

Bible Lesson Plan
Day 6
Samantha Van Zyl

Topic: Money and Greed – What does the Bible say?

Objective(s):

- Students will learn how money can affect a person.
- Students will understand how they should use their money.
- Students will develop their own thoughts and discern what is discussed in class by journaling.
- Students will value the material objects that they do have and the time that they have to spend with people.

Materials needed:

- Bible
- students' journals
- concordance

Strategies:

Introduction - We have learned that pirates in a broad sense are greedy and think of material objects and money higher than many other things. They went out of their way to gain more wealth for themselves. Sometimes that involved stealing and even violence. As Christians, is this the way that we should handle our money? *No, we should be wise with our money. We should be thankful for the money that we do have and give back to God by putting our money in the offering. Answers may vary.* In this lesson we are going to discuss how what the pirates did was wrong but how they can still receive forgiveness because they were made in God's image.

Steps –

1. Does anyone know what a parable is? - *A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.*
2. Everyone, please take out your Bibles and turn to Luke 12 and we will begin our reading at verse 13 and end at verse 21. As we read this together as a class, think of the different characters in the parable.
3. Discuss the Characters in the Parable
 - The Rich Man: Ask the students what they think. At first he appears to be a good man who has many riches. He is content with them and going to enjoy them. Why do you think Christ is telling a story about a rich man to a bunch of poor people and to a greedy brother? *Maybe this could happen to them*
 - God: God is the judge. He thinks the man is a fool. Until verse 20 the rich man doesn't appear to be too bad. Then we get God's opinion of him. The problem is not that he has a lot of riches but his attitude.

- The Greedy brother: He is a greedy man, wants riches, and his attitude is that more money will bring him life.

4. The Particulars of the Parable

- Why do you think Jesus is telling this parable?
- In the parable, Jesus builds up the rich man as a good guy, a content man – something that is rare. The man receiving this story is the opposite of this man. They did both believe that life consisted of stuff, but they had different reasoning.
- In the parable, the man was already rich and that year he had a great crop. One might think that the rich man did not work very hard for this. It looks like Jesus is trying to tell us that when you don't work for something, it is a gift. It was a gift from God. What did the rich man do with the gift? Look at verses 17 and 18. Notice the emphasis on "I" and "my" as he reasons with himself. He did not understand that his prosperity was a gift from God.
- The rich man assumes that he will have a wonderful life and enjoy his stuff. But in verse 20, God says, "you fool." God also says, "this very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" This shows that the man was just a steward of his stuff and not the owner. He could not take that stuff with him.

5. Connection/Importance

- Now what is the connection between the question that the greedy man asked at the beginning of the parable and the parable itself? Have the students discuss openly about this question. *Common connection – material objects.*
- Bring the students back to the importance of this story: that we need to be content with what we have and not be greedy. Follow up with the following verses after the parable about "Do Not Worry." The main point: Because we cannot take our material possessions with us, we should concentrate on storing up eternal treasures in heaven.
- Discussion question: In what ways do you worry? Is it necessary? What other things besides material possessions get in the way of us putting God first in our lives?

Closure - Pirates did not always use the money that they stole to good purposes we need to always remember that they are able to receive God's forgiveness. Have the students journal about what better ways in which they could use their money. Question: What do you treasure? In your response have at least two Bible verses that support your reasoning. They can use the concordance or commentary in the Bible to help them. *Examples of verses: 1 Corinthians 16:2, Matthew 6:31-33, Luke 3:14, Philippians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 6:7-10*

Assignment:

Basic - Have the students form groups and look in the Bible for other examples of good and bad uses of money and the reasoning behind it. If the use of money is bad have the students give an idea of what they can do differently. Concordances should be available for

students so that they can look deeper into the Bible.

Extension – Have the students make goals for themselves on how they will make better use of their money and be thankful for the things that they do have. In what ways can they serve others that are in need rather than focusing on themselves?

Evaluation: The teacher will be able to see if the students comprehend the lesson by observation of discussion during the lesson and the assignments administered during class. The observation will tell me whether or not the students have a good grasp on the information that was covered in class. In the students journals I can evaluate whether or not they understood what we covered in the lesson. Students will meet the objective of developing their own thoughts about money. They should also be able to show how they value material objects through their responses.