

LESSON 16

Treasure in Heaven

MATTHEW 6:19-24



BIBLE TRUTH

WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE WILL YOUR HEART BE ALSO

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Matthew 6:19–34 from the Scriptures or read story 94, “Treasure in Heaven,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

We Can Only Hold One at a Time

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two soft balls (The size of the ball is important. It should be small enough that a student in your class can pick it up with one hand, but not so small that they would be able to pick up two with one hand.)

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Opening Up the Treasure of My Heart

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

More Than the Lilies

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ colored pencils, markers, or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Two Masters Skit

TOTAL 75 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

The heart is only big enough for one treasure—“No one can serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24). We will either live for the things of this world or we will live for the God who created all things. Jesus tells us that our hearts can be filled with only one love. If we love the Lord and his kingdom, a love for money or fine things will not capture our attention. Unfortunately, the opposite is also true: if our hearts are filled with a love of money or the things money can buy, there is no room for the Lord. We can’t truly love both at the same time.

There is no need to worry under the Father’s care—Most people forget that God is behind the scenes, providing everything they need. We often think we provide for ourselves. It is true we work to receive wages, and with those wages we buy food and clothing. But God sustains our health and strength and blesses the work of our hands. God provides us with jobs, and even the rain to allow the food we eat to grow. God is in control of every detail of our lives! When we worry, we fall into unbelief and feel pressure to strive for what we need. We have a heavenly Father who loves us more than all the animals he provides for (Matthew 6:26). So we do not need to worry because if he loves us more than the animals, he will give us what we need.

Seek first the kingdom of God, and the Lord will take care of you—It is kind of God to give us something to do instead of worrying. It would be much more difficult if the Lord said, “Do not worry; just be patient.” We are doers by nature. Instead, God tells us to seek after his kingdom and his righteousness (Matthew 6:33). We can pray as we trust God for food and ask him for help. We can read the Bible and grow in purity and strength while we trust God to bless us with money for clothes. We can serve others while we trust that our needs will be met. When the Lord, his kingdom, and his righteousness are our treasures, God our Father in Heaven promises to take care of us.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Mammon

Matthew 6:24 is often translated, “You cannot serve God and money.” However, the word “money” has a broader meaning in the Greek. The Greek word used is “mammon.” “Mammon” can mean our possessions or our treasure, riches, or money. The point of the text is that anything we allow to occupy our full affection, desire, or devotion leads us away from Christ and is sinful.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Although it is true that we cannot serve God and money, it is equally true that we cannot serve God alone unless God changes our hearts. By nature, our hearts will be fixed upon earthly treasure unless Jesus gives us a new nature and a love for God. Jesus died to break the power of sin in our lives that we might be transformed by the power of his Spirit, that we would find our treasure in him rather than the world. Jesus is the treasure God has placed in our hearts. As unbelievers, we are blind to see this treasure. Once God's Spirit transforms us and causes us to be "born again" (John 3:3), our eyes are open to see the truth of the gospel and believe in Jesus. The more we see Jesus and the riches that are ours in Christ, the less value our earthly treasures hold.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Matthew 6:19–34 from the Scriptures or read story 94, "Treasure in Heaven," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

We Can Only Hold One at a Time

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two soft balls (The size of the ball is important. It should be small enough that a student in your class can pick it up with one hand but not so small that they would be able to pick up two with one hand.)

The object of this lesson is to show that we can only have one master at a time.

Label one ball “God” and one ball “money.” Ask for a volunteer who thinks they can pick both balls up with one hand, without using their body or other objects. (The student may try rolling one off the table and balancing it on the other, or you may even volunteer to place the second ball on top of the first. If they should start to balance them both, give them a little nudge, saying, “Let’s see how you do when a little trouble comes into your life.” Take note of which ball they pick up first.

Discuss the following questions:

- **Read Matthew 6:24. How is the exercise with the two balls like this verse?**
(Just as we can only hold one ball in our hands, we can only serve one master.)
- **How can we ensure that we will not serve the world over God?**
(Just like our choice in balls, if we held the “money” ball there was no way we could fit the “God” ball in. Conversely, if we pursue the Lord and hold onto him, there will be no room for the world.)
- **Is there anyone who can serve both God and money?**
(No, there are no exceptions. No one can serve God and money (or possessions [see this week’s “A Little Bit More.”])

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Opening Up the Treasure of My Heart

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

We can easily read through Matthew 6:19–24 and assume that our treasure is the Lord when in reality we pursue the things of this world. Help your students examine their hearts by listing on the board what it might mean to be devoted to the Lord.

Draw the following chart on the board. Have each person draw the chart on a piece of paper themselves. For the purposes of this exercise the treasure of a youth has been broken down into three categories: Time, Money, Talk. These are somewhat arbitrary but the point is, if we give more of our time, money, and our talk to the things of the world, how can we say that our love is devoted to the Lord?

	OUR TIME	OUR MONEY	OUR TALK	OUR LOVE
THE LORD				
THE WORLD				

Ask the class the following questions:

- 1. **How much of your time from Sunday following church (don't count Sunday in church when most kids think about God) through Saturday is spent in fellowship with the Lord?**
(This includes family devotional times as well as time worshiping and reading the Bible.)
- 2. **How much of your Monday through Saturday time is spent on the world?**
(Don't count school or work in this exercise. Time spent on the world means time spent doing things with no reference to Christ: watching TV or movies; listening to secular music; playing computer or video games; engaging in other non-fellowship communication such as talking via email, instant messaging, or surfing the Web; and reading worldly material. These things are not necessarily wrong or evil, but they simply contain no reference to Christ.)
- 3. **How much of your money or possessions are given to the Lord or to others as an expression of your devotion to the Lord?**
- 4. **How much of your money is spent on your pursuit of worldly pleasure?**
(This can be for music, games, trendy clothing, etc.)

- 5. How much of your talk with your friends is about the Lord?
- 6. How much of your talk with your friends is about the world?
(This could be talking about sports, movies, games, hobbies, etc.)
- 7. Lastly, considering the above answers, if you could draw a heart in only one box under “Our Love” would you draw your heart in the box across from the Lord or the world?

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

More Than the Lilies

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ colored pencils, markers, or crayons

Draw a picture of a field of flowers and write the words, “Are you not much more valuable?” above the field.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Two Masters Skit

Choose groups of three volunteers to act out the following miniskits. In each group of three, one child will play the role of the person, one will play the role of “the love of the world,” and one will play the role of “love of God.” Each scenario depicts a person being enticed by two loves—the love of the world and love of God. Demonstrate how each of these loves might speak to the person and then talk about the choices.

For example, in the first scenario, the person might ask themselves the questions: “What should I do with my free time Saturday morning?” In reply, the love of the world might say, “Sleep in.” The love of the Lord might say, “Get up and read your Bible.” Make sure to ask the person playing the love of the world what they are going to say so that you can edit inappropriate comments should they come.

SCENARIOS:

1. What should you do with your free time Saturday morning?
2. What should you talk to your friends about?
3. What should you do at church on Sunday?
4. What should you do with your money?