

Family Theme | **Choosing Treasures in Heaven**      Date | **March 17, 2024**

Study Text | **Matthew 19:16–30; 1 Timothy 6:17–19; Matthew 6:19–21**

**Read the Word:** Matthew 19:16–30; 1 Timothy 6:17–19; Matthew 6:19–21

**Disciple Your Family:** Discuss how we should love and trust God more than we love and trust money and possessions.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.

 **Key Truth: Believers Value Following Christ Above Material Possessions (Matthew 19:16–30)**

**APPLY:** Do good deeds out of love for Christ, not to try to earn salvation.

**APPLY:** Our choices reveal what is most important to us.

- *Jesus' teaching about giving all to follow Him would seem extreme to many in our culture. Why?*
- *The rich man chose his possessions over following Christ. What do your choices reveal is most important to you?*

**APPLY:** Don't let wealth and possessions become more important than following Christ.

- *Why are wealth and possessions often an obstacle to salvation?*
- *Why is it so tempting to focus on the here and now and what's in front of us rather than what awaits us in Heaven?*

**APPLY:** Give and serve out of love for Christ.

 **Key Truth: Believers Trust in God, Not Money (1 Timothy 6:17–19)**

**APPLY:** Avoid becoming arrogant and placing trust in money and possessions.

- *Why is it foolish to trust in money?*
- *What does it look like to be wise with our money, while also remembering our ultimate hope and trust are in God?*
- *What are some riches God gives us to enjoy? (Spiritual blessings; family members; friends; material blessings; daily provision; etc.)*

**APPLY:** Follow Christ's example by doing good, being generous, and serving others.

- *How can we be rich in good works? (By giving of our time, money, and other resources to serve Christ and others.)*

 **Key Truth: Heavenly Investments Are the Only Safe Investments (Matthew 6:19–21)**

**APPLY:** Invest your time, talents, and money in things that matter to God.

- *When it comes to our wealth and possessions, why might it be detrimental to be so earthly minded and not heavenly minded?*

- *What can we invest in that matters to God? (Sharing the gospel; making disciples; meeting needs; using our gifts to serve; funding missions; etc.)*
- *What are some practical ways you can start investing in heavenly pursuits this week? In what ways can you use your time, talents, and money?*

**APPLY:** Support your local church and find a place to serve there.

- *Do you believe all people are called to serve in the local church? How might that type of investment lead to great results?*

**Build a Foundation:** Discussion questions for elementary students.

- Why do you think the rich young man could not or would not give up everything to follow Jesus?
- What does the world tell us is more important: earthly riches or heavenly ones? Why do you think that is?
- How can serving others help keep the proper perspective on what is important?
- What are ways to keep your focus on heavenly treasures over earthly ones?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: **Matthew 6:21**



### **Discuss This Week's Building Block:**

The Bible teaches us to seek treasure in Heaven rather than earthly possessions.

### **Everyday Extras:**

Demonstrate the process of threading a needle. Allow every family member to attempt the task and consider adding competition for added fun. Threading a shoelace through shoe eyelets would work better for younger kids. Discuss how difficult it is to fit the thread through the eye of the needle. What other things around our house might fit through the hole (fishing line, a strand of hair, pasta noodle)? What about a banana? A pillow? A stuffed animal? A camel?

Jesus used the example of a camel when he talked to the rich young ruler. He wanted the man to know that a person who loved earthly treasures (money, fame, having lots of stuff) more than the things of God would have a harder time getting into Heaven than someone trying to get a camel through the eye of a needle.

Jesus wanted the man to understand that earthly treasures do not compare to the heavenly treasures we receive when we follow and serve God. We need to keep our focus on things that help us grow closer to Jesus and show others we value our relationship with Him.

### **Preschool Highlights:**

Today your child heard a parable about a son who left home and wasted all his money. He returned home to ask to be one of his father's workers. When the father saw his son, he ran to him and forgave him. The son was so special to his father that he celebrated his return. **We Are Special to God** and He forgives us and celebrates our return to Him.