

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Store treasure in Heaven by using the blessings God has given you.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will choose one gift or item they can use for God right now.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 6:19-24, Store Up Treasures in Heaven

MEMORY VERSE:

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

Have you ever saved money to buy something that you really, really wanted? We can save up to "buy" heavenly rewards when we use the things God has given us to serve him.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us to use our blessings to honor you.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1 (NIV)

"You have been raised up with Christ. So think about things that are in heaven. That is where Christ is. He is sitting at God's right hand." Colossians 3:1 (NirV)

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room in half. Pick one side to start and have them all shout the first word, then the other side shouts the second word, and so on until they finish the verse.

SMALL GROUP:

Give each kid one word or a few words of the verse on a note card. See if they can arrange the cards and get the verse right. Then read the verse aloud with the kids.

SKIT

SAVING FOR HEAVEN

ITEMS NEEDED:

A desk, chairs

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2F

CHARACTERS:

Leslie - A real estate agent

Megan - A woman who wants to go to Heaven.

Leslie is sitting at her desk. Megan enters.

LESLIE: Well hello again! Welcome back to Heaven Bound Realty. What can I do for you?

MEGAN: Yeah, hi, I was just in here last week inquiring about moving to Heaven?

LESLIE: Yes, I remember.

MEGAN: I was wondering, what kind of money do they take in Heaven?

LESLIE: Money?

MEGAN: Do they accept US dollars, or Euros? Or Japanese yen? You see, I've got a rather large amount in savings here on Earth, but if they don't take American dollars, I was going to convert it into something else.

LESLIE: I see. Well the truth is, they don't take any Earth money in Heaven.

MEGAN: They don't?

LESLIE: Nope.

MEGAN: No rubles? No rupees? Not even shiny beads?

LESLIE: Not even Monopoly money!

SKIT

MEGAN: You mean if I go to Heaven, I go with nothing?

LESLIE: All the things of Earth will stay behind here on Earth, but the good news is, you can begin storing up heavenly treasure!

MEGAN: How do I do that?

LESLIE: By spending the gifts God has given you here on Earth.

MEGAN: What kind of gifts?

LESLIE: Well for starters, some of that money you saved can be given to the church and to missions, to spread the Word of God.

MEGAN: I can do that.

LESLIE: And how about the talents God has given you? I'm sure God's given you some special gifts, right?

MEGAN: Well I do like to sing.

LESLIE: Then sing! Sing for Jesus in church, or at a nursing home, or any place you get the chance. Use that talent for Jesus and share God's love through singing.

MEGAN: And that will get me treasure in Heaven?

LESLIE: The more we spend here, the more we store up there. God has gifted all of us, and he wants us to put those gifts to good use.

MEGAN: Sounds like a plan to me.

LESLIE: Then stop hoarding those gifts God has given you. Spend them for Jesus, and store up some treasure that will never fade away in Heaven.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A piggy bank

Piggy banks are a great way to learn about money. When you begin at an early age dropping coins into a piggy bank, you slowly but surely begin to grow a rather large sum of money. Pennies add up to dimes, dimes to dollars, and dollars turn into tens and hundreds of dollars. The sooner you start, the more you'll save, and the more you save, the more money you'll have when you cash in.

God wants us not to save, but to spend the blessings he's given us. He wants us to use our money to invest in his work on Earth, but he also wants us to spend our time and our God-given talents. God has gifted all of us in unique ways, and he wants us to discover those gifts and use them to share God's love with others.

When we use our gifts for the Lord, the Bible says we will store up treasures in Heaven! So don't keep those gifts to yourself. Spend them wisely, in service to others. Use your gifts to show the world that Jesus loves them, and start now. The sooner you start, the more treasure you will find saved up in Heaven!

LARGE GROUP GAME

SHAKE THE PIG

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two plastic piggy banks
Coins

INSTRUCTIONS:

Fill two piggy banks with the same number of coins.

Choose two players for this game. Give each one a piggy bank. On your mark, the two players must shake out all the coins from their piggy bank until they are empty. First one with an empty piggy bank wins a prize.

VARIATION:

Make this a timed contest, with one person trying to shake a piggy bank empty in a minute or less.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Spend the gifts God has given you here on Earth, and store up real treasure in Heaven!



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Store treasure in Heaven by using the blessings God has given you.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will choose one gift or item they can use for God right now.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 6:19-24, Store Up Treasures in Heaven

INTRO:

People in America have a real problem: we don't know how to save money. By and large, Americans are absolutely terrible at setting aside money. As soon as we get it, we spend it. We live paycheck to paycheck, burning through every dollar we earn in between. Kids spend their allowance as soon as it's in their hands. Adults spend their earnings the weekend they get paid.

Wise people know better. They know that the smartest thing to do whenever they get money is to set some aside. Some of you may already have savings accounts started in the bank. That's because your parents decided early on to save for your future, for college and beyond. Some of you also have savings accounts sitting on your dresser. Piggy banks and other coin collectors are a great way to learn to set aside and save some money.

