

Materials I Need:

Legend:

 = Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade

 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Bolded Words in Story = Key Concepts to Highlight during the Bible Adventure

Memory Work:

“No servant can serve two masters. 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 both God and money.” Luke 16:13 (NIV)

Aim Questions:

1. Why did the unfaithful manager reduce the debts owed to the rich man?
2. For what did the rich man praise the manager who was wasting his possessions?
3. What are we supposed to do or not do with the money and things God gives to us?
4. What are some of the things the Pharisees thought about money, wealth, keeping the Law and themselves?
5. How did the parable about the rich man and Lazarus show what the Pharisees believed was wrong?
6. What are some examples of how we can be good managers for God and wisely use money, wealth and resources He has entrusted to us?

 **Hook:**

Some Kind of Kid (Short Skit).

Frankie: I just know I'll flunk the history final if you won't let me look at your answers. Please, Andy, please, please??? Let me use your answers. Come on, please???

Andy: I don't know, Frankie, why should I?

Frankie: I'll pay you. How about that? Would you do it for a million bucks?

Andy: Anyone would do it for a million bucks! But you know you don't have a million bucks.

Frankie: Would you do it for a thousand bucks?

Andy: Sure, who wouldn't? But you don't have a thousand bucks, either.

Frankie: Well, how about a hundred? That would be almost enough for that bike you want.

Andy: Are you offering me a hundred dollars? I'll take it!!

Frankie: I don't have a hundred. Would you do it for fifty?

Andy: Well, I'd be in big trouble if I got caught. Mr. Meyers would fail you and me both if he catches us cheating. But for fifty dollars? Yeah I'd do it.

Frankie: I don't have fifty dollars, either. Would you let me see your answers for two dollars?

Andy: Frankie, you're crazy!! What kind of a kid do you think I am?

Frankie: I already know what kind of a kid you are. I'm just trying to figure out your price.

Coin Toss (Game). Label a coffee can or bucket with the words: “True Riches.” Have students take turns tossing coins into it - standing at a mark a few feet away. Discuss: What are “true riches?”



Book: Presentation Ideas -



A Big Change (Illustration). Assemble and use **BLUK15.GF1** from LOOK time during the Bible Adventure to illustrate what happened to these two men.

Bible Adventure -

Did you know that in the New Testament Jesus talks about the subject of money more than any other one thing? Isn't that interesting? It seems that Jesus knew how riches could capture the heart of man. He also knew that the way we handle wealth, or even the lack of it, reveals a lot about what is going on inside you and me.

As we look together at Luke 16 today, **Jesus is sharing with a group of His disciples a couple of parables about money.** You probably already know that Jesus often taught lessons using parables, or short stories, because people seemed to understand and identify with the characters in the parables.

The first parable Jesus told was about a **rich man and his manager.** The manager was being accused of wasting the rich man's possessions. When the rich man heard of this, he asked his manager for an accounting so he could see if he had been cheated. The manager, knowing he was about to lose his job, began to come up with a scheme to make sure he was taken care of. Now, he could have found a way to take off with some of the rich man's money, but he didn't. Instead, he called in every person who owed his master something. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "Eight hundred gallons of olive oil," was the reply. The manager told him to take his bill, sit down quickly, and cut the bill to four hundred gallons of oil (*vs 5, 6*). To the next man he said, "And how much do you owe?" "A thousand bushels of wheat," the man answered. He told him, "Take your bill and make it eight hundred." When the rich man heard what his manager had done, he praised him. Why did he do this when the manager had actually caused him to lose money? It was because the rich man recognized the shrewd thinking of his manager. The manager had not done a good thing. In fact, he had again lost money for his master; but he had planned for his own future. Those men whose debts had been reduced would remember the manager when he lost his job. He had secured a future for himself. In a way, the manager acted more wisely than Jesus' followers. The manager knew how to use money in the present to bring about the kind of future he desired. The reason Jesus used him as an example was to show His disciples that they were never to serve money but that they should use it to serve them as they served others. They were not to keep it for themselves or hoard it, they were to use it to help build the Kingdom of God.

