Imagine that one day your mother is baking a cake for a friend, and she realizes she is out of eggs! She doesn’t have time to go to the store, so after researching egg substitutes, she finds that she has the necessary ingredients that will be a sufficient replacement for the eggs. Your mother’s resourcefulness enables her to complete her task, and her friend will now enjoy a delicious cake. When you have a need or you are facing an obstacle, look for what you already have that may be used to meet that need. God promises in Philippians 4:19 to “supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” God’s provision may already be at hand!
Resourcefulness Overview

What is Resourcefulness?

Read aloud, study, and discuss what resourcefulness means and how it applies to life.

The operational definition of resourcefulness is “making wise use of that which others would normally overlook or discard.” God promises to provide everything you need. (See Matthew 6:32–33.) You may miss His provision when you discard an item without considering other ways it could be used. A resourceful person will look for ways to repurpose items, especially when facing a difficulty or need. He also knows how to find the tools and information necessary to solve problems. As you learn to think creatively, you may be able to see other ways to utilize what you already have, maximizing the benefits of the possessions, abilities, and time that God has entrusted to you.

The opposite of resourcefulness is wastefulness. Wastefulness occurs when a person has a limited view of how an item, possession, or opportunity can be used. He discards belongings simply because they are broken or no longer look fresh and new. He will make new purchases instead of repairing or cleaning what he already owns. A wasteful person overlooks what he has and, as a result, allows his belongings to rot or rust while they sit unused. God has created each person with unique ideas and talents and given each one the energy and time to accomplish good works. “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10). Are you improving your skills and using your time wisely? Or are you neglecting the talents and abilities God has given you? Are you letting your energy go to waste and your time slip away?

Giving God the first part of your day by meditating on Scripture and spending time in prayer will help guide you in how best to use your time. Are you “redeeming the time, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:16)? You live in a world filled with treasures that others overlook or throw away. As you learn to recognize value in these resources, you may end up with more items than you can store! To avoid hoarding or collecting things you will never use, ask God for creative ways to sell or give away the items you do not need to those who can use them. While being resourceful may lead to extra money or possessions, the goal is not to store up treasures but to put them to good use as God intended. “That ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work” (II Corinthians 9:8). Be alert to the needs of others and ready to benefit them through your resourcefulness.

George Washington Carver (c. 1864–1943) discovered many new uses for peanuts, including milk, plastic, paint, soap, lotion, and ink!

Wasteful people throw away what could have been used to meet a need.
Resourcefulness in Scripture

Read aloud and discuss each verse, question, and concept.

Proverbs 2:1–6 says, “My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.” What a privilege to study the rich truths of God’s Word, hide them in your heart, and apply them to daily life! These truths are priceless treasures, far above the value and beauty of rubies and diamonds. As you dig deeper into God’s Word, see Who He is, and allow Him to work in you, your life will be a radiant expression of His love. He will be glorified as His character is seen in you.

THE CHARACTER OF GOD

We see examples of resourcefulness in God’s character in the following ways:

- God does not cast aside the weary but instead renews the strength of those who rely on Him. (See Isaiah 40:30–31.)
- Rather than let mankind remain lost in sin, God made a way to redeem humanity. (See John 3:16.)
- God wastes nothing in our lives, but is able to bring forth good from sorrowful events and hard times. (See Romans 8:28.)
- Jesus used a small coin as an important object lesson to answer the Pharisees’ question. (See Matthew 22:15–21.)
- Jesus needed a place from which to speak to the pressing crowds so He found an available fishing boat to use as a platform. (See Luke 5:1–3.)
- Jesus saw God’s provision for the multitude in a boy’s small lunch after the disciples had dismissed it as insignificant. (See Luke 9:12–17.)
- The Holy Spirit guided Paul in his travels so he was able to make the wisest use of his time and energy. (See Acts 16:6–7.)

RESOURCEFULNESS IN MY LIFE

Now let’s examine some ways God wants us to live out resourcefulness daily.

- Where can I find wisdom when I am seeking to improve my situation? (See Daniel 2:20–22.)
- How can I best invest my time, money, and other resources? (See Proverbs 3:27–28.)
- When I have a problem I cannot solve, do I humble myself and seek help from others? (See Proverbs 11:14.)
- What broken items in our home could we repair instead of throwing away? (See Matthew 4:21.)
- How can I use my skills and abilities in sharing the Gospel? (See Mark 8:35.)
- How can I help provide for the “necessity of the saints” by my wise use of resources? (See Romans 12:10–13.)
- Why should I seek to develop the gifts and talents God has given me? (See I Corinthians 14:12.)

