

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 ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Bible; dollar bill; helper

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 94)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 16—one for each child; markers or crayons

Serving God and Money

SUPPLIES: two large balls the same size (beach balls or balloons will work)

You Can’t Take It with You

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ narrow-mouthed jar (children should be able to fit a hand into it)
- ✓ candy bars
- ✓ hot glue
- ✓ smaller candy treat, enough for one per child

Setup: Prior to class hot glue the candy bars together inside the jar to create one big hunk of candy. The idea is that you glue so many candy bars together inside the jar that you can’t get them out.

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn that Jesus taught us to store up treasure in heaven and that we can not love two masters at once.

Station yourself and a helper on opposite sides of the room. One of you hold a Bible and the other a dollar bill. Tell the children (in the middle) that the dollar bill represents earthly treasure and the Bible represents heavenly treasure. Both of you simultaneously call out appropriate enticements such as: Come to me and you can buy some candy. Come to me and you can learn about God.

Help the other children see that they can't go both places at once. Then connect it to the scripture for today. We can't serve two masters. We can either serve God or money. Tell the children that their toys can represent earthly treasures.

Ask them what their favorite toys are. Then ask them which they should love more: their toys or God. Help them to see that it is OK to enjoy their toys but not to love them more than God. For example, when their parents tell them to put their toys away for dinner or because their playtime is over and they refuse and disobey, they are choosing to love their toys more than God who said that children need to obey their parents.

Take time to pray and thank God for eternal treasure. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 94, "Treasure in Heaven," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What is Jesus talking about in this passage?**
(Jesus is encouraging his followers to focus on heaven, not on earth.)

- **What did Jesus say we should not store up here on earth?**
(Jesus said we should not store up treasure on earth.)

- **Why did Jesus say we should not store up treasure on earth?**
(Jesus said we should not store up treasure on earth because it does not last. It will eventually wear out, be stolen, or be destroyed.)

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

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.

- **What do you think Jesus was talking about when he spoke of treasure here on earth?**
(The children might instantly list gold or other valuable treasures. Help them to see that treasure can be anything that we love more than God.)

- **What kind of treasures do children have?**
(If they cannot come up with ideas, ask a followup question like, If someone stole everything in your home, what would you be most disappointed to lose?)

- **Why does God say, “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also?”**
(God knows that we love the things we value and we value the things we love.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 16—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why are the items in the coloring sheet in a junkyard?**
(People have discarded them. The things are broken or worn out.)

- **How does this coloring sheet relate to our Scripture today?**
(Eventually all our treasures break or are destroyed or stolen. Many things we once treasured end up in the trash.)

- **How can we store up treasure in heaven?**
(Do good works and be generous and ready to share [1 Timothy 6:17-19].)

Serving God and Money

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two large balls the same size (beach balls or balloons will work)

Ask for a volunteer to attempt to pick up both balls. (The object is to demonstrate that the child can only pick up one ball at a time.)

Talk about Matthew 6:24 and ask the children how only serving one master is like holding the balls. We can only serve one master at a time just like we can only hold one ball at a time. The question is, Are we serving God or our money? (Children may not have a lot of money so help them see their possessions as their money or treasure.)

You Can't Take It with You

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ narrow-mouthed jar (children should be able to fit a hand into it)
- ✓ candy bars
- ✓ hot glue
- ✓ small candy treat, enough for one per child)

Setup: Prior to class hot glue the candy bars together inside the jar to create one big hunk of candy. The idea is to glue so many candy bars together inside the jar that you can't get them out; i.e., we can't take the treasures of this life (the candy inside the jar) to heaven.

In class show the jar to the children and ask for a volunteer to put their hand in the jar and take out a candy bar. Once they give it a try they will realize that the candy bars are glued together and can't be removed from the jar. Explain to the class that this is how treasure on earth works: while we are here we can enjoy it but it does us no good in heaven.

Tell the class that there is a way we can send our treasures ahead, by giving them away. Pass out the candy treats. The Bible tells us to store up treasure in heaven. We do that by honoring God and sharing what we have. God promises a heavenly reward to everyone who trusts in Jesus and makes sacrifices and does good works in his name. It is OK to enjoy good things in this life, but we should make sure to

live for heaven and not for here. Otherwise we might find out we have stored up a lot of treasure in a place (show them the jar again) where we will never be able to use it or enjoy it.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

