

Matthew 6:19–34

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

As part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ taught His disciples to “seek ... first [to build] the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33). In this lesson, you will have an opportunity to ponder and share the importance of putting God first in your life.

The Savior teaches His disciples to “seek ... first the kingdom of God”

Read the following real-life scenarios:

- A young man in California, USA, is a talented surfer, but seminary is scheduled for the same time as practice for his high school surf team.
- A young woman in Brazil is invited to hold a place of honor at her friend’s 15th birthday celebration, but she would be required to wear a dress that does not conform to her standards.
- A young man in New Zealand is a talented rugby player predicted to receive an offer to play professionally, but he is of age to serve a full-time mission.

These are examples of situations in which youth could choose to put God first in their lives, although it would not be easy.

- What questions or concerns might the youth in these situations have about putting God first in their lives?

- What questions or concerns might you and your friends have about putting God first in your lives?

As you study this lesson, ask the Lord to help you address your concerns and feel the importance of putting Him first. Study the following groups of verses and write your thoughts about what you studied. Seek the guidance of the Holy Ghost to help you find and understand truths the Savior taught that could help you put God first in your life.

Matthew 6:19–24. In these verses, the Savior used the word *treasures* to mean what we value greatly, and *eye* to symbolize our vision or focus in life. The Joseph Smith Translation clarifies what the Lord taught in [verse 22](#), “If therefore thine eye be single *to the glory of God*, thy whole body shall be full of light” (Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 6:22 [in [Matthew 6:22](#), footnote *b*]; see also [Doctrine and Covenants 88:67](#)). Also, it may be helpful to note that the word *mammon* refers to worldliness or riches (see [Matthew 6:24](#), footnote *e*).

Matthew 6:25–34. The Joseph Smith Translation of these verses clarifies that the Lord was speaking to His Apostles about their responsibility to “go ... into the world ... teaching the people” (Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 6:25–26 [in the Bible appendix]). The Lord’s instruction was specific to the Twelve Apostles at this time, but the principle He taught applies to us as well. Notice the examples of how God takes care of His creations, including us. As you study, pay special attention to [verse 33](#): the Joseph Smith Translation of this verse begins, “Wherefore, seek not the things of this world but seek ye first to build up the kingdom of God” (Joseph Smith Translation, Matthew 6:38 [in the Bible Appendix]).

Answer the following questions:

- As you read the Savior’s words and invited the guidance of the Holy Ghost, what did you find that was meaningful to you? Why was it meaningful?

The Savior taught true principles in these verses, including that **we cannot serve both God and mammon (or worldliness)** and that **if we seek first to build up the kingdom of God, then He will bless us with what He knows we need.**

- What do you know about Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ that would motivate you to put Them first in your life?

Young people who put God first

If possible, watch one of the following videos of young people who put God first. The videos match the situations at the beginning of the lesson. (All videos are available at ChurchofJesusChrist.org.)

1. [“No Regrets”](#): the young man who surfed.

- What did you like about the video? What did you learn about putting God first?

- When have you put God first in your life?

- What blessings did you see as a result of your decision?

2. [“Virtuous Young Women”](#): the young woman asked to wear an immodest dress.

- What did you like about the video? What did you learn about putting God first?

- When have you put God first in your life?

- What blessings did you see as a result of your decision?

3. “[Your Day for a Mission](#)”: the young man who played rugby.

- What did you like about the video? What did you learn about putting God first?

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- When have you put God first in your life?

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- What blessings did you see as a result of your decision?

Encouraging others to put God first

Take a moment to think about how the Savior’s teachings to put God first in your life apply to you. Continue to seek inspiration from the Holy Ghost as you complete this lesson.

Imagine that your stake or district presidency invited your quorum or class to make a video to help the youth in your area feel motivated to put God first in their lives. The presidency plans to show the video at a youth event.

Complete the following activity:

Create a detailed outline for your video. (You do not need to record a video; you only need to make a plan.) Include the following in your outline:

- At least one truth the Savior taught in [Matthew 6](#) and an explanation of how it can help youth put God first in their lives.
- A modern-day example of someone putting God first in their life. This example could be a personal experience or the experience of someone you know. Write a simple summary of the example.

Also include one or more of the following in your outline:

- A statement by a Church leader
- Pictures or visuals you might include and when you would include them
- Your personal testimony

Write your plan here.

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You may want to share your plan for a video with family and friends. A good time to do this might be when discussing this topic with your family in your *Come, Follow Me* study.

If you have the ability, consider making your video and sharing it with others.