

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**
From Rust to Riches
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ rusted metal part or can (Place this item into a container or plastic bag to protect the children.)
 - ✓ moth-eaten woolen item (If necessary, simulate this by cutting small holes in an old article of clothing.)
 - ✓ bright flashlight
 - ✓ small bag of sunflower seeds (unsalted in shells)
 - ✓ real, colorful, fresh-cut flowers
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
Share Your Testimony
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **10 MIN**
Color a Picture
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 16—one for each child
 - ✓ markers or crayons
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **10 MIN**
What’s in Your Picture Frame?
SUPPLIES:
 - ✓ five-by-seven black picture frame
 - ✓ one copy of each of the pictures included with this lesson: the pink rectangle, the black heart mat, the cross, and the money

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.

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

From Rust to Riches

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ rusted metal part or can (Place this item into a container or plastic bag to protect the children.)
- ✓ moth-eaten woolen item (If necessary, simulate this by cutting small holes in an old article of clothing.)
- ✓ bright flashlight

- ✓ small bag of sunflower seeds (unsalted in shells)
- ✓ real, colorful, fresh-cut flowers

Collect as many of the items on the supply list as you can. Some are easier than others to find. Use them to make Matthew 6 come alive.

Start the class by passing around the rusted item. They should be grossed out by the rust. Help them see how rust destroys.

Then pass around the moth-eaten item of clothing. Then begin reading Matthew 6:19–34.

When you reach the part about the light (Matthew 6:22), turn on the flashlight and point it toward the class.

When you reach verse 26, pull out the bag of sunflower seeds and give each child a seed. Tell them to put it in their pocket to remember that if God provides for the birds, he will also take care of them. Tell them to show it to someone when they go home and explain what it means.

When you get to verse 28, pass a few flowers around the room. Tell the children to look at how beautiful they are. Make the point that if God gives the flowers such beautiful petals for “clothes,” then how much more will he take care of us!

When you are finished, ask the class to tell you what they learned from the passage. Take as many answers as they will give. Push them to repeat each object at least once. If no one mentions the rust for instance, ask “What about the rust? What does it teach us?”

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 10 MIN

Share Your Testimony

In class ask for volunteers to share things that once worried them and tested their faith in God. At first they might not be able to think of anything. Jog their memory with the following suggestions:

- How many of you were afraid of the dark and didn't believe you would be safe at night?
- How many of you were afraid of going to the dentist?
- How many of you were afraid to go to school?
- How many of you were afraid when your parents went away?

Some of these worries may have come days before the actual event. These worries may not be about food and clothing, but the trust we have today (that God will provide for us at the dentist or at school) is the same trust students will later place in God for food, clothing, and shelter.

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

Color a Picture

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].)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

What's in Your Picture Frame?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ five-by-seven black picture frame
- ✓ one copy of each of the pictures included with this lesson: the pink rectangle, the black heart mat, the cross, and the money

Before class, cut out the black heart mat, the pink rectangle, the picture of the cross, and the photo of money to fit into the picture frame.

Read Matthew 6:20–21 to the class and explain that our hearts are like the picture frame. You can only give your heart to one master, just like only one picture can be displayed in the frame. (The frame should have the black mat with the pink rectangle behind it so it looks like a pink heart to the class.)

Pull off the back of the frame and insert the photo of money so that it is visible behind the black mat. Tell the class that when money is our master it fills our heart and there is no room for God to show through. (The class should see the money in the shape of the heart.) Then show the class the picture of the cross, placing it behind the money.

Explain to the class that a person whose master is money might say they are a Christian, but their love for money blocks God from all view.

Finally, take out the money and put the cross in first so that it becomes visible behind the heart mat inside the frame. Tell the class that God wants to be our master. Money is not evil and we can still have it in our lives. (Place the money behind the cross.) Tell the children it is okay to have money and to use money, but it always needs to take its place behind God.





