



Kingdom Investments - Session One

“Where is your treasure?”

Session One Purpose: To discover biblical passages concerned with putting Christ first in your life, and clearly understanding the things that keep you from investing in God’s Kingdom.

Needed for session: Paper, pens, Bibles for each person.

Leaders’ Introduction: (Put the following in your own words.) “We are one of many different groups that are starting on this three-week journey, called Kingdom Investments. In this study, we will study Scripture that will help us develop a biblical approach to giving money at Hope. This Bible is our authority in faith and life. Reading it and discussing what it teaches, will help us on this journey. Let’s pray together.”

Play “Video One” (10 minutes)

Depending on your size group: “I want you to divide up in groups of four today. Please get into these groups with people you don’t know very well.” (Alternative approach: Have people number off by 1-4, and then assign locations for all the ones to sit, next all the twos, etc.) Now go around and introduce yourself to other group members giving your name, and your birthday. Each group has to have a leader, so the person whose birthday is closest to April 1 will be that leader. Now, figure out who that is in your group. Also, each group must have a “scribe.” The scribe’s job is to write out the group’s answer to questions on the blank paper provided. Who will be the scribe for each group?” [Each group will appoint a scribe. Ask each group to point out their scribe.]

Bible Study (10 minutes): The leader says, “Turn in your Bibles to Matthew 6:19-21. Each group leader is to read this passage to the group with the notes below the passage.”

19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Study Notes:

1. V. 19 “Do not lay up” From the Greek: “to not treasure,” “to not store up,” “to not keep safe.” It is a command.
2. “Treasures” is from the Greek word “thesaurus,” which means “wealth,” “riches.”
3. V. 20 “lay up” is from the same word for treasures (therasurizo) and means “to keep safe,” “to treasure up.” It is a command.

Each group leader now is to ask the group to discuss the following questions. The group needs to have a written answer for each question, which the group’s scribe will write out on the provided paper.

1. What does “Do not lay up” (v. 19) mean? What are ways to say, “Do not lay up” in contemporary English?
2. What are “treasures on earth?” List some of them.
3. What does “where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal,” mean?
4. What does “Lay up” (v.20) mean, and how what is another way to say it?
5. What are “treasures in heaven?” List some of these.
6. What does “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (21) mean?

Group Reports (10 minutes): The Leader asks for the answers for each question from each group. For example, say “Question One, what did group one find out?” Then, after the representative of group one answers the question, say, “Did anyone else get anything different?”

Leader asks: “This passage in Matthew six has been called the *Treasure Principle*. Why is it important for us as we begin to understand biblical giving?” (Answer: Because putting the most important thing, the Kingdom of God, first will work out the details of a person’s life. When your values are correct, you can deal with the specifics.)

Leader reads: “Jesus teaches that the most important things in life are not material things, but things dealing with his kingdom. Real and honest joy come to the person who puts the Kingdom of God at the center of his or her life. Jesus answers the questions about what treasures in heaven are in Luke 12:33-34:

“Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with

moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heaven that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Also, can someone read Mark 10:17-22?

“And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: “Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.” And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.”

Leader reads: “At that time, if a person asked a rabbi a question, they would have to do whatever the rabbi commanded in his answer. They obeyed the rabbi because they greatly respected the rabbi’s authority, and believed he was God’s voice on earth. If they did not believe in the rabbi’s authority, they would not ask a question. The man in this account with Jesus was disheartened because his money and possessions were at the center of his life and were keeping him from the Kingdom of God. The fact that he went away disheartened, shows that Jesus had touched the most sensitive area in his life. The man would have to obey Jesus because, in that culture, he submitted to Jesus’ authority when he asked the question. Jesus’ point is expressed in Matthew 6:24, “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.”

Group Sharing (10 minutes): The Leader introduces the group activity by saying, “What I want you to do next is to think about the things that hold you back from totally following Jesus. What are they? If you had been the person to ask Jesus “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” what would he point out in your life? On a sheet of paper, list these things. Then, when everyone is finished listing, go around your group and each person shares and explains one of his/her items.”

Group Prayer (10 minutes): Invite members of each group to pray together regarding the things they listed. Tell them to bring these before Jesus in prayer and allow him to direct them on how to deal with them.

Last thoughts of the Leader: “Thanks so much for coming to this session. Next week we will study roadblocks in giving and learn two important principles that direct how we handle our finances. Let me urge you to come back next week. Good night!”