The disciples had a few things to learn about wisely using what God had given them. Once they learned the correct use of money, Jesus said, they could be trusted with true riches, special spiritual blessings that come only from God. The same goes for us today. We're in a kind of spiritual training camp. **If we're faithful to use the money and possessions God has given to us in the proper ways, God will in the future give us spiritual trusts.** We need the right perspective on money, to remember always Who it comes from and not become caught up in making it or keeping it. **Jesus warned that we cannot serve two masters--God and money.** Look at our memory verse for today (*Luke 16:13*). We either love and serve something created, which is money, or we serve the Creator, God. We cannot do both.

While Jesus was teaching this lesson to the disciples, some Pharisees nearby were taking it all in. The Pharisees loved money. They really believed that one of the main ways God would show He approved of you was to bless you with money. They thought that the more religious and righteous they appeared, the more God would bless them. They listened to Jesus' teaching about money and began to sneer. Here was a poor teacher teaching a bunch of poor men about money. Jesus knew what they were saying and thinking and laid their hearts open as only God's Son could do. He told them that they knew how to look good in the eyes of men, but God knew what was in their hearts. They thought they were part of God's Kingdom, but they had totally lost touch with what God's Law really said. They had a whole long list of rules and regulations they followed in order to win the approval of men and forgot that God is pleased with a heart that belongs fully to Him. In their quest to be admired by everyone because of the riches they possessed, they even forgot that in the Old Testament there were many examples of truly righteous men who did not have wealth or possessions, and many wicked men who had plenty.

Jesus told another parable to show how wrong the Pharisees' thinking was. He was going to give them a look at eternity, and it was not going to look like they thought it would. **The story was about a rich man**

who lived in luxury every day and about a poor beggar, named Lazarus, (*Teacher, show Illustration BLUK15.GF1*). The time came, Jesus told them, when both Lazarus and the rich man died. Lazarus was carried to heaven and was placed by Abraham's side, but the rich man went to hell, a place of fire and torment. He looked up and saw Lazarus and Abraham far away. He begged Abraham to send Lazarus to him with some water, but Abraham would not, and besides, a great chasm lay between them. He reminded the rich man that while he was on earth he had no lack of good things to enjoy but closed his heart to those like Lazarus, who had nothing. Next, the rich man begged Abraham to send Lazarus to his house to warn his brothers that they must not make the same mistake. Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; let them listen to them." The prophets' message was clear--repent of your sin and turn your hearts and lives toward God. The Pharisees, however, chose to ignore this message and created their own system that made them look good on the outside, but did absolutely nothing for their heart condition. They rejected Jesus and His teachings. They really didn't know God.

It's really easy to get the wrong perspective on money and possessions, isn't it? We need to remember that wealth we receive is not really our own, but belongs to God. We are just managers for Him. If we find we love money more than we love God, that tells us a lot about the condition of our hearts. We are loving something created more than our Creator. Can God trust you with money? Are you into pleasing yourself or investing into the Kingdom? When you have money, do you come up with ten ways to spend it on yourself or are you learning to be faithful to use money to help build His Kingdom? What are some ways you think you could do this? (*Support a missionary, meet a need you see in a neighbor or classmate's life, give a gift to someone who needs cheering up, etc.*) God wants to build the qualities of faithfulness and responsibility into our lives. Learning to use money as He would want us to is a good way to begin. After we have learned that, God can trust us with more valuable things than money, true spiritual riches that make money seem like a poor substitute.



Look:



Journey With Jesus (Journal). Make an entry in your journal. Any disciple might write something like this:


Jesus teaches us about the everyday things in life. What could be more of an "everyday" thing than money? I wouldn't have guessed that God cares so much about how we spend our money - unless we are very rich. God cares what we do with even the smallest amount because it shows something about who we are inside. He says we can't serve two masters. If we love money like the Pharisees, we can't be loving God, too.





