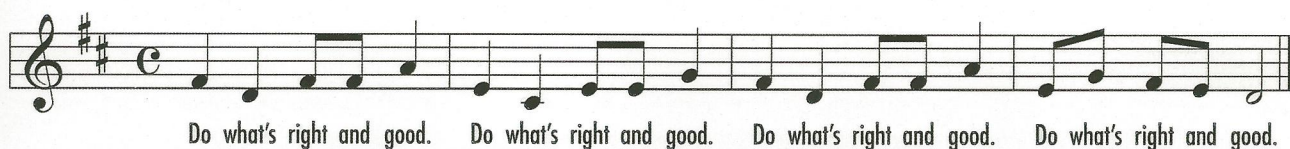
Bible Stories

- The Lost Coin (Luke 15:8, 9)
Focus: The lady cleaned her house to find the coin.
- Joseph at Potiphar's House (Genesis 39:1-6)
Focus: Joseph took care of Potiphar's house.
- Good, Wise People (Proverbs 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 10:18)
Focus: Wise people take care of their houses and families.
- Taking Care of the Worship House (1 Chronicles 9:22-34)
Focus: Many people worked together to take care of the worship house.

A Verse to Remember

"Do what is right and good." Deuteronomy 6:18 (NIV)

Help the children remember this verse by singing it to the tune of "Skip to My Lou."



This folder is designed to give you the ideas you need to teach a unit about taking care of our rooms at home or at class. Mix and match the activities you want with the stories suggested, and enjoy!

pages

① unit theme, goals, Scriptures

② ideas for telling Bible stories

③ patterns and reproducible art

④ art activities

⑤ science activities

⑥ cooking activities

⑦ music and movement

⑧ games

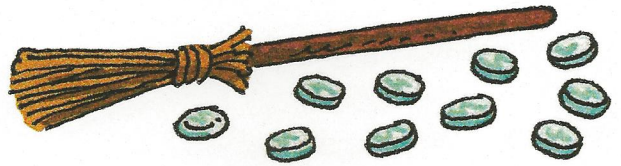
Story Time

The Lost Coin

Luke 15:8, 9

Story outline: 1. A woman has ten silver coins.
2. She loses one of them.
3. She cleans the house until she finds it.

Bring ten play coins. Hide one. Ask the children to help you count the woman's coins. Count only nine. Count again. Where is it? Ask if they can guess what she did. Let the children take turns sweeping and holding a flashlight, searching the room for the coin. When it's found say, "Be happy with me! I found the coin that I lost!" Everybody can clap and say, "Hooray!"



Joseph at Potiphar's House

Genesis 39:1-6

Story outline: 1. Joseph lives and works at Potiphar's house.
2. Joseph does a good job of taking care of the house.
3. Potiphar puts Joseph in charge of everything he has.

Bring an assortment of household tools. Let each child take a turn holding one. As a child pretends to use a tool, sing about Joseph's work to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush." For a broom, sing, "This is the way that Joseph swept, Joseph swept, Joseph swept. This is the way that Joseph swept. He took care of Potiphar's house." Substitute other tools: stirred (dinner), dusted (tables), dried (dishes).



Good, Wise People

Proverbs 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 10:18

Story outline: 1. King Solomon tells about good people and lazy people.
2. Lazy people don't take care of their houses, and they have trouble.
3. Good people take care of their homes.

Fold a piece of construction paper in half and hold it to look like a roof. Tear a small hole in it. Ask what happens when the house needs to be fixed, but the people are too lazy to take care of it. Then darken the room and tell about the good woman who gets up while it's still dark. Shine a flashlight and take items out of a basket as you tell about them: bagel for food, play money to buy a field, warm sweater for clothes, small bed pillow, belt.



Taking Care of the Worship House

1 Chronicles 9:22-34

Story outline: 1. King David chooses men to take care of the worship house.
2. They are gatekeepers and they do a good job.
3. They take care of the tools and dishes, the food, and the music.

Set out tools and dishes in one area of the room, food in another area, and rhythm instruments in another area. Put a paper crown on one child. He is King David. As you tell about the people in charge, ask the king to choose children to go to those areas to take care of the worship house.



MY ROOM

Our Jobs

Find jobs that the children can do in class each week. You can let them do the same job each week, or let them draw from a classroom job jar to find out what their job will be. Or you can make a job chart and move the names in a regular rotation to different jobs each week.

