

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** *Treasure in Heaven*

**Lesson Objective:** To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God kept His greatest and best promise by sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sins.

In our lesson today, we pause on the story from Jesus' post-resurrection appearances to His Ascension in Matthew 28 and Acts 1. For the next few Sundays we will revisit some of the key teachings and stories found in Matthew 5-7, or what we call the Sermon on the Mount. The second lesson from the Sermon on the Mount relates to what we love, how we find significance in what we love, how they can determine our lives, and what truly should be the most important thing we do. A summary is that the thing, or the Person, we love the most should be the Lord and the most important thing we should be doing is seeking His Kingdom and righteousness. If those things are priorities, everything else will fall into place. This is not to say life will be easy if you just love God and seek His kingdom. Human history proves otherwise. However, the assurance is that if we love the Lord and seek His Kingdom, the anxieties and worries that consume us or we pursue so often become insignificant in comparison!

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:19-34

**Story:** Gospel Story Bible, Pages 188-189; Jesus Story Book Bible, Pages 228-235; The Beginner's Bible, Pages 331-335.

## 9:30am Sunday Schedule

**Opening Activity:** Hedbanz

**Cherub Church**

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 168, 166, 165, 164, 163)

**Craft:** Treasure Trunk

**Supplies:** Cardstock trunk, heart, tape, crayons/markers

**Instructions:**

1. Fold trunk along seams to replicate 3-D shape. Secure with tape.
2. Help child write what their treasures are on the heart shape
3. Place heart inside treasure trunk.

**Relay of the Day:** *Tug of War*. One part of our passage today from the Sermon on the Mount talks about the "pull" we feel between serving both God and money...basically building our own kingdom or God's. Play tug of war with your students using the rope provided in the classroom. Talk about the pull the good gifts God gives us can have on our hearts, our time, our thoughts and our talent. Share some "pulls" you feel on your own time, talent and treasure as you seek to build His kingdom come!

**Snack**

## 11am Sunday Schedule

**Opening Activity:** Hedbanz

**Craft:** Bird

**Supplies:** Cardstock bird, feathers, blue ribbon, glue, tape, crayons/markers

**Instructions:**

1. Color the bird.
2. Using glue attach feathers to the wings and tails.
3. Apply blue ribbon to back of each wing with tape.

**Relay of the Day:** *Tug of War*. One part of our passage today from the Sermon on the Mount talks about the "pull" we feel between serving both God and money...basically building our own kingdom or God's. Play tug of war with your students using the rope provided in the classroom. Talk about the pull the good gifts God gives us can have on our hearts, our time, our thoughts and our talent. Share some "pulls" you feel on your own time, talent and treasure as you seek to build His kingdom come!



### **Story: *Treasure in Heaven***

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the transition question: Boys and girls, what is the one thing you love the most in this world? [Allow time for answers] In our story today Jesus tells us that what we love the most is what is most important to us. Let's find out in our story what Jesus tells us we should love the most...
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story. Feel free to edit and adapt to your own style. Include props and teaching aids as you see fit.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

### **Teaching Summary:**

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- For many, many years God's people expected the Promised One – a King – to come and make all things right.
- Jesus' continues to teach on the Sermon on the Mount.
- Jesus focuses on what the heart loves most, who should a person serve, if God cares about His people, and what our primary calling is as Christians.
- Jesus' focus is to call the crowd or people to follow Him and a new way of life.

## **Story**

### **Transition**

Boys and girls, what is the one thing you love the most in this world? [Allow time for answers] In our story today Jesus tells us that what we love the most is what is most important to us. Let's find out in our story what Jesus tells us we should love the most...

### **Treasures in Heaven**

After Jesus spoke about how to pray to God and about forgiving those who hurt us, He had more important things to tell everyone.

Jesus wanted to warn people that what mattered most was their relationship with God. Jesus told the gathered crowd, "Don't store treasures for yourselves here on earth. Moths and rust will destroy treasures here on earth. And thieves can break into your house and steal the things you have." People can have lots of things, and Jesus wanted to remind them that those earthly possessions – like clothes, furniture, toys, precious things – can break or be taken away! So, Jesus went on to tell the crowd what to do. "Store your treasure in heaven. The treasures in heaven cannot be destroyed by moths or rust. And thieves cannot break in and steal that treasure. Your heart will be where your treasure is." When Jesus talks about the heart He was speaking about what a person loves the most. What a person loves the most is what you prize, protect and build your life around, or "treasure." Jesus was saying what you love the most is going to determine everything else about your life. So, don't make things that can be broken or taken away the most important thing in your life!

Jesus went on to talk about where your treasure is. "No one can serve two masters. He will hate one master and love the other. Or he will follow one master and refuse to follow the other. So, you cannot serve God and money at the same time." A person can only serve one Master, God or money (or something else). Jesus wanted to relate that the treasure in your heart will be your Master or boss. Whether it's God or something else, your life will be controlled by it. Jesus knew that if people treasured and loved God, it would not feel like they are being bossed around. In fact, Jesus would tell the crowd later that to love and treasure God would set them free! But if a person made money or something else the most important thing, it would feel like the person was a servant to it.



## **God Cares**

Jesus did not stop teaching. Jesus wanted people to know that not only was God the most important person, the One whom they should love the most, but that God cared for each person. "I tell you, don't worry about the food you need to live. And don't worry about the clothes you need for your body. Life is more important than food. And the body is more important than clothes." Then Jesus pointed to the sky and told the people, "Look at the birds in the air. They can't make their own food! But your heavenly Father feeds them. And you know that you are worth much more than the birds. You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it. And why do you worry about clothes? Look at the flowers in the field. See how they grow. They don't work or make clothes for themselves."

Jesus wanted the people to know that God in Heaven knows that His people need to eat and be clothed. And God will provide those things to His people. People should not give all of their attention to eating or what to wear. Instead, Jesus told the people to do one thing. "The thing you should want most is God's kingdom and doing what God wants. Then all these other things you need will be given to you." Jesus wanted the crowd to give all of their attention to doing what God wants. That was the most important thing they could do!

## **Questions for Review**

### Questions for Younger Children:

- What did Jesus say would destroy our treasures on earth?
- Where does Jesus say to store our treasure?
- When Jesus says "heart" what does He mean?
- When Jesus says "treasure" what does He mean?
- Jesus says you can only serve how many masters?
- Jesus says a person cannot serve God and \_\_\_\_\_?
- Jesus reminded people that God takes care of \_\_\_\_\_?
- How does God take care of the birds?
- How does God take care of you?
- What is the most important thing God wants for you?

### Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about God's faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about God's love for us?

## **Scripture Memory for April:**

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

## **Catechism Questions (1-20)**