A Penny for Your Thoughts (Q and A Discussion). These statements describe either the rich man or Lazarus. Who is it? Reward correct answers with a penny (*or other coin*).

1. He wore purple and fine linen.
2. He was a beggar.
3. He was covered with sores.
4. He lived in luxury.
5. He longed to eat scraps that fell from the table.
6. The dogs licked his sores.
7. When he died, the angels carried him to Abraham's side.
8. He died and went to hell.
9. He was in torment and agony.
10. He was comforted.
11. He begged for water.
12. In his lifetime, he received good things.
13. In his lifetime, he received bad things.
14. He wanted to warn his brothers.
15. He thought that if someone came back from the dead, people would listen.

Bonus: What was Jesus teaching about money in this parable?

 **A Big Change (Craft).** The rich man lived in luxury on earth, and Lazarus was a beggar. But after both men died, the tables were turned. Cut and color these “paper doll” characters, and have students use them to tell the story of what happened to these two men. Supply students with an envelope or sandwich bag to take them home, **BLUK15.GF1 Pg. 1 & Pg. 2.**

 **Bible Drill.**  Select 10 to 15 verses from the list below and have students race to find these verses. Have all students hold their closed Bibles in the air with one hand as each reference is read. Students must then wait for “GO” command. The theme of these verses is attitude toward money and material things. Alternate Option: You could also do this Bible drill two or three times during the lesson. The students must tell what the verse says about money after they read it out loud.

Romans 1:25
I Timothy 6:17-19
Hebrews 13:5
I John 3:17
I Chronicles 29:14
Proverbs 13:8
Isaiah 55:1, 2
Ephesians 4:28
Psalm 62:10
Deuteronomy 8:18
Proverbs 22:1,2
Jeremiah 9:23,24

Mathew 6:19-21
I Timothy 3:2,3
I Corinthians 12:14,15
II Corinthians 8:2-4
Proverbs 13:11
Ecclesiastes 5:10,12
Matthew 6:24
Mark 12:41-44
Proverbs 11:28
Proverbs 15:16
Proverbs 23:4,5


James 1:17
I Timothy 6:9,10
Luke 12:15
Ezekiel 7:19
Proverbs 10:2
Ecclesiastes 5:15,19
I Peter 5:2
Job 36:18
Proverbs 30:8,9
Psalm 49:16,17
Proverbs 28:6

 **Penny Bank (Craft).**
You will need:

1. Small (*single-serving*) juice can per student. These are the small metal juice cans that have the peel-off stickers over the top opening (*Tree-top, V-8, Dole Pineapple juices*). Teachers may prepare cans beforehand by emptying them and rinsing them out, or you may want to let students drink the juice for snack-time and rinse out their own cans.
2. One copy of **BLUK15.GF2** for each student.
3. Scissors and colored markers.

Directions:



Color and cut out the Piggy picture on **BLUK15.GF2**. Wrap it around the juice can. Trim the top and/or bottom if needed. Overlap picture so that the verse is not covered. Secure with tape or glue.

 **Little and Much (Card Game).** “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much...” Luke 16: 10.

Directions: Play in groups of 3 or 4. Use one sheet of cards copied onto card stock for each player. After cards are cut and shuffled, deal 8 to each player, and put the rest face down in the center. At each turn, a player may do one of two things. He may take any card from another player’s hand and replace it with an unwanted card from his own hand, or he may draw a card from the center. **The object of the game is to lay down all your cards. You can only lay down cards in matching groups of the same picture which includes a “little” card and at least one “much” card.** A player may “save” a “little” card in order to lay down several “much” cards with it; however, this runs the risk of having someone draw out his “little” card. Groups laid down can have any number of cards, but once they are down, no more cards can be added. “Little” cards cannot be laid down alone, **BLUK15.GF3.**