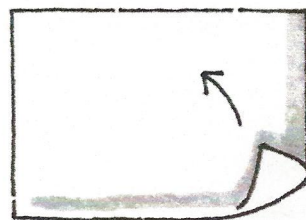
Some jobs are watering plants, feeding fish or another animal, cleaning the counters, cleaning the tables, sweeping the floor, washing the dishes used in the cooking activity, setting out chairs or putting them away, handing out name tags, counting and posting the attendance, greeting new children, being in charge of the cleaning of certain areas, setting out materials, putting away materials.



My Cleaning Basket

Do: Give each child a piece of construction paper. The children can draw designs on these with markers or crayons. Help each child roll the construction paper into a wide cone, starting at one corner, rolling the paper diagonally. Staple in place. Cut 1-by-11-inch strips of construction paper; staple them onto the wide end of the cones to make handles. Give each child half of a 3-by-4½-inch sponge and one 6-by-6-inch piece of fabric to use as a dust cloth. The child can put these into his basket.

Talk about: Who were the people who took care of the place in our story? What did they do? God wants us to take care of the things he's given us. How do you take care of your room at home? How do you help take care of the place where you live?



A Picture for My Room

Do: Give each child a piece of construction paper. Set out a variety of short lengths of rick-rack, thin buttons, leaves, shapes cut from thin cardboard or paper plates, and hole reinforcements for notebook paper. Let the children glue these at random on their paper to make designs. Then give each child a piece of aluminum foil a bit larger than the construction paper. Each child can press the foil down over the paper and gently rub over the objects with their fingertips. Then help them fold any excess foil around the paper edges and staple or tape it securely in place.

Talk about: Which of these shapes is your favorite? What's your favorite thing in your room? Do you have other pictures? How do you take care of your room? How did the people in the story take care of their places?

Stuffed Animal Pillow

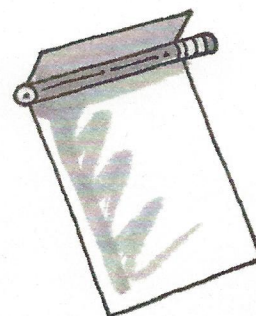
Do: Give each child a 6½-by-9½-inch white or manila envelope and some cotton or polyester quilt batting. Let the children make designs on these envelopes with crayons or markers. Then stuff each envelope with batting. Seal the envelopes to make a pillow for a teddy bear or other stuffed animal. Stuff smaller envelopes with cotton balls to make pillows for smaller toys.

Talk about: What is your pillow like? When do you use it? What is your room like? How do you take care of your room? How do the other people you live with take care of their rooms? How did the people in the story take care of their places?

Door Hanging

Do: Make a copy of the "My Room" door hanging pattern for each child. Trim the paper to 6 by 11 inches. Let each child write his name on the paper and color it with markers and crayons. Give each child two unsharpened pencils. Help him tape the top and bottom edges of the paper to the pencils with colored tape. Tie each end of a 10-inch string onto the top pencil to hang it.

Talk about: How do you take care of your room? How did the people in the story take care of their places? Who gave you a place to live?



Science

Bubbles for Cleaning

Do: Bring a pail or bucket, dish detergent, sponges, and paper towels. Let the children put water and detergent in the pail. Make bubbles and look at them with a magnifying glass. Use the sponges to clean tables, counters, door facings, and window sills. Then mix 1 cup of dish soap, 3 cups of water, and $\frac{2}{3}$ cup of light corn starch or 2 teaspoons of glycerin. Pour some into a paper cup for each child. Give each child a drinking straw and show him how to dip one end of the straw into the bubble solution, then blow bubbles out the end of the straw.

Talk about: Do you ever see bubbles at home? When? Soap helps to make things clean. How does your family help keep the place where you live clean? How do you take care of your room? Who gives us places to live?



In a Pillow

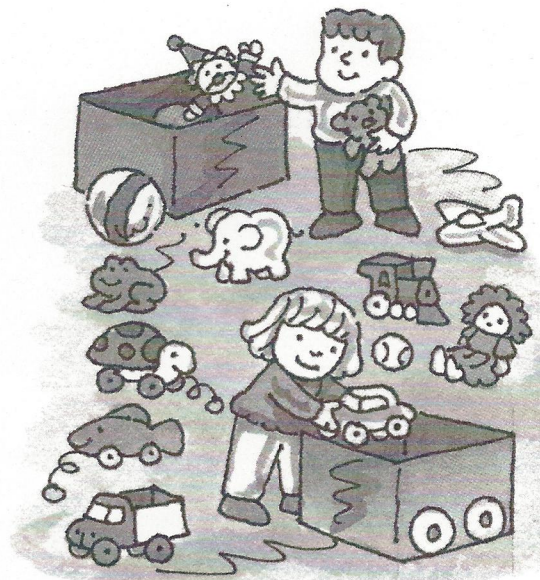
Do: Bring pillows stuffed with a variety of material (foam rubber, feathers, flat cotton, fluffy polyester, inflatable travel pillows, beanbag pillows). Let the children try lying down on each one. Tell them what's inside and see if they can feel it. Try to find a feather coming out of the feather pillow.

