

**GOD PROVIDES:**

# Isn't It All Mine?

**Reference:** Genesis 1:1**Supporting Scriptures:** Matthew 6:19-34; Psalm 24:1-2;  
James 1:16-18***Introducing Today's Lesson***

There seems to be a mentality and mission statement in today's culture that looks a lot like that of a strong-willed two-year-old—If I want it, it's mine. Our culture does not seem to recognize “someone else” as the Source, Creator, and Owner of everything.

Most people live their lives as if they can have anything they want, anytime they want, especially if they have enough money. You would think we would grow out of it, but it seems we always want something more. A toddler might snatch a new toy from another kid's hands; but, a teenager might annoy her parents begging for something she wants. Even adults can be caught wanting a better car or a bigger house despite the fact that the cars they drive and the houses they live in are fine. We've got issues with stuff.

When we go back to the beginning—not just the beginning of the semester, but way back to Genesis, the first book of the Bible—we find ourselves challenged to move away from being greedy, from acting like little toddlers to becoming fully devoted followers of God. It's a call to move from thinking that the world revolves around us to knowing God is the Source, and that He really does have the whole world and the heavens in His holy hands.

From the very beginning of God's Book, we learn that getting over our selfishness and taking on a life of biblical stewardship makes perfect sense, even for teenagers.

***Getting to Know You***

Gather the students. Have everyone introduce themselves by finishing the following statements. “My name is \_\_\_\_\_. The greatest gift I ever received was \_\_\_\_\_.”

***The Rules for Stuff***

Copy *Youth Activity Sheet 1* (“The Top Five Rules of Stuff”) or print the list on a marker board or newsprint. Have one student read the “Top Five Rules for Stuff I Like”—Toddler Version. Have another student read the “Top Five Rules for Stuff I Like”—Teenager Version.

Say **Obviously teenagers and toddlers both want stuff; but let's do a comparison.** Have the students compile a list of the top ten things toddlers want and the top ten things teenagers want. (Idea starters for toddler list: real food, clean diapers, toys. Idea starters for teenager list: new clothes, new cars, cash, new shoes). Lead the students in comparing the two lists. Point out those that are similar or the same.

***Bible Study—Let's Go Back to the Beginning***

Have the students read Genesis 1:1 from several Bible versions. Compare the way each version talks about the beginning. Say **Today, we will explore a major lesson about stuff from Genesis. First, we see that all stuff comes**

**from God.** Have a student read the first few words of verse 1: "In the beginning God created . . ." Ask **What would we have if God had not created everything?** (nothing) Say **As we enjoy all the stuff of life, let's remember that without the Source of everything there would be nothing. Before anything existed, there was God.**

### ***The Source***

Use the following illustration of the Mississippi River. The first source of the Mississippi River is Lake Itasca in northern Minnesota. Before the mighty Mississippi pours into the Gulf of Mexico, it is fed by the Illinois River, the Missouri River, the Ohio River, and the Arkansas River, and many other lakes, rivers, and creeks. Without all of these sources pouring into the one great river, the Mississippi would not be nearly as impressive.

On a chalkboard, white board, or newsprint, print the heading "God is the Source." Ask the students to list ways God pours into our lives. What blessings are given to us by God to help us grow spiritually? (examples: parents, church, Bible, friends.) Say **Remember, if we are going to be obedient followers of God, we must begin where the Bible begins—in Genesis with the story of Creation.**

### ***I'm Special***

If God created everything, then He is responsible for all the unique things in our world. Say **Let's play a game to prove how unique you are.**

Read the following statements and have the students respond appropriately. There are no wrong answers in this quiz. Students will indicate their answers by sitting or standing after each statement.

1. If you are outgoing, stand. If you are shy, remain seated.
2. If you have brown hair, stand. If not, be seated.
3. If science and math are easy for you, stand. If not, be seated.

4. If you play an instrument, stand. If not, be seated.
5. If you like to play sports, stand. If not, be seated.
6. If you want this quiz to be over, stand. If not, be seated.

We could make statements all day and some young people would stand while others would be seated. Each of us is a unique combination of the qualities and characteristics with which God created us. Even though God had big concerns like creating the gigantic Milky Way, He took the time to create each one of us with our special characteristics, personalities, likes, and dislikes.

### ***Contract with God***

Have the students create a "contract" between themselves and God. The contract would allow them to give over areas of their lives to God.

The contract could be worded like this:

I, (name), do hereby sign over complete ownership and control of the items listed below to God, the Creator and Source of everything:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Signature

Date

Some examples of items to list may include: car, CD collection, clothes, athletic abilities, money, future, college decisions, friends, family, career, and so on.

Close with prayer.

Top 5 rules for stuff I like  
**TODDLER VERSION**

1. **If I want it, it's mine, so give it to me.**
2. **If I can take it from you, it's mine.**
3. **If I'm doing or building something, ALL the pieces are mine.**
4. **If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.**
5. **If it's broken, you can have it back.**

Top 5 rules for stuff I like  
**TEENAGER VERSION**

1. **If I want it, I'll bug my parents until they buy it for me.**
2. **If there is a chance you will give it to me as a gift, just pay attention, I can drop a hint.**
3. **I'm happy to split it, as long as I get to choose the bigger half.**
4. **Any gift that has four wheels, an engine, and requires a license is a good gift.**
5. **Cash is always a good gift.**