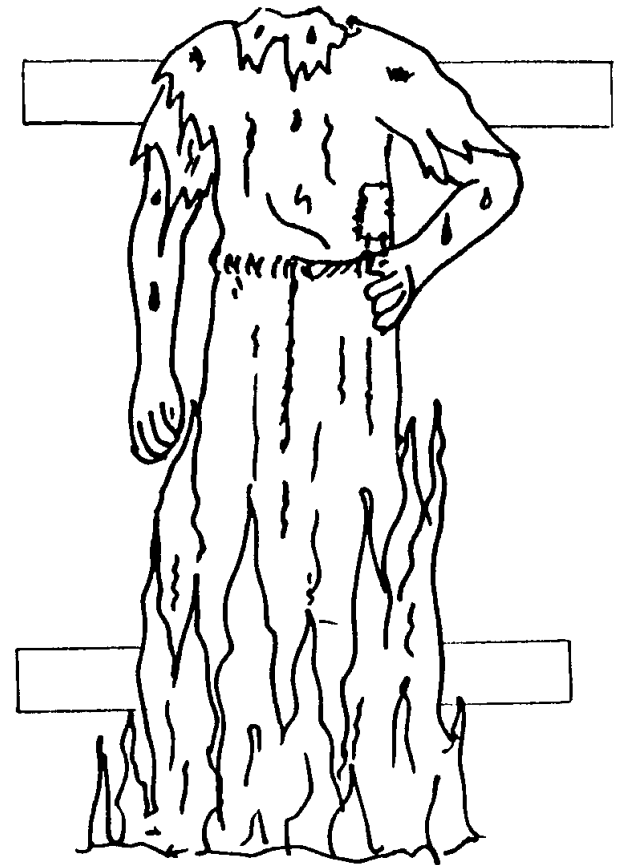
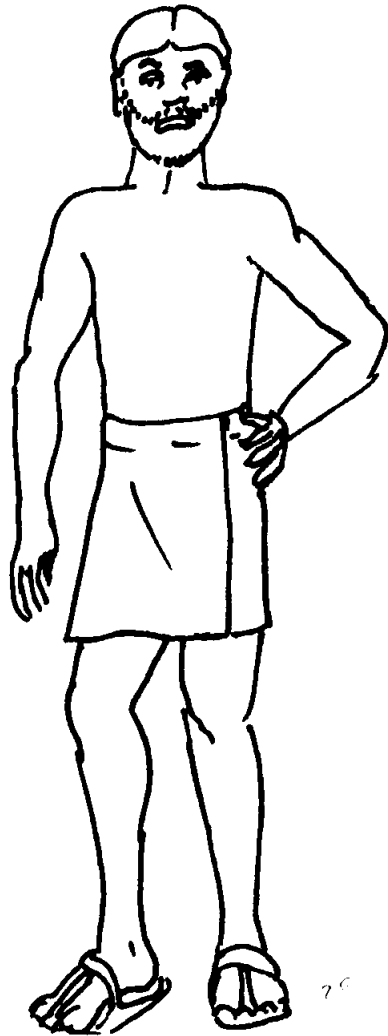