Talk about: How are these alike? How are they different? What do you think is inside your pillow at home? Who gives us places to live? How did the people in the story take care of their places? How do you take care of your room?

What Kind of Toy?

Do: Set a variety of toys on the floor. Choose one child to be "Wheel Kid" and the other to be "No Wheel Kid." Give each child a box that will hold the toys. Ask each of the other children to take a turn choosing a toy from the floor. If the toy has wheels, he puts it into Wheel Kid's box. If it has no wheels, he puts it into No Wheel Kid's box. Then let the children with the boxes dump them out and start again with a child to be "Soft Kid" and a child to be "Hard Kid." Do this with noisy and quiet toys, bigger and smaller toys.

Talk about: What kinds of toys do you have in your room? Where do you keep them? How do you take care of your room?



Dusting

Do: If you have direct sunlight coming into your room, ask the children to look at the sunbeams coming in to see the dust floating in the air. You can also shine the light of a slide projector to see dust. Be careful not to look directly into the light. Give the children dust cloths (or paper towels) and let them take one swipe across a surface in your room. Look at what's on the cloth. Now spray each dust cloth with dusting spray. Wipe across the surface again and check what's on the cloth. Does the spray help pick up more dust or not? Why or why not?

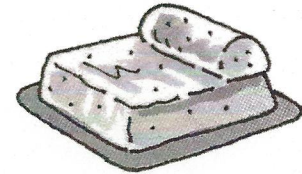
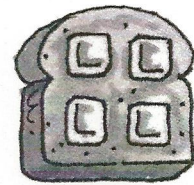
Talk about: Who dusts the furniture at your house? Why does it need to be dusted? How did the people in the story take care of their places? How do you take care of your room?

Cooking

Windowpane Toast

Do: Give each child a paper plate and a piece of white bread. The bread is a window. Give each child four thin squares of margarine. Show the child how to place the margarine on the bread to look like sunshine through the panes of a window. Heat the bread under the broiler until the margarine melts and the bread gets brown.

Talk about: Do you have a window in your room at home? What can you see from your window? How do you take care of your room? How did the people in the story take care of their places?



Cake Bed

Do: Cut the top of a ready-made pound cake so it's flat all the way across. Turn it upside down on a baking sheet to make a bed. Place a Twinkie across one end for a pillow. Let the children frost the bed with ready-made frosting.

Talk about: How do people keep beds clean and neat? How do you take care of your room? Why? How did the people in the story take care of their places?

Scrub Bucket Cookies

Do: Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Bring a big, clean plastic bucket. Let the children measure and mix 2 cups firmly packed brown sugar, 2 cups white sugar, 2 cups of vegetable oil, 4 eggs, and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Stir until creamy. Stir in 2 teaspoons baking soda, 2 teaspoons baking powder, and 1 teaspoon salt. Mix well. Add one 12-ounce package of chocolate chips, 4 cups of corn flakes, 1½ cups coconut, and 1 cup chopped nuts. Drop by spoonfuls onto an ungreased baking sheet. Bake for 8 minutes.

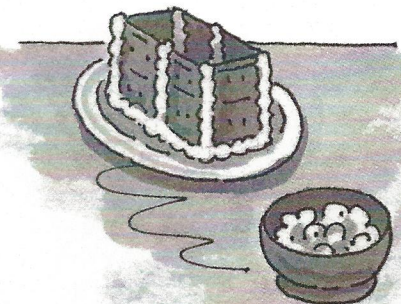
Talk about: People usually use a scrub bucket for cleaning, but we're using it for cooking! What do people clean at your house? How do you keep your room clean? How can we keep our classroom clean after making a cooking mess? How did the people in the story take care of their places?



Toy Boxes

Do: Let the children help measure the ingredients and mix with an electric mixer: 1 pound powdered sugar, 3 egg whites (at room temperature), and ½ teaspoon cream of tartar. Blend at low speed for 1 minute and then at high speed for 7 minutes. This makes frosting that dries fast and hard. Give each child 4 full size graham crackers. Each child lays one on a paper plate. Then he takes two more crackers and dips one long edge of each into the frosting. He stands these crackers up on each side of the cracker on the plate. The frosting acts like glue. Then break the remaining cracker in half (making two squares). The child dips three edges of each into the frosting, placing it on the plate at each open end of the cracker box. Let the children put animal crackers in their cracker boxes as if the animal crackers were toys.

