

LESSON PLAN

TREASURES THAT COUNT

Luke 12:1-59

Lesson Memory Verse: Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Lesson Aim: To encourage each child to seek the true treasures that God wants them to have and to watch out for Satan's empty treasures.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Today, we are going to talk about treasures. Some treasures are good and some are bad. A treasure is something that is valuable to a person. It may be something you can touch or it may be an attitude you have. Tell me, what are some objects that people treasure? (Show some pictures of things people treasure.). What are some good/bad attitudes that people like to keep? Write them on the whiteboard. I am going to show what Jesus said about our attitudes and I want you to see them as good/bad treasures.

HE (for Authority): The Bible speaks of many treasures that people try to get, but our memory verse tells us the first treasure we should seek. (Read the verse.) What is the most important treasure? Yes, it is the Kingdom of God. What do you think the Kingdom of God is? (The Kingdom of God for the purpose of this lesson is salvation so we can be with God.) How do we seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness? (We seek it by receiving Jesus as our Savior and He makes us perfect before God.) When we are in the Kingdom of God, we are in God's family. God is our Father and He takes care of all our needs.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Today's lesson will tell us what treasures are good and what treasures are bad. (As a teacher, you may not have time to cover the whole lesson or you may feel there is too much material for your children to understand. Feel free to choose what is good for your class.)

I. Watch out for Hypocrisy - Luke 12:1-12)

Jesus warned His disciples about the Pharisees' hypocrisy (12:1). What is hypocrisy? It is covering up our sins (12:2-3). People like hypocrisy because it makes them feel good. This attitude is bad, because it deceives them. All have sinned and are bad in God's eyes. No one can hide his sins from God. He even knows the number of hairs on our heads (12:7). He knows who we really are and He will judge us according to the truth. All people need to repent, confess their sins and receive Jesus to save them from their sins.

WE: We must beware of hypocrisy and not be fooled by this attitude. It has no value when God judges us.

II. Watch out for Covetousness - Luke 12:13-21

Jesus also warned His disciples about covetousness (12:15). What is covetousness? It is greed. It makes a person want something very much (12:13). It makes him want someone else's candy, his money, his toys, his bicycle, his popularity. It makes him want these things so much that he will lie, steal, fight to get them. Satan says that covetousness or greed is good. He tells you to get what you want and it will make you happy. But does it? No, it does not. It makes you mean and ugly. Greed is idolatry (Col 3:5). It is like worshipping a worthless idol. It cannot take away sins. It cannot give eternal life. Greed will not help you, but it certainly will hurt you.

Jesus tells the story about a rich man who had so many things (crops) that he did not have enough room for them. What did he do? He tore down his little barns to build bigger barns. Now that would not have been bad if he had not put his trust in his things to make him safe and happy. He trusted the things he owned to make him safe and happy, but he forgot God. He never asked God to take care of his soul. He never gave God any of his things. Then, suddenly, he died. What good were his things then? His greed for things proved to be a worthless treasure when he died.

WE: We must watch out for covetousness in our lives. Things that we want so much are like idols in our lives. They are worthless treasures and will not make us happy. Instead they will take joy out of our lives.

III. Watch out for Worry - Luke 12:22-34

Next, Jesus warned His disciples about worry (12:22). Worry is a bad attitude to treasure; it shows that we do not trust God to take care of us. Now it seems that His people would not have to be warned about worry,

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but they would rather worry than pray and let God take care of it. These are the people who believe that God has saved them from eternal punishment, but worry that God cannot save them from present problems.

What do children worry about? (Discuss it.) (They worry about storms, about a fire in the home, about a bully at school, about serious sickness, about trouble in the home, about a friend that shuns them, about failing grades in school. Jesus told the people not to worry but to remember that God takes care of them. He takes care of the ravens (12:24) and the lilies (12:27-28), so He will take care of us, too (12:29-30).

Rather than holding unto worry, Jesus says the best treasure is the kingdom of God (12:31). What does this mean? It means we are saved to live with God. How can we have this treasure? We must ask Jesus to save us. Then God lets us in His Kingdom and we can enjoy Him and His care for us.

WE: Jesus says our heart will be where our treasure is (12:34). If we think the best things in life are on earth, we will worry about losing them (Mt 12:33; 6:19). If we think the best things in life are in the Kingdom of God, where will our heart be? Right! Our heart and our thoughts will be in Heaven (Mt 12:33-34; 6:20-21). Can we lose anything we put in Heaven? No! God will take good care of it for us. So then, we do not have to worry about those treasures, do we?

IV. Watch with Faith for Jesus' Return - Luke 12:35-48

Jesus urged His disciples to have faith and be ready for His return to earth (12:40). This attitude is a great treasure. Jesus will return to earth to rule all nations with justice and peace. All of those who have faith in Him and are doing what he commanded will be highly honored by Him (12:42-44). That will be exciting. So, believers should be watchful like a man who protects his house from a thief (12:39). A thief does not tell when he is coming, and neither will Jesus. Believers must watch for His return at any time (12:40).

WE: We are to watch for Jesus to come for His Church before He comes to earth. This is called the Rapture, which was revealed to the Apostle Paul after Jesus went to Heaven (1 Cor 15:51-52; 1 Th 4:13-17). We believe the Rapture will occur before the Tribulation, and the 2nd Coming will occur after the Tribulation. Not all believers hold to this view, but the attitude should be the same for both events. We should be ready for His coming at any time by living a godly life (1 Cor 3:11-15; 2 Cor 5:9-10). Then we will be ready to rule with Jesus in His Kingdom (Rev 2:26-27; 3:21; 20:4-6).

V. Watch with Courage to Stand with Jesus - Luke 12:49-53

When Jesus comes, it will not be peace at first. He will divide the courageous believers that stood for Him from the corrupt unbelievers that stood against Him. Then He will judge and send the unbelievers to Hell. Jesus will bring peace to the earth (John 16:33); He is the Prince of Peace (Isa 9:6).

WE: We need to watch for Jesus to return and be courageous in our stand for Him.

VI. Watch with Wisdom to Avoid Punishment - Luke 12:54-59

Jesus told the people to be wise in preparing for His judgment. He told them that they could tell when rain was coming by seeing a cloud in the western sky. They could tell when it was going to be hot by the wind coming from the south. He warned them to make peace with their enemies before they appeared before the judge, which would be too late for help. So they needed to be wise and make peace with Him now before He comes to judge the world. Wisdom is a precious treasure and will keep the sinner out of Hell.

WE: We need to be wise and receive Jesus as our Savior now. There will be no time to do it after He comes.

BE (for Action): Put the name of each treasure (good and bad) on a large card and show it to the class as you teach about that treasure. Do not remove the card, but add another card until all the cards are before the students. This will help your students remember each treasure and know which ones they should hold unto and which ones they should discard. You may want to illustrate each treasure with stick figures or facial expressions, i.e., a halo over the head for hypocrisy; wide greedy eyes for covetousness; frowning eyebrows for worry, a smiley face for faith, etc.

Ask the children to get rid of bad attitudes (bad treasures) and develop good attitudes (good treasures). If any child needs salvation, give him an opportunity to receive the greatest treasure of all.