RESOURCEFULNESS KEY VERSE

“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.” Luke 16:10
Two months after their deliverance from Egypt, the Israelites arrived at Mt. Sinai. There God instructed the people to sanctify themselves in preparation for the giving of the Law. Three days later, He spoke from the mountain, promising to cherish Israel as His chosen people as they obeyed His commandments. When Moses ascended Mt. Sinai, God gave him the Ten Commandments as well as instructions for building a beautiful tabernacle. The Tabernacle would represent God’s presence among His people. While Moses was on the mount those forty days, the people became restless. In response, Aaron melted the golden earrings the people had, using the metal to fashion a golden calf like the gods they had seen in Egypt. When Moses returned, he was angry that the people had wasted their resources to worship an idol instead of God. As a result of their wickedness, three thousand men of Israel died that day. Moses pleaded for God’s forgiveness on behalf of the people. After Moses met with God on Mt. Sinai a second time, he gathered the people and gave God’s instructions concerning the Tabernacle. Where would the people obtain the materials to build this dwelling place for God? What resources did they have that they could now use for God’s glory?

**BIBLE STORY QUESTIONS**

Read Exodus 35:4–10, 20–35; 36:1–7 together and discuss the following questions:

1. Where were the supplies to come from for building the Tabernacle? (See Exodus 35:4–9.) How had they acquired these supplies? (See Exodus 12:35–36.) What has God given you that you can use for Him? From Whom do all your abilities and possessions come? (See I Chronicles 29:13–14.)

2. After hearing Moses’ instructions, what did the people do? What attitude did the people have as they returned with their offerings? (See Exodus 35:20–21.) What attitude pleases God when you use your time and possessions to serve Him or help others?

3. Rather than wastefully using their possessions to make an idol, how were the people now choosing to use the items they owned? (See Exodus 35:22–24.) What resources do you have that sometimes go to waste? How can you use them more carefully? (See Proverbs 18:9.)

4. What did the wise-hearted women bring? How did they acquire this possession? (See Exodus 35:25–26.) Instead of buying a present, what do you already have that you could use to make a gift?

5. What did Moses call Bezaleel and Aholiab to do? (See Exodus 35:30–34.) What skills are you developing now? How might you use these skills for the Lord in the future?

6. How often did the people bring resources for building the Tabernacle? (See Exodus 36:3.) How can I daily make myself or my resources available to God for His glory? (See Hebrews 3:13; Acts 17:11.)

7. What announcement did Moses make to the people? Why? (See Exodus 36:6–7.) When you use what you have for His honor, what is God faithful to do? (See Philippians 4:18–19.)
Memory Verse
LUKE 16:10

Play the game together to help the children commit Luke 16:10 to memory. In the section “Doers of the Word,” have the children record how they will apply the verse to their lives.

“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.”

LUKE 16:10

MEMORY VERSE GAME

Memory Verse Ping Pong
Hold the verse up for the children to see. Read the verse together a couple of times. Then divide the children into two teams. The teams stand facing each other as if they were at a ping pong table. Each word of the memory verse, like a ping pong ball, is “hit” from one side of the table to the other. Team 1 says the first word of the verse, which is the “ball” served to the other team. Team 2 returns the ball by saying the second word of the verse. Go back and forth until one side forgets the word that comes next in the verse. If a team forgets or misquotes the next word, they have dropped the ball and the other team scores a point. Resume play by having the other team say the right word and continue the game until the entire verse has been said. The first team to score 11 points wins the game!

DOERS OF THE WORD
In the blank below, write how this verse could be applied in your life, e.g., “keep an attentive eye on my little brother,” or “be as faithful in small tasks as in large ones,” or “wisely spend waiting time by reading.”

“Dear Lord, I yield to You and am willing to apply this verse. Help me to ____________
________________________________________
____________________________________________.
I ask that You would develop resourcefulness in my life. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

When the Lord gives you an opportunity to apply this verse, write it in your journal to later recall God’s working in your life.
INTRODUCTION

Enjoy meditating on and thinking about the words of the resourcefulness key verse and definition as you fill in the crossword puzzle below. *Italicized* words fit horizontally and *underlined* words fit vertically. One word is already done for you.

**Luke 16:10**

“He that is *faithful* in that which is least is faithful also in *much*: and he that is *unjust* in the *least* is unjust also in much.”

**Resourcefulness**

Wise use of *that which others* would *normally overlook* or *discard*
INTRODUCTION

During this character study we are asking the Lord to develop resourcefulness in our lives. What a privilege to respond to the work He is doing to change us into the image of His Son! Today we are going to be resourceful by using scrap paper to create a fun flying disc.

Supplies:

- Scrap paper, approximately half of an 8.5" x 11" sheet per child
- Pencils
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Tape

Instructions

Let’s turn some scrap paper that would normally be considered trash into a fun toy called a “flying disc”!

Hand scissors and a ruler to each child with enough scrap paper to cut out the eight squares.

