A close up of a map

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**Suggested Ages 8-12**

**Time: 45 min**

**Lesson:**

* Money Counting (coins/bills)
* The Importance of Saving
* Basic Budgeting
* Advantages of an Account

Read the book aloud to the students. Take various props with you (that are used in the book) and hide them around the classroom (don’t hide them too well). If virtual, have the props nearby to show on camera. Pause at various points in the book and choose a student to search for the item around the classroom that correlates to the item in the book that the pig family is searching in. That student should bring the item back and help count how much money they find. Then proceed with the book to see if they counted correctly. For example, if the pig family finds $.45 in the sock drawer, have a sock that has that amount of change in it for the kids to find and count. Keep a running total of money found as you go through the book. Students can help with this by writing the amounts on a poster board. At the end, use a mock menu from McDonald’s (a place most kids are familiar with) and have them make decisions on what the pig family can buy to eat, based on the total amount of money (budget).

**Questions to encourage discussion:**

The pig family had to search for money. Where do you keep your money? Where is a safe place to keep money? (talk about having an account at the credit union and the advantages to having your money in an account rather than in various places- safety, less tempting to spend, earns interest)

Talk about the various types of coins and bills. Do you know which Presidents are on each one?

How much do you think it costs for your family to go out to eat? How many times per week do you go out to eat?

Why is it good for families to talk about money together?

What is a budget? Have you ever made a budget when you are saving for something?

**Suggested Activity:**

1. Bring in laminated copies of the basic McDonald’s menu. Break the students up into small groups and have each group pretend to be a member of the pig family. Give them the amount of money that the pig family found (play money). They must each decide what they are going to get to eat (while staying within the budget). Was it easy to agree on decisions? Was it easy to stay within budget? Did the kids get to make their own decisions?

Materials needed:

Play money (various denominations so that you can divide into 4-5 groups and give each group the right amount of money), pencils, menus

**Pigs will be Pigs**

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