



Jaxson Harlan Ministry

Hold It Light

Work hard, open your hands — it's a gift, not a throne

01

LISTEN

Song + lyric hook

02

DIG

Matt 6 · 1 Tim · Eccl

03

TALK

Wrist · more · open

04

RESPOND

Open hands · gift not throne

AGES

13–18 (youth group / small group)

TIME

35–45 minutes

PAIR WITH

Chord sheet · Hold It Light · after I Called It Mercy

GOSPEL AIM

Provision is good; clenched fists are idolatry; hold gifts lightly

Leader Guide

One song. Four movements. One gospel landing.

BIG IDEA

Work is not the sin. Making a living into a god you can hold — that is. Scripture affirms provision (daily bread, providing for your household) and warns that love of money never satisfies. Hold it light. It's a gift, not a throne. If it cannot leave your fingers, it was never yours to begin with. He is not asking you to starve — He is asking you to open your hands.

SESSION MAP

1. Warm open

5 min

Phone-down. What feels hardest to open your hand around?

2. Listen

8 min

Play "Hold It Light." Hand lyric strip. Circle lines that hit.

3. Dig Scripture

12 min

Matt 6:9–11 · 1 Tim 5:8 · Eccl 5:10 · 1 Tim 6:17–19 · Acts 20:35.

4. Talk honest

10 min

Wrist / More / Open cards. Affirm work; challenge the fist.

5. Gospel respond

8 min

Name the clenched thing. Ask God how to open it. Practice one open-hand act.

YOU'LL NEED

- Speaker + "Hold It Light" (jaxsonharlan.com/music)
- Printed Student Sheets (page 4) + Truth Cards (page 5)
- Bibles or printed Matt 6 / 1 Tim 5 & 6 / Eccl 5 / Acts 20
- Optional: chord sheet; pair after I Called It Mercy session

LEADER NOTE

Third song in the greed/mercy set. Affirm work and provision; challenge the clenched fist. Good follow-up after I Called It Mercy. Do not shame earning — aim at idolatry inside the wrist.

Teaching Flow

Say this / ask this — usable script, not a lecture.

LISTEN — LYRIC HOOKS

“I still gotta work in the morning / That ain't the sin”

“The sin is making a living / Into a god I can hold”

“Hold it light... It's a gift, it ain't a throne”

“If it cannot leave your fingers / It was never yours to begin with”

“He is not asking you to starve”

After the song: “What in your life can't leave your fingers?”

DIG — SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:9–11

Daily bread — ask for provision; don't turn bread into a god.

1 Timothy 5:8

Providing for your household is good and required — work is not the enemy.

Ecclesiastes 5:10

Whoever loves money never has enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied.

TALK — THREE HEART CHECKS

WRIST

What can't leave your fingers —
money, phone, reputation, control?

MORE

Why do you want the next thing?

OPEN

Can you open what you're holding this
week?

GOSPEL LANDING

Provision is gift. The clenched fist is idolatry. The Father who gives daily bread is not asking you to starve — He is inviting you to hold lightly what was never a throne. Work hard. Open your hands. Trust the Giver more than the gift. That is the way home after greed gets named.

Student Sheet

Hold It Light · fill this while you listen & talk

Name _____ Date _____ Group _____

1. CIRCLE THE LINE THAT HIT HARDEST

- ☐ I still gotta work in the morning / That ain't the sin
- ☐ The sin is making a living into a god I can hold
- ☐ Hold it light... It's a gift, it ain't a throne
- ☐ If it cannot leave your fingers / It was never yours
- ☐ He is not asking you to starve

2. WHAT'S IN MY WRIST

What can't leave my fingers — money, phone, reputation, control, the next thing?

3. SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Matthew 6

What do we ask for each day?

1 Timothy 6

Where should hope NOT sit?

Acts 20

Which is more blessed — give or receive?

4. CLENCHED → OPEN

WHAT I GRIP

HOW I OPEN IT

5. ONE HONEST PRAYER

"Father of daily bread — this is what I grip. Teach me to hold it light. It ain't a throne..."

Truth Cards + Take-Home

Print · cut · keep in a Bible or locker

Cut along the dashed lines. Two wallet cards + one fridge verse.

TRUTH CARD

Gift, Not Throne

"Command those who are rich... not to put their hope in wealth... but to put their hope in God." — 1 Timothy 6:17

Hold it light. It's a gift — it ain't a throne.

TRUTH CARD

Open Hands

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." — Acts 20:35

If it cannot leave your fingers, it was never yours.

FRIDGE / LOCKER VERSE

"Give us today our daily bread."

Matthew 6:11

This week: open one clenched thing — money, phone, or control — and ask Him how.

Jaxson Harlan Ministry · Song-to-Scripture · Hold It Light

How this sits in the series

Song-to-Scripture Youth Studies · Ages 13–18

THIS STUDY

Hold It Light

Work hard, open your hands — it's a gift, not a throne

Pastoral closer in the greed/mercy set. Affirms work; confronts the idol in the wrist. Best as follow-up to I Called It Mercy — the open-hand way home.

FULL SONG-TO-SCRIPTURE SET

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ● I Called It Mercy | Rename sin · ask for real mercy |
| ● He Sees You Still | El Roi — God sees lonely teens |
| ● Knees First | Pride falls · grace meets empty hands |
| ● Who's on the Throne | Self-rule vs Jesus is Lord |

■ Hold It Light

Provision is gift · not a throne

PAIRING TIPS

- Run after I Called It Mercy (name the sin → open the hand).
- Affirm jobs, chores, and saving — then aim at the fist inside them.
- Optional three-song night: Mercy → (We Don't Call It Greed) → Hold It Light.

Website placement

On /ministry-resources/, file under “Youth Song-to-Scripture Studies.” Card layout with cover thumbnail, age badge (13–18), time badge (35–45 min), and Download PDF — same visual language as chord sheet links. Link the matching chord sheet.