

DEVOTION

Ringin' in the Money

Students will feed each other blindfolded to experience what it's like to trust others.

SUPPLIES: *Bibles*

TIME: *varies*

Have your students volunteer as Salvation Army bell ringers (or as collectors for another cause you choose together). If your group is small enough to take one shift, work with them and take them out for hot chocolate afterward to talk about the experience. If you have a large group, organize them to work during the same time at different locations, and ask everyone to gather afterward at the church for discussion.

During your discussion, **ASK:**

- **What did you observe today?**
- **Were the people you expected to be generous the ones who gave the money?**
- **The management and giving of one's money and other resources is generally known as *stewardship*. Did asking for donations affect how you feel about stewardship? Why or why not?**

Read Matthew 10:8b. **ASK:**

- **Why does God ask us to "freely give"?**
- **Do you give freely of your money? of your other resources, such as time and friendship?**
- **What resources can you give more of?**

for large groups



GAME

Paper Sack Potential

Students will be creative and resourceful as they play with and discuss the potential uses of common resources.

SUPPLIES:

paper, pens or pencils, paper sacks, empty paper

towel or toilet paper tubes, transparent tape, pencils, cotton balls, cotton swabs, gift bows, small toy cars, spoons, empty soda cans

TIME: *15 to 20 minutes*

Before the game, fill one paper sack for every four or five people, each with the following items: two empty paper towel or toilet paper tubes, a roll of transparent tape, a pencil, three cotton balls, two cotton swabs, a gift bow, a small toy car, a spoon, and two empty soda cans.

Have teenagers form groups of four or five, and give each group one of the paper sacks you filled beforehand. Have each group choose a secretary, and give each secretary paper and a pen or pencil.

Explain that groups will have ten minutes to come up with as many uses as possible for the items in their paper sacks. The secretaries should record the uses their groups come up with. The uses can be obvious (like holding paper towels) or made-up (like using an empty tube as a funnel to keep drool off your chin when you spit). Groups may combine the items to create additional ideas, like using the empty tube as a tunnel for the car to drive through. Encourage them to be creative—the sky's the limit!

The group with the most uses listed at the end of ten minutes wins. For fun, let each group share from its list of potential uses.

After the game, **ASK:**

- **How difficult was it to think of uses for your items? Why?**
- **What surprised you about some of the ideas people thought of?**
- **How is creating new uses for ordinary items like being a good steward with the resources God has given us?**
- **Why do we sometimes fail to use our resources to their full potential?**
- **How can we become better stewards of what God has given us?**

NOTES
