

## JESUS ADVISES TO STRIVE FIRST FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD

### Objective

The children learn that greater value is to be placed on being rich in the eyes of God than on having earthly possessions.

### Contents

- The parable of the foolish rich man (Luke 12:13–21).
- The rich young man (Matthew 19:16–24).
- “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matthew 6:21).





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### Lesson Plan

#### Lead-In

#### Question Prompt

Imagine that someone would give a two-year old child the opportunity to select either a colourful toy or a banknote. Which one would the child reach for?

#### Discussion

The child will in all likelihood select the toy because

- it appears attractive to him or her, and
- he or she does not yet recognize the value of the banknote.

#### Teacher's Presentation

An older child or youth would likely have decided differently and chosen the banknote. Generally, people place different values on things.

If we consider something to be attractive, more often than not we are prepared to take a lot of trouble in order to possess it.

#### Statement Prompt

Provide an example of this!

#### Discussion

Several children report about their experiences.

#### Teacher's Presentation

Jesus advised repeatedly, to pay close attention to the value we attach to earthly things.

### Implementation

#### Workbook, Exercise 1

The children individually work on exercise 1.

#### Discussion

Discuss the answers and emphasize the following:

- Jesus told the parable of the foolish rich man to warn against greed.
- Through a good harvest which, no doubt, had been diligently worked for, the rich man became even more wealthy.
- His sole endeavour was to preserve this wealth.
- In doing so, he neglected to strive for the riches important in the eyes of God.
- He was called a fool by the Lord because, after his death, all his possessions would go to someone else anyway.

**Teacher's Presentation**

It is not reprehensible to work diligently in order to make provisions for the future. However, no matter how much we may accumulate, everything is transitory and remains on the earth. None of it can be taken along when we leave the earth.

About this the Lord Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "... seek ye first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33). Thereby he calls upon us firstly to make provisions for eternal life.

Write on the board:

**Board**

**Worldly possessions must not hinder us from**  
 – making provisions for eternal life

**Statement Prompt**

Once a rich young man came to Jesus asking him what good he must do to gain eternal life.

**Workbook, Exercise 2**

The children work on exercise 2.

**Discussion**

Afterwards discuss the answers.

- The rich young man had kept the commandments since his youth.
- He wanted to find out from the Lord Jesus what he was still lacking.
- Jesus told him to sell everything (i.e., not to be bound to his wealth) and give it to the poor.
- Jesus asked him to follow him.
- The rich young man was so fond of what he owned that he just could not sell everything and follow the Lord.

It is important to remember the proper sequence of things in all our striving and aspirations.

Write on the board:

**Board**

**Worldly possessions must not hinder us from**  
 – making provisions for eternal life, and  
 – following Jesus Christ.



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**Workbook**

The children transfer what is written on the board into their workbook.

**Question Prompt**

How can we make provisions for eternal life and follow Jesus Christ?

**Discussion**

By

- regarding godly gifts (e.g., the childhood in God, God's word, the divine service, etc.) more highly than earthly ones.
- endeavouring daily to prove our worth as children of God and to keep the commandments.
- receiving God's servants and allowing ourselves to be led by them.

**Question Prompt**

How can one see, what is most valuable to a person?

In response, a child reads the following aloud:

**Bible**

Matthew 6:21:

*"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."*

**Question Prompt**

What is your treasure, what is important to you?

The children cite examples out of their lives.

Point out that, for example, parents, health and the childhood in God, are important treasures.

What is important to us,

- we will think of often,
- we will speak of often,
- we will sacrifice time and energy for.

**Conclusion**

**Question Prompt**

What do we get if we strive first for the kingdom of God rather than after that which is transitory?

**Discussion**

We are able to gain eternal life (i.e., to live in eternal fellowship with God).

