

A LETTER TO PARENTS

In today's story, Junior wanted to build a tree house, but he didn't stop to figure out the cost. When he heard the story of Solomon building the temple, he realized that God wants us to have a plan for our money. Through the story, your child learned that it's responsible to have a plan—and that saying no to some things lets you say yes to others.

For practical application of today's lesson, we suggest that you and your child create a special "Spend" envelope. Your child can put money in the envelope on a regular basis and use it to buy the normal things kids like to buy. They can use the money in this envelope to create a budget, which teaches them to plan their spending.

- *Grab a white envelope, markers, and any other decorations—like stickers or glitter.*
- *Prompt your child to write "SPEND" on the front of the envelope and to decorate it.*
- *Discuss things they would like to spend money on and develop a plan.*
- *Talk about how much money from their weekly commission they will put into the Spend envelope.*

The concept of spending can be abstract for kids since they don't have bills or responsibilities yet. Emphasize the importance of a plan—called a budget—and remind kids that saying no to some things lets them say yes to others. Even a simple action like paying for groceries gives you a chance to teach kids about budgets.

Finally, check out the coins your child brought home to see how they want to apply what they've learned. Encourage your child to act on that plan. For more on saving, check out *Smart Money Smart Kids*, Chapter 4, Spend.

