

SESSION 1: TREASURES IN HEAVEN

Watch the video or read the script together as a group; then discuss the following questions. Keep in mind the questions are meant to prompt conversation, so don't feel the need to use or discuss every question.

BIBLE REFERENCES

Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:15, 21; 1 Timothy 6:18-19

QUESTIONS

1. What is one treasure that you can think of that can be stored in heaven?
2. What does your life look like if you have God set in the right priority?
3. Why do earthly priorities often receive more of our attention than spiritual priorities?
4. What are some ways that you can use your possessions and gifts to glorify God?
5. Why is Jesus your greatest treasure? How can your life demonstrate this fact?
6. *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.* What does this mean to you?
7. **PERSONAL TAKE HOME:** Use this rewriting of 1 Timothy 6:18-19 as a personal prayer this week: *Let me do good, that I may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for myself a good foundation for the time to come, that I may lay hold on eternal life.*

[illegible]

SCRIPT & ADDITIONAL CONTEXT

SESSION 1: TREASURES IN HEAVEN

Today, we'll continue exploring the lessons Jesus taught while preaching the Sermon on the Mount. In this session, we'll focus on Jesus' teaching about storing up treasures in heaven.

What comes to mind when you hear the word "treasure"? You've most likely seen a movie about a person or a group of people desperately trying to find long-lost treasure. They're usually willing to go to incredible lengths to get their hands on someone else's possessions. And often, they come to the end of their journey only to discover that time has eroded the treasure, or someone else has beaten them to it. Treasures can cause us to do extraordinary things. That's why Jesus teaches us to focus on treasures of heaven.

Let's read the words of Jesus recorded in Matthew 6, verses 19-21: *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

These verses prompt us to ask:

1. Are your priorities only for this life, or the one to come?
2. What types of treasures are you storing up for yourself?
3. Where are you keeping those treasures?
4. Where is your heart?

Jesus' teaching in these verses is about priorities. He's challenging us to assess our top priority in life. If we've been seeking material goods and riches, He's encouraging us to change our mindset and begin setting up a storehouse of treasures in heaven. He's asking us to see a bigger picture. This can be hard to do in the midst of our earthly life, when we're concerned from one day to the next about things we believe we "need" to do. Material goods are important for this life. Jesus would not have taught us to pray, *"Give us this day our daily bread,"* if He had not considered material necessities important. But Jesus instructs us to give first priority to those things that have an eternal effect, and then care for the things of this life. Through it all, we can trust in Him and remain confident that the One who hears our prayers will provide what we need.

Jesus' intent is not to dissuade us from establishing our earthly life. He doesn't restrict us from purchasing a home, setting up a savings account, or having valuable possessions. However,

those things are not to be our chief objective! Instead, these earthly riches can be used for His glory. How do you do that? If you've been blessed with a home, invite people in to share a meal and lift up the name of Jesus together. The same concept applies to all of the physical abilities and material possessions you've been given. Give God the glory for all that you have! Build up heavenly treasure by doing good to others in Jesus' name. Seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit on how to use your gifts to edify others, carry out the mission of the Church, and profess your heavenly citizenship given through faith in Jesus Christ.

Is there a better place to store up your treasures than in heaven? You certainly wouldn't store your most valuable possessions in a place that can easily be accessed by thieves, or damaged by the weather. Who better to entrust with your most valuable treasures than the One who is our greatest treasure? He encourages us today to store up treasures with Him so that we can enjoy them with Him for all eternity. Jesus affirms that if we lay up treasure in heaven, our hearts will rejoice in the investment. Ask yourself daily, "Is my heart with Him in heaven?" When we can answer that question affirmatively, we can live each day with joy as our heavenly treasures multiply.

In conclusion, consider the words that Paul wrote to Timothy (1 Timothy 6:18-19), asking God to help us keep our focus on heavenly treasures: *"Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."*

ADDITIONAL CONTEXT

When the Greek word *thēsauros* is used, it describes either the place where good and precious things are collected laid up or the actual things that are stored in one of those places.

Luke 12:15 - *And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."*

Luke 12:21 - *"So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*