1. First, cut the scrap paper into eight 2" squares.
2. Take each of your eight squares and fold them into triangles. Turn them so the long side is up.
3. Fold the top left corner of each triangle down toward the bottom corner of that same triangle. Notice that this forms a pocket in the folded-over portion.
4. Insert the long end of each piece of paper into the small pocket on the left of the next piece of paper.
5. Continue “locking” the papers together until they form a complete circle. Secure the pieces of paper with tape.
6. Turn your disc over and bend the edges downward slightly to cause an extra lift as the disc flies.

Hold the disc with the lip bent downward. Go outside and throw your flying disc with a flick of your wrist. Enjoy your new toy made of paper that otherwise would have been thrown away!

*Variation: Instead of scrap paper, reuse wrapping paper folded with these same instructions to make beautiful mini-wreaths or Christmas ornaments.
"And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing hearted, and brought bracelets, and earrings, and rings, and tablets, all jewels of gold ... an offering of gold unto the LORD" (Exodus 35:22).
Hymn History

“Rescue the Perishing”

Sing “Rescue the Perishing” and read about the resourcefulness proclaimed by the hymn writer, Fanny Crosby.

The seated workmen listened attentively to the small blind woman speaking at the front of the room. Breaking suddenly from her discourse, Fanny Crosby pleaded, “If there is a dear boy here tonight who has perchance wandered away from his mother’s home and his mother’s teaching, would he please come to me at the end of the service?”

Afterward, a youth of about eighteen approached. “Did you mean me?” he asked. “I promised my mother to meet her in heaven, but the way I’ve been living, I don’t think that will be possible now.” Fanny Crosby prayed with the young man. Then, with great joy he stood, exclaiming, “Now I can meet my mother in heaven, for I have found her God!”

With this encounter fresh on her mind, Fanny Crosby considered a request she had recently received. A friend and composer, Mr. William Doane, had asked her to write a hymn about “rescuing the perishing.” The song’s purpose would be to exhort believers to reach out to neglected people in their own localities. She composed the words that evening and gave them to Mr. Doane the next morning. He composed the tune by the end of the day.

Thirty-four years later, Fanny Crosby was speaking to an attentive crowd once again. The audience listened as an elderly Fanny Crosby told the story behind the hymn, “Rescue the Perishing.” Afterward, a middle-aged man greeted her, his voice filled with great emotion. “Miss Crosby, I was that boy who told you more than thirty years ago that I had wandered from my mother’s God. That evening you spoke, I sought and found peace, and I have tried to live a consistent Christian life ever since. . . .” Fanny Crosby noted that this “nameless friend . . . touched a deep chord of sympathy in my heart.”

God enabled Fanny Crosby to see spiritually despite being blind physically. She saw people with God’s eyes and understood their great value in His sight. Like the woman who sought the lost coin, Fanny Crosby sought to share Jesus with those who were lost and overlooked. Relying on the Holy Spirit as she spoke or wrote hymns, Fanny Crosby desired to be a useful instrument in God’s hand. Through both her speaking and writing, many have heard God’s call and, like this man in the audience that night, have come to salvation. May we be resourceful and careful to not overlook the value of men’s souls or the seemingly insignificant abilities, possessions, and talents God has entrusted to us!
Rescue the Perishing


1. Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying, Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave; Weep o'er the erring one, Lift up the perishing child to receive; Plead with them earnestly, Plead with them buried that grace can restore; Touched by a loving heart, Wakened by labor the Lord will provide; Back to the narrow way Patiently fall, Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save. Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying; Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

2. Though they are slighting Him, Still He is waiting, Waiting the perishing, His love to give; Plead with them earnestly, Plead with them buried that grace can restore; Touched by a loving heart, Wakened by labor the Lord will provide; Back to the narrow way Patiently fall, Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save. Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying; Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

3. Down in the human heart, Crushed by the tempter, Feelings lie perishing, His love to give; Plead with them earnestly, Plead with them buried that grace can restore; Touched by a loving heart, Wakened by labor the Lord will provide; Back to the narrow way Patiently fall, Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save. Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying; Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

4. Rescue the perishing, Duty demands it; Strength for thy perishing, His love to give; Plead with them earnestly, Plead with them buried that grace can restore; Touched by a loving heart, Wakened by labor the Lord will provide; Back to the narrow way Patiently fall, Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save. Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying; Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.
Crossword Puzzle Answer Key

Recommended Resources
- 2019 Biblical Character Illustrated Calendar
- Hymns for the Family CDs
  (“Rescue the Perishing” is sung to piano accompaniment on Volume 4.)
- The Power for True Success
- Character Cards
- Character Cards Memory Game
- Character Sketches, Volumes 1–3
- Achieving True Success
- Heroes of Faith: Gladys Aylward in booklet or audio drama CD series
- Mover of Men and Mountains by R. G. LeTourneau
- “Five Qualities Essential for Success”
  (Message by J. David Rogers, available at embassymedia.com)

To view these resources and many more, visit us at:
store.iblp.org

Hymn History Bibliography