Some of you have also gone through the challenge of saving up for something big that you wanted. It wasn't easy, setting aside a dollar here and there, waiting weeks and weeks for your saving to pay off, but it was a great moment when you finally had enough to buy the thing you really wanted!

Money saved today can help us with big expenses and unexpected challenges in a few years, but what about when we get to Heaven? The Bible makes it very clear that the things of this world, including money, are going to stay here. All your money, all the things you buy with your money, will have no value in Heaven. They won't even exist!

But that doesn't mean we will be empty handed in Heaven. Jesus says that all of us can store up treasure in Heaven, and early on in his ministry, he taught his followers the key to earning some of that treasure while still here on Earth.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ MATTHEW 6:19-24

MAIN POINT:

Jesus tells us that real treasure is found not on Earth, but in Heaven. If the money and things of this world are going to stay here when we die, what value do they really have? True treasure is something that will last for eternity, and that is what Jesus is talking about here.

Jesus has given all of us gifts and blessings that he wants us to use for him. That includes our money, but it also includes our time, our talents, and our passions. God wants us to use these gifts for him. The gift of music, the gift of wisdom, the gift for teaching, all of these are things we can spend for Jesus, using them to share Jesus with others.

When we spend these gifts, we don't lose them like we do our money. We store up real treasure. Investing our time, talents, and gifts is how we can save up a treasure that will never fade away, a treasure we can only find in Heaven.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Jesus isn't saying we shouldn't save money. The Bible talks a lot about money, and it cautions us not to spend all we have. Jesus wants us to be wise stewards of our money, using it to provide for ourselves and our loved ones as well as donating it to the church.

Money has its purpose, but money cannot be our god. When we care more about our money than we do about God, we are pursuing the wrong thing. Money can't save us from our sins, and money will not go with us when we die.

Jesus gives us blessings like money so we can invest them in His Kingdom. When we give to the church, to missions, and to other ministries, we are investing in Heaven. Our money helps to spread the gospel of Jesus around the world, and that investment can earn us treasure in Heaven.

Jesus has given us other blessings in addition to money, things like our talents, our passions, and our gifts. God wants us to discover these gifts, and he wants us to put them to use. Every member of our children's ministry staff has invested the talents they have to serve God here, sharing his good news with you. Every one of us is saving up treasure in Heaven by using our gifts to share God's love with you!

Heaven is a real place, and it's worth saving for. The sooner you start saving, the more treasure you'll find when you get there. Ask God to show you how to use the blessings he's given you. Invest the talents, the time, and the money the Lord has placed in your care, use them for Jesus, and you will store up real treasure in Heaven!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Teach us to use our blessings to honor you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

Do you have a savings account or a piggy bank?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 3:1

Give each kid one word or a few words of the verse on a note card. See if they can arrange the cards and get the verse right. Then read the verse aloud with the kids.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have everyone stand in a circle. Toss a balloon in the air, and see if your kids can keep it afloat. Once that balloon is in the air, add another, and then another, and another. How many can you save from falling to the ground?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 6:19-24

What kind of treasure does Jesus want us to seek?

Why should we not value treasure on Earth as much as heavenly treasure?

Why does Jesus say we can't serve two masters, God and money?

What gifts has God given you that you can spend for him?

What is one thing you can do this week to use one of your gifts for God?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us how to store up treasure in Heaven.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

Do you have a savings account or a piggy bank?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Colossians 3:1

Give each kid one word or a few words of the verse on a note card. See if they can arrange the cards and get the verse right. Then read the verse aloud with the kids.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have everyone stand in a circle. Toss a balloon in the air, and see if your kids can keep it afloat. Once that balloon is in the air, add another, and then another, and another. How many can you save from falling to the ground?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 6:19-24

Why does Jesus say we can't serve two masters, God and money?

Why is heavenly treasure more valuable than worldly treasure?

Why does Jesus say, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also?"

What gifts has God given you that you can spend for him?

What is one thing you can do this week to use one of your gifts for God?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Show us how to store up treasure in Heaven.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

The treasure we collect on Earth will be with us in Heaven.

FALSE

You cannot serve God and money.

TRUE

Your heart is not always where your treasure is.

FALSE

God wants us to spend the gifts he's given us for his glory.

TRUE

We can store up treasure in Heaven that will never fade.

TRUE

MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With Your Kids

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: SAVING FOR HEAVEN



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Have you ever saved money to buy something that you really, really wanted? We can save up to “buy” heavenly rewards when we use the things God has given us to serve him. Matthew 6:19-24, Store Up Treasures in Heaven



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Do your kids have piggy banks, or a place to save money? Help them set something up this week, or help them add to what they have. Then ask them how they can save up for treasure in Heaven.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What treasure does Jesus want us to seek?
- Why does Jesus say your heart is where your treasure is?
- How can we save up treasure in Heaven?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