Talk about: Where do you keep toys? How do you clean up your room? How did the people in the story take care of their places?



Music and Movement

Every Day

(Tune: "Polly Put the Kettle On")

I can keep my room clean (walk around the room),
I can keep my room clean,
I can keep my room clean
Every day.

Additional verses:

I can pick my toys up (pretend to pick up toys)
I can make my bed up (pretend to make a bed)
I can hang my clothes up (pretend to hang up clothes)
I can put my shoes away (pretend to put away shoes)

Let the children suggest other jobs.



I've Been Working in My Bedroom

(Tune: "I've Been Working on the Railroad")

Ask the children to suggest actions to pantomime (picking up toys, making bed, dusting shelves, sweeping floor) while you sing the verse.

I've been working in my bedroom
All the live-long day.
I've been working in my bedroom
Just to pass the time away.
God wants me to be a helper;
He's the one who makes me strong.
I can help you keep the house clean.
I'll help you all day long.



Five Little Toys

(Action Rhyme)

Five little toys lying on the floor (hold up five fingers).
I put one away, then there are four (hold up four fingers).
Four little toys waiting there for me.
I put one away, then there are three (hold up three fingers).
Three little toys sitting in my room.
I put one away, then there are two (hold up two fingers).
Two little toys, they were lots of fun.
I put one away, then there is one (hold up one finger).
One toy left, and I'm a sleepyhead,
So it can snuggle up with me as I go to bed (head on hands, close eyes).



Games

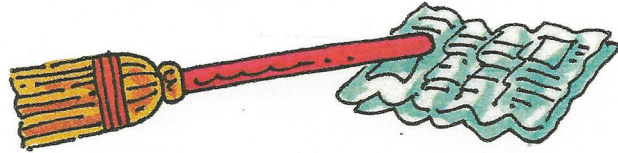
The Clean-Up Game



Do: Do this game to clean up after free play or after a messy activity. Time the children for 2 minutes. Tell them to pick up everything that has the color red on it. Set a timer or watch and then cover your eyes so they can surprise you. When the timer rings, check their job. Then tell them to pick up everything blue in 2 minutes. Continue the game this way. One alternative is to ask them to pick up everything that's made of paper. Then they pick up everything made of wood, and so on.

Talk about: Does your room where you live ever get messy? How do you take care of your room? How did the people in the story take care of their places?

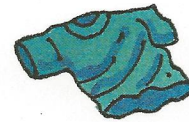
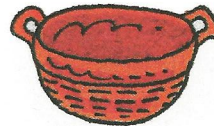
Sweepers



Do: Bring a broom. Place half of the children at one end of the room and the rest of the children at the other end. Give one child a broom. Put a ball made of crumpled newspaper in front of him. When you say go, he sweeps the newspaper ball to the other side of the room. Then he gives the broom to a child on that side who sweeps the ball back to someone on the other side. Continue until all the children have had a chance to sweep the ball. You may try sweeping different objects (flat piece of paper, a toy car).

Talk about: Who sweeps and cleans the floors where you live? How does the floor in your room get clean? How do you take care of your room? Who gave us places to live? Why should we take care of them?

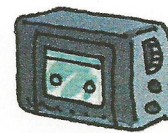
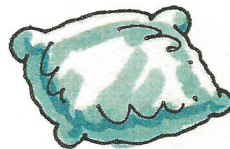
Toss the Clothes



Do: Bring a T-shirt and a clothes basket. Let the children line up. Place the clothes basket some distance from them. The children take turns trying to toss the T-shirt into the hamper. Help everyone "make a basket."

Talk about: When you take off your dirty clothes at home, where should they go? Why? Part of taking care of our rooms is putting dirty clothes away. What are some other ways you take care of your room? How did the people in our story take care of their places?

Pass the Pillow



Do: Bring a pillow. The children sit in a circle on the floor. Play an audio cassette of quiet bedtime music. While the music is playing, the children pass the pillow around the circle. When you stop the music, the child who holds the pillow puts his head on it while everyone sings, "Rock-a-bye, (name of child). Jesus loves you. He will be with you all the night through. Rock-a-bye, (name of child). This is your song. Jesus is with you all the night long." Then that child may operate the cassette player for the next round of the game.

Talk about: Who takes care of you? Who gives us a place to live? How do you take care of your room?

Bible Learning Series/Early Childhood
I Take Care of My Room

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