



A TEACHER'S GUIDE

# Circle Time, Sorted.

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Bringing **Good Tidings** into your classroom circle — with  
two full lessons, discussion questions, and activities  
ready to use.

*Where reading feels like fun*



# Welcome — and thank you for having Good Tidings in your classroom.

This guide is built for real classroom time — the five minutes before lunch, the reset after recess, the quiet stretch of morning meeting. No extra planning, no worksheets to print unless you want them. Just a poem, a question, and a room full of kids who are actually listening.

## WHY IT FITS CIRCLE TIME

1

### Two minutes, tops

Each poem is short enough to slot into a transition without eating into your schedule.

2

### Real classroom themes

Patience, money sense, kindness, and courage — dressed up in rhyme, not a lecture.

3

### Built-in discussion

One read-aloud naturally opens the door to a conversation. You don't have to build the ramp.

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

1

### Pick a poem

This guide walks through two: "The Saver" and "The Spender." Use one, or pair them.

2

### Read it twice

Once for the fun of it. Once for the feeling. Kids catch something new the second time.

3

### Use the prompts inside

Discussion questions and a quick activity are ready to go on the next few pages.

**A note on how we made this:** every activity here has actually been tried with a class of real, easily-distracted elementary kids. If something felt like homework, it didn't make the cut.



STORY LESSON • STORY ONE

# The Saver

A read on patience and delayed gratification — a boy who skips the impulse buys to save up for a scooter.

The Saver is patient,  
Doesn't race to go buy,  
Loves watching  
His money multiply.

Saves his allowance  
Instead eats at home,  
Plays with the toys  
He already owns.

Has some friends over,  
Plays ball in the back,  
Rides bikes to the river,  
Then home for a snack.

Counting his money,  
The Saver is set  
To purchase the scooter  
He's been wanting to get.

Now zipping along  
Each day with his friends,  
Makes the waiting and saving  
Worth it all in the end.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does the Saver do instead of spending his allowance right away?
2. Why do you think watching his money "multiply" makes him happy?
3. Have you ever waited for something you really wanted? What was it?
4. Was it hard to wait? What made it worth it in the end?

## VOCABULARY SPOTLIGHT

**patient** — able to wait calmly

**multiply** — to grow in number

**allowance** — money given regularly

## QUICK ACTIVITY: THE SAVINGS JAR

Draw a simple jar on paper. Ask students to draw or write three things they'd save up for, then rank them: which one is worth the wait? Share one out loud in circle.



STORY LESSON • STORY TWO

# The Spender

A playful look at living in the moment — a boy who spends it all and still has a great day.

The Spender does not  
Hold on tightly to cash.  
As soon as he gets it,  
To the store he will dash.

Walks down the aisles,  
Unsure what to buy,  
Spots walkie-talkies—  
Decides to give them a try.

Takes a friend to the Fun Zone  
For pizza and games,  
Leaves with some prizes  
And a handful of change.

Then goes by the Sweet Shop  
On the way home,  
Spends what is left  
On ice cream cones.

The Spender now has  
A wallet that's bare,  
But had such a great day,  
He does not seem to care.

Next month's allowance  
Could go quickly too,  
But the Spender will make sure,  
It was worth it to do.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are all the things the Spender buys in one day?
2. Was the Spender's day still a good one, even with an empty wallet?
3. What would you buy first if you had the Spender's allowance?
4. Is there a difference between spending on purpose and spending fast?

## VOCABULARY SPOTLIGHT

**dash** — to run quickly

**bare** — empty

**worth it** — good enough to justify the cost

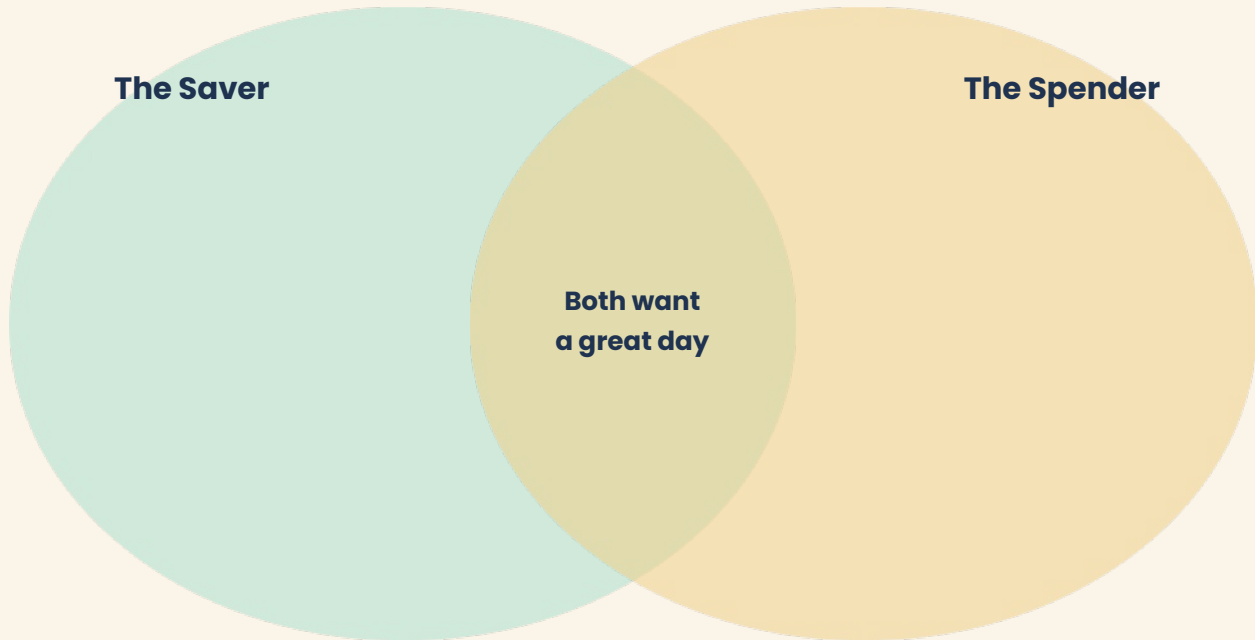
## QUICK ACTIVITY: PLAN A GREAT DAY

Give each student a pretend \$10. In pairs, have them plan out a "great day" like the Spender's — where would they go, what would they buy? Share plans in circle.

## COMPARE & CONTRAST LESSON

# Pair Them Up

Read "The Saver" and "The Spender" back-to-back for an instant compare-and-contrast — no extra prep required. Use the diagram below to sort what's different, and what's actually the same.



## CLASS VOTE & DISCUSSION

Take a quick class vote: **Team Saver or Team Spender?** Then ask a few kids from each side to explain their pick out loud — no wrong answers, just reasons.

### JOURNAL PROMPT (OPTIONAL)

"If you got \$10 today, would you be more like the Saver or the Spender? Why?"



## More Where That Came From

Free printable activity sheets and classroom guides are available for other Good Tidings stories too — just print, hand out, and let the conversation start itself.

[goodtidingsbooks.com](https://goodtidingsbooks.com)

*"Thank you for making room in your day for a rhyme and a real conversation.  
That's the whole idea behind Good Tidings — reading that feels like fun, and  
sneaks the good stuff in along the way."*

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