

Point of the day: Store up treasure in heaven, not stuff for today!

Memory Verse: “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth...but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” Matthew 6:19,20

Clearly the society Jesus lived in was different to where we are today, but the heart attitudes of people haven't changed that much. Modern society glorifies outer riches and materialism, but it's important to tell our children that God wants us to put Him before all other things. All of our treasure is temporary, so we must place our hope in Heaven first and foremost.

STORY (Luke 12:16-21)

Make a list: Ask your child to describe their most valuable things. What do they have that they love the most? If they had to leave home and only take a few things, what would they want?

Explain that today's story will feature a man who thought he could be happy if he had a lot of things. Jesus reminded him of what should be the most important priorities. We should also remember what's key in our lives, and always put God first.

“And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.”” ²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ ²¹“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

In this story, the man had so many things that he had to build a bigger barn. He thought he could relax and enjoy life, but before the day was done his life was over! We can't take anything with us when we die. None of our material things will last forever. Jesus knew this and wanted to remind His listeners of how important it was. Our lives cannot rely on our stuff, but on the maker of all things, on God. Jesus reminded His people that God handles everything we need. We might not always have every little thing we think we want, but we will have what we NEED. God promises this!

How can we build up treasures in Heaven? For one thing, we recognize that this world is not our home. There isn't a problem with having nice things. It's only an issue when we make those things the most important part of our lives. We want to recall all that God has blessed us with. We want to put Him first and foremost. We need to place priority on God and His people. Heaven and the Kingdom of God will last forever!

What Lasts?

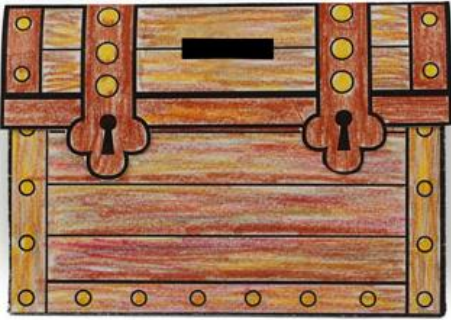
Discuss which things on your child's list will last into eternity. What other good things can be added that will last forever. Discuss with your child that physical things will not remain, but qualities such as love and hope will.

CRAFT

Use the envelope to create a treasure chest.

Write down some treasures that can last forever, and put these inside the envelope.

Don't forget to say a thank you prayer to God for these amazing treasures that He gives to us



Decorate your envelope to make it look like a treasure chest



