

TREASURE IN HEAVEN

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: MATTHEW 6:19-24



The STORY

Read about Jesus teaching his disciples to store up treasure in heaven in Matthew 6:19-24.

Please note: *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

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 live with their focus on heaven, not this life here 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.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: bulldozer pushing trash in a junkyard. Engage the children by asking:

- Why are the items in the coloring sheet in a junkyard? (People have finished with them. The things are broken, worn out.)
- How does this coloring sheet relate to our scripture today? (Eventually all our treasures break or are destroyed or stolen and many things we once treasured end up in the trash.)
- How can we store up treasure in heaven? (Do good works, be generous and ready to share, see I Timothy 6:17-19.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- What kind of things 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 could be anything that we love more than God.)
- What kind of treasures do children have?
If they cannot come up with ideas, you might ask them a follow-up question like: If someone stole everything in their home, what would they 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.)

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Although it is very true that we cannot serve God and money, it is equally true that we cannot serve God instead of money unless God changes our hearts. Our hearts will be fixed upon earthly treasure unless Jesus gives us a love for Him. Jesus died so that we could find our treasure in Him rather than the treasures of this world.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

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.

