

## Sunday Teacher's Lesson for Children

# Life of Christ

## The Manager and money Luke 16:1-15

### Younger Verse

Work for the Lord. Colossians 3:23

### Older Verse

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men. Colossians 3:23

### Welcome Time

Sometimes it is tempting to take money or be dishonest. Let's see what Jesus says about money.

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

One day Jesus was talking to His friends and a group of people. He wanted to talk to them about something very important. Jesus used a story to help his friends see what should be most important to them.

One day, a rich man found out that his manager was wasting his money. A manager is someone who takes care of someone else's things. For example, an apartment manager takes care of the apartments for the owner. A manager in a store takes care of the store for the owner.

Sure enough, this manager had been taking extra money for himself and cheating the owner.

When the manager heard that his secret had been found out, he tried to think of something that he could do. He knew that he would be fired from his job and he would need a place to go. So, he went to some of the people that owed the rich man some money.

The first man owed 800 gallons of olive oil. The manager told the man to quickly tear up the bill and write the amount owed at 400 gallons.

Then, he went to another man who owed 1,000 bushels of wheat. He told the man to change the bill to 800 bushels of wheat that was owed.

The manager did this in hopes that these "favors" would help him get a job somewhere else in the future.

Later, the rich man heard what the manager had done. He saw that he had lost money and the manager had gained some friends because they did not have to pay back as much as was owed.

### Lesson Goals

Love God more than money  
Take care of the things that God has given us

The rich man knew that the manager had lied and cheated. He had robbed the man of the money he was due. He also saw how shrewd the man was. That is a word that means tricky or clever. The manager was tricky in that he thought of a way to benefit himself even when he was about to be fired.

Why would Jesus tell a story like this? It's all about a man who was tricky and got more money because of it. Let's see why Jesus told this story.

Jesus continued to talk to His friends and the crowd. He shared how people who were dishonest with a little, will be dishonest with a lot. He also explained that God wanted people to be honest and truthful. He wanted people who could be trusted with a little or a lot.

Then, Jesus told the group that they could not serve two things and love them both the same. He explained that a person could not love money and also love God. Now, be careful with what Jesus said. He did not say it was wrong to have money. He said that it was wrong to LOVE money more than to love God.

The important thing to us should be God. God loves us and made a way for us to be in Heaven with Him one day. We are the most important thing to Him. He loved us so much that He did something for us so that we would be able to get into Heaven. God is perfect and pure. We have all sinned (done wrong) and this has separated us from God. God made a way for us to be able to go to Heaven. God sent us His one and only Son, Jesus, to do an amazing thing for us. Jesus died on a cross for all the wrong things that WE have done. If we believe in Jesus and tell Him we are sorry for the wrong things we have done, Jesus will come into our heart and make us clean on the inside. Jesus will take us to Heaven one day to be with God. Jesus will help us do good to others and love people who are hard to love. He will also help us tell others about Him! If you want to know more about Jesus, talk to us about how you can believe in Him.

Another lesson that we can learn is that just as the manager was given special things to take care of, God has also given us things to take care of here. Jesus was helping His friends see that we must not waste what God has given us. If we can sing, we should sing for God, if we can draw, we can draw special pictures for God. God has given us ALL special ways we can use our gifts and talents to help others.

**Learning Activities**

This is a hard lesson to understand. Share how we should love God above all other things.

**Memory Verse Activities**

God wants us to do our best in all we do. Play balloon volleyball. Each person that hits the balloon must say a word of the verse. It's lots of fun!

**Prayer Time**

Pray together and ask God to help us love Him most of all!

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Munch on chocolate coins as a fun snack. Green fruit roll ups are great too.

Planning for Sept. 26  
The Rich Man and Lazarus  
Luke 16:19-31

Preschool Lesson  
For  
The Manager and the Money

Bring little coins for the kids to see. Ask the kids what you have in your hand (money). Share that today's story is about a man and money.

A long time ago, there was a mean man who took care of some money. He was not honest or truthful. Every once in a while, he would take some of the money for himself, even though it did not belong to him. This is a very sad thing. (Make a sad face)

One day, the owner of the money found out what the mean man was doing. He was so sad that the man was taking his money and cheating him. He was stealing money from him!

He talked to the man and fired him. That means that he no longer could work for him.

This mean man loved money so much that he was willing to lie and steal for it. The money was controlling him. That's wrong. God wants us to love HIM and not money.

Jesus told this story to help us learn an important lesson. We **MUST** love God and not money. That means we cannot try and try to get more money and put it above God. God must be the most important thing in our lives.

Sing, "My best friend is Jesus."

Pray and ask God to help us love Him most of all.

## Hands-on Activities For The Manager and the Money

Often when we have a birthday, there are candles on the cake. A big tradition is to make a wish as the birthday person blows out the candles. It is a fun time for everyone. As we grow older, we realize that the wishes most likely do not come true. In the same way, sometimes people “wish” for money or want to get “rich.” The Bible tells us that instead of longing for money, we should love God. Another thing to think about is that instead of “wishing” for things, we should pray about our needs. God promises to answer our prayers. He may not always say “yes,” but He always does what is best for us.

Have you ever seen those ATM machines that give you money? People put in a plastic card, push a few buttons and surprise! They get money! Many times, people wish that they could have lots of money like the very rich. God helps us see that money does not buy happiness. Only God can give us a peace and happiness.

Make a paper wallet. Fold paper or cardstock to make a wallet an appropriate size. Staple the sides together. Write on the paper wallet the words, “Love God more than money.”

There are some board games that include paper money. Play one of the games with the kids, keeping in mind that they should not get “greedy” over the money. There will most likely be good teaching opportunities during the game!

Bring unusual coins to make coin rubbings. Place paper over the coins and rub with a crayon.

Let the group “design” their own coins. Glue or tape yarn to a large circle of cardboard. The yarn will be shaped into a pattern for the coin. Be sure to make a pattern on both sides of the cardboard. Now, cover the cardboard with aluminum foil to resemble a coin!