

# Giving Our Treasures – Middle to Older Elementary

Matthew 6:19-21

November 19, 2023

## GATHER

Show kids some fake money. **Say:** We all like money. We use money to buy stuff like food, clothes, or toys. When we buy something, we trade some of our money for those things because we like them or need them. Sometimes it is good to think about how we received our money and how we spend it. Have you ever done that? We're going to do it now.

Think about last month. Did you receive money from your allowance, a gift, or from doing chores? How much money did you have to spend? Now think about how you spend that money. We'll work together to fill out a chart to see where our money goes.

Food, Candy, Drinks	\$	Clothes	\$
Toys & Games	\$	Gifts for Others	\$
Movies, Books, Comics, music	\$	Church Offering	\$
Other	\$		
Total:			

## Discuss:

1. What does it tell you about what you consider important?
2. What does it say about your treasure?
3. Now look at what you gave to others or the church. Which one is bigger?

If I did the same things for my expenses, I might find the same results. Do you think this makes God happy? Probably not. As we learned last week, God wants us to help others in need and that means we are helping God. When we give to charities and the church, that money is used to help others.

Let's pray and then we'll look at what the Bible says about giving of our treasures.

## Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for your love and generosity in blessing our lives each day. Help us to be grateful and to find ways to show that gratitude by being generous with others. Amen.

## Open the Bible

**Say:** Jesus was speaking to a group of people on a hillside. What he said was part of his Sermon on the Mount. He taught people about how to live a life that is dedicated to and pleasing to God.

Watch the Bible Story - [Bethy's Bible Bites](#)

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Second story on Treasures - [YouTube](#)

## Discussion

- What is Jesus saying about treasure?
- Define the words: generous (*showing a readiness to give more of something, as money or time, than is strictly necessary or expected*), grateful (*feeling or showing an appreciation of kindness; thankful*), and stewardship (*having the responsibility of caring for someone else's belonging*)

## Activate Faith

### Gratitude Journals – craft

**Say:** In our busy routines, we rush past the daily reminders God gives us of His generosity. This week is Thanksgiving and it's a time to remember all the things God has given us that we should be thankful for. Have kids generate a list of things to be thankful for. Examples: a warm bed, a closet of clothes, a hot shower, food on the table, the ability to see, hear, walk and think)

We are going to make a journal for you to keep track of all these gifts and blessings God has given each of us. Every time you become aware of something God has done or has given you, jot it down in your journal.



Items to decorate the journal

#### **What you will need:**

Colored Cardstock for cover and back

White paper (3-5 sheets depending on size of journal)

Stapler (alternately you can hole punch and use yarn to bind together)

Markers

#### **How to make:**

1. Cut the colored card stock in half so you will have a cover and a back for your journal.
2. Cut the white paper in half for the pages of your journal.
3. Assemble the journal with the pages in between the cardstock and either staple it together or punch several holes and lace yarn through them to bind together.
4. Write "I am Thankful for..." on the front cover and decorate as desired.

## Closing Discussion

**Say:** Everyone likes to be able to buy things they like but we must remember God wants us to use our money wisely and make good decisions about how it's spent. Just like we

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talked about last week with time being only 24 hours in a day, we all only have a certain amount of money to spend.

Advertisers know just what to say in their commercials to make us want to purchase their products. The images you see, the music you hear, and the words spoken are all designed to make you want to buy merchandise or services. We must use good judgement in choosing what we really need and not just what we want. We must try to find the best use of our money as it's all a gift from God.

God is more generous than we can imagine. We are to be grateful for all God's wonderful gifts and show our gratitude through generosity to others and to God's work.

### **I am Thankful for... - worksheet**

Starting with the letter A and continuing to Z, find something you are thankful for starting with each letter of the alphabet.

### **A Cheerful Giver – Story (if time)**

**Supplies:** Copy of "A Cheerful Giver".

**Say:** I think a cheerful person is more pleasant to be around than a grumpy person.

Let's do an experiment to see if that's true.

*Ask for two helpers. One will be the Sunny Servant, and one will be the Grumpy Griper.*

*Ask each volunteer to do a simple task such as getting a book from across the room.*

*Have the Grumpy Griper sigh, complain, drag his or her feet, and whine. Next have the Sunny Servant do the same task quickly and cheerfully.*

Invite kids to vote whether they'd rather associate with a Sunny Servant or a Grumpy Griper. Then **say:** Wouldn't it be awful if everyone in our lives were grumpy and unwilling to help? Jesus is a great example of how to be a willing servant of God. He even died on the cross for us!

Fill out the "Cheerful Giver" Worksheet by asking kids for words to fill in the blanks.

- Boy's name
- Day of the week
- Month
- Girls' name
- Color
- Animal
- Boy's name
- Color
- Animal
- Silly name boy's name
- Girl's name