

Aim of lesson

To consider the Master's attitude to possessions and riches.

Bible background

Matthew 6:19-34; Luke 12:13-34

Outline of lesson

Where is your treasure?

Ask the class how they would complete the sentence "If I were a rich man...". You may like to play the song as an introduction if you can get hold of a copy.

Read together Matthew 6:19-34. Get the class to answer the first set of questions in the workbook, contrasting 'treasure on earth' with 'treasure in heaven'. Now fill the treasure chests with the appropriate answers. They will probably find it hard to think of heavenly treasure, so you could come back to it after the next section.

Treasure Hunt

Have cards ready with one of the following references on each to send them off on a biblical treasure hunt! (They may need help with some of the references to decide exactly what the treasure is, so notes are included here – do not put these on the cards.)

1. Matthew 13:44 Kingdom of heaven
2. Colossians 2:3 Christ in whom are all treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
3. Philippians 4:1 Brothers and sisters – joy and crown – a family.
4. Ephesians 1:7 Riches of his grace – forgiveness or undeserved kindness.
5. Romans 9:23 Riches of his glory.
6. Ephesians 3:16 To be strengthened with his might.
7. 2 Peter 1:4 Great and precious promises of having divine nature.
8. Hebrews 11:26 Reproach of Christ – greater riches than the treasure of Egypt.
9. Malachi 3:16-17 We are God's treasure.

You may like to arrange the cards on the walls around the room like a treasure hunt. When they have collected their treasure, go through each reference with them as the lessons do need bringing out.

Real freedom

Go back to the workbook for the word square which represents a prison window. If the class have light coloured pens or pencils, they can colour in the vertical words of earthly treasure – some might be what the class said they would like in the first section. In the space below they can write the heavenly treasure which is mostly taken from what Jesus promises in Matthew 5:3-10. If there is time the class might like to find the verse related to each.

Digging deeper

Money, money, money

This section looks at the attitudes to money of some Biblical characters: Matthew, the widow who gave two mites, the rich young man and Zacchaeus. The second part looks at God's attitude to money, illustrated in the parables of the workers in the vineyard and the rich fool.

Relevance to our lives

Ask the class during the week to finish the sentence "If I were a rich man God would like me to..." You may like to ask the class to plan some practical way of helping poor in the world.

Prayer

Father, you give us life and everything we need. Thank you for being so generous with us. Help us to be generous and caring with others.

Other suggestions for activities

- The class could write their own modern version of the parable of the Rich Fool, Luke 12:13-21.
- The song 'Seek ye first' (Hymn 356) is suitable for this lesson. The class may like to add verses of their own about what they have learnt.