20 Family matters - Wealth and possessions

Personal wealth

Think for a minute about these passages and make one or two notes about what they say.



Exodus 30:15; Proverbs 22:2; Psalm 49:15-20. How does God value us, and what does he think of our riches or poverty?



" They're having money problems. Better hide your piggy bank.'

Is it good or bad to be rich?

Some more scripture teaching to look at. What do these verses teach us? If you have time, think about some biblical characters who were rich or poor, and see what lessons we can learn from them.

Ecclesiastes 5:10-17 and 18-6:3: Proverbs 28:6.

1 Timothy 6:7-11; Matthew 19:23-26; Proverbs 11:4.

Luke 6:22-25; Matthew 6:22-34; Philippians 4:11-13.

Some instructions

What do these verses teach us about how we should use, or think about, wealth?

Matthew 5:42 and James 2:2-4: Romans 12:13 and Matthew 6:2

'Two things I ask of you, O LORD; do not refuse me before I die: Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. Otherwise. I may have too much and disown you and say, "Who is the LORD?" Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonour the name of my God.' (Proverbs 30:7-9)

What are true riches?

Isaiah 55:1-2 and Jeremiah 9:23-24; James 2:5 and 1 Timothy 6:17-19

Some good advice

- Don't be greedy.
- Don't worry about what other people have.
- Don't worry about what other people think of what you have or don't have.
- Help others with what you have.
- Don't get into debt trying to live beyond your means.
- Thank God and recognise that everything has come from him.

If you are married:

- Try to please your husband or wife, not yourself.
- Share your money, pay the bills, then decide together what to do with the rest.

Possessions and the family

Most families need to borrow money to buy a house. What pressures can this put on family life?

Think about who in a marriage should look after money. What should happen?

What causes arguments? How can they be avoided?

How can a family avoid getting into financial trouble?

Some questions to think about:

- Should we give to charities? Which?
- The whole purpose of a husband and wife is that when hard times knock at the door you should be able to embrace each other. (Nelson Mandela)
- Should we give to beggars?
- Should we give tithes?
 - When Jesus comes could you walk out on everything you possess?
- How important is it to have a nice home? Good car? Good job?
- How important are good qualifications?