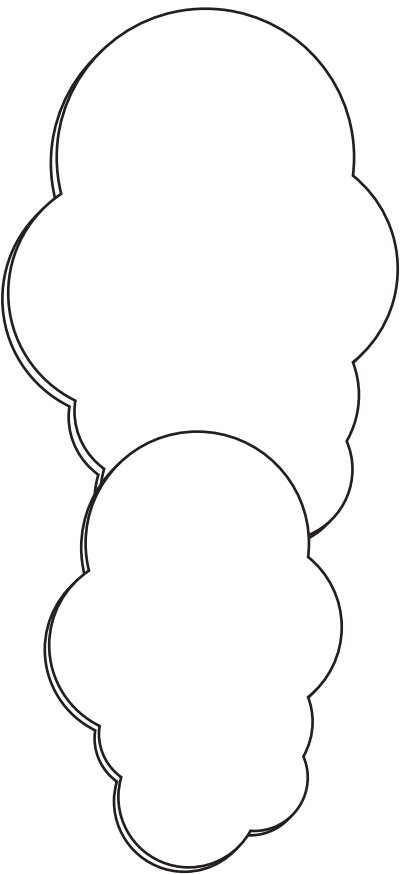
“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.” Colossians 3:1 (NIV)



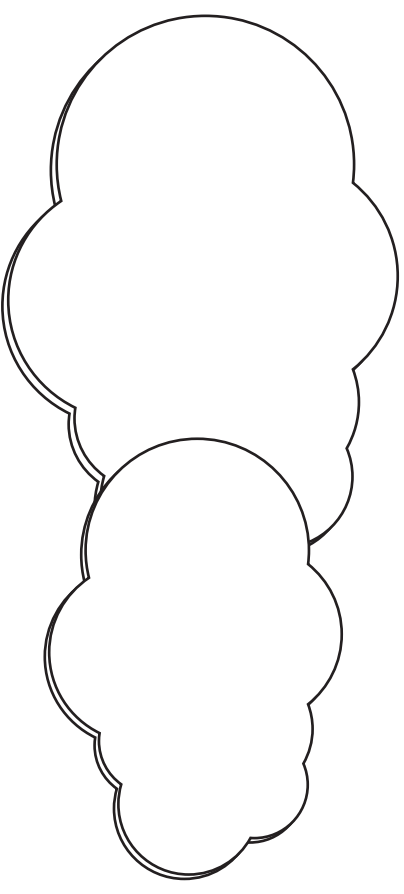
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

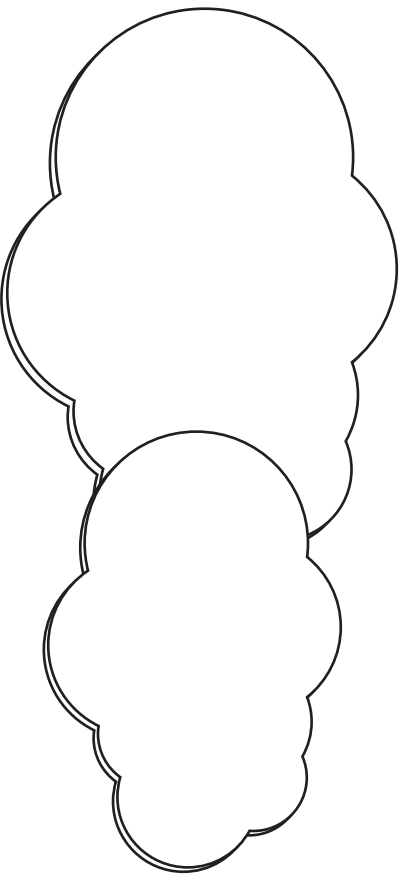
Earthly treasures are nice, but nothing we save up here on Earth is eternal. Jesus wants us to store up treasure in Heaven by using the gifts and talents he's given us to lead others to Him. Ask God to show you and your kids how you can store up treasure in Heaven!



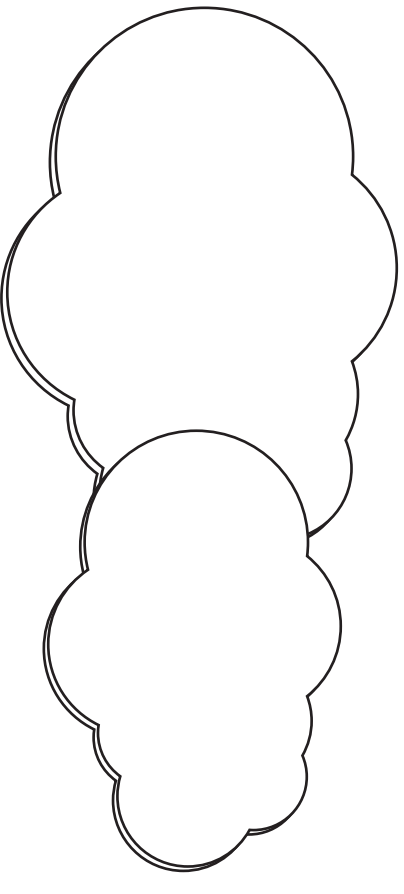
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids make a coin bank out of an old milk chug or some other recycled material. Let them decorate their coin banks with stickers, markers, crayons, etc. Help the kids to put something on their banks to remind them they also need to save up treasure in Heaven.