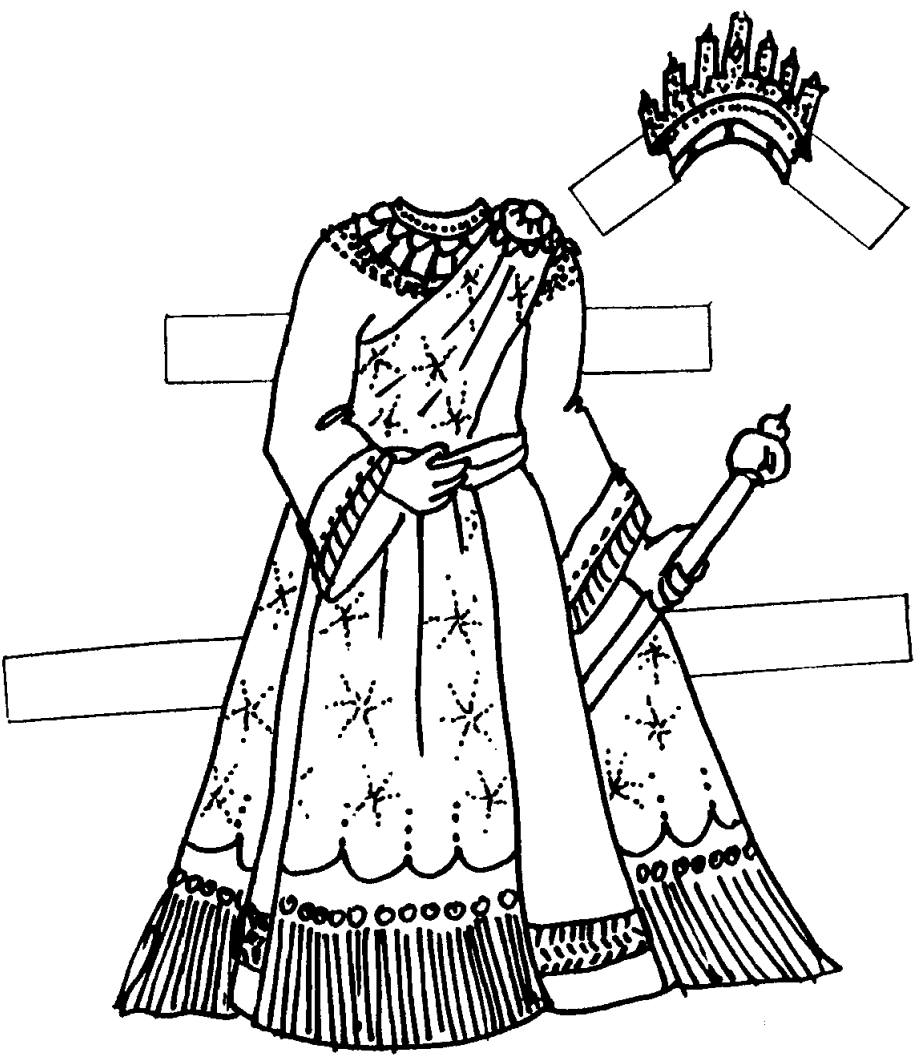
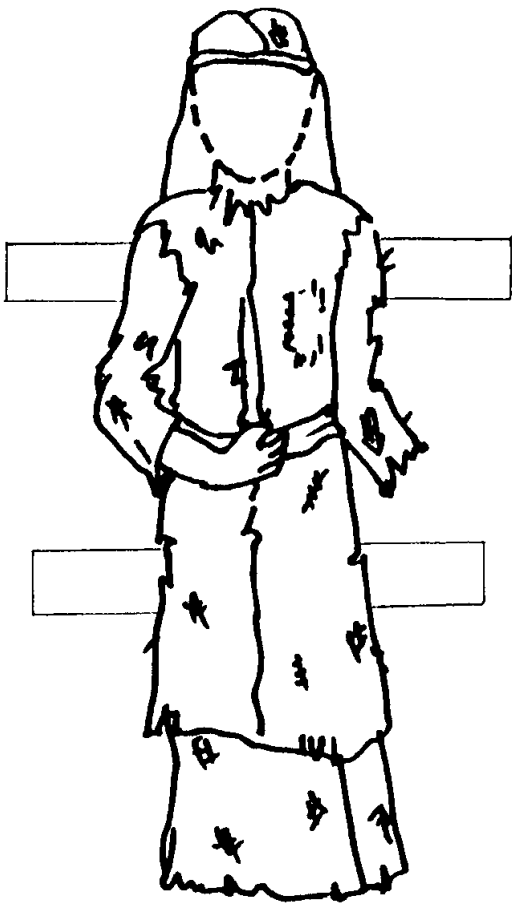
Took:

- Prioritize (*Discussion*)**. Show a \$20 bill. Ask students to imagine you are going to give each of them twenty dollars as they leave class today. On a blank piece of paper, have them write down what they will do with the money (*it can be divided for several uses*). Giving money in the offering will be the answer they think you are looking for. Remind them to consider whether they owe money to anyone or if someone they know has a need. What have they been saving money for lately? They know they should not be selfish with their money, but if this \$20 was real, what would they honestly do with it?
- Wallet Reminders (*Visual Aid*)**. Cut out these bill-sized reminders. Put them with your money in wallets, purses, etc. They will remind you of the attitude that Jesus wants you to have toward your money, **BLUK15.GF4**.
- Rate the Value (*Worksheet*)**. In Luke 16:15, Jesus told the Pharisees that “what is highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight.” Do some thinking about the fact that God values things differently than the world. Rate the importance that **you think** God and people place on the following things. Circle a number between 1 - 10 with “10” as great value and “0” as no value. Is it any wonder that we cannot serve two masters? **BLUK15.GF5**
- Think and Color (*Color Page*)**.
 -  Jesus told the parable of the dishonest manager to teach that we should not trust in money and things that will not last. As you color these “Material Things,” think of ways they could be used to please God and count for the Kingdom, **BLUK15.GF6**.
 -  Adapt this for discussion only, if you wish, for older students, **BLUK15.GF6**.

A Big Change

Cut and color the paper doll characters of the rich man and Lazarus on pages 1 and 2. Tell the story to what happened to these men.

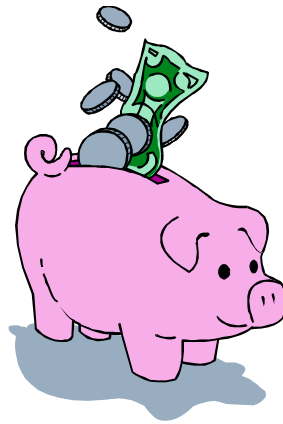




PENNY BANK



little can



Luke 16:10a

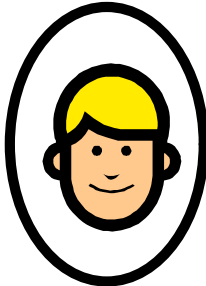
Little and MUCH



Wallet Reminders

Cut out these bill-sized reminders. Put them with your money in wallets, purses, etc. They will remind you of the attitude that Jesus wants you to have toward your money.

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.”
Luke 16:10



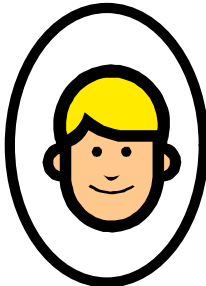
“You cannot serve both God and money.”
Luke 16: 13

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.”
Luke 16:10



“You cannot serve both God and money.”
Luke 16: 13

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much.”
Luke 16:10



“You cannot serve both God and money.”
Luke 16: 13

Rate the Value

In Luke 16:15, Jesus told the Pharisees that “What is highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight.” Do some thinking about the fact that God values things differently than the world.

Rate the importance that **you think** God and people place on the following things. Circle a number from 1 - 10 with 10 as “great value” and 0 as “no value”.

Money



God 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Men 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Clothes



God 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Men 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

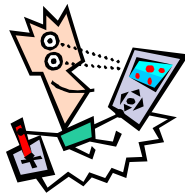
Car



God 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Men 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Games



God 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Men 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

House



God 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Men 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Church



God 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Men 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Bible



God 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Men 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Prayer



God 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Men 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Is it any wonder that we cannot serve two masters?

THINK AND COLOR

Jesus told the parable of the dishonest manager to teach us that we should not trust in money or things that will not last. As you color these “Material Things,” think of ways they could be used to please God and count for the Kingdom.

