

# WEEK THREE — GENEROUS GIVING

Treasures in Heaven.



## SCRIPTURE VERSE

*'Don't store up treasures on Earth! Moths and rust can destroy them, and thieves can break in and steal them. Instead, store up your treasures in Heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy them, and thieves cannot break in and steal them. Your heart will always be where your treasure is.'*

Matthew 6:19–21 (CEV)

## CONSIDER AND PREPARE

### READ:

Luke 12: 13–21 (The Rich Young Ruler)  
Matthew 6:19–23 (Treasures in Heaven)  
Galatians 5:22, 23 (Spiritual treasure)

These scriptures reinforce the importance of putting our time and effort into eternal things such as our relationship with God, rather than building up a store of 'things' that don't last.

Jesus says that if we are primarily concerned about our 'treasures' on Earth, we are not focused on God and the life he wants us to lead. He teaches the principle "your heart is where your treasure is".

What you value most is what you live for! What we give and the way in which we give reflects our hearts. Jesus is not concerned about the size of your wallet—he is concerned about the size of your heart. God wants us to truly understand that what really matters in life is our relationship with him, and with others.

## PURPOSE

- For the children to explore and understand that Jesus teaches "our heart is where our treasure is".
- For the children to understand that it is more important to focus our time and energy on our relationship with God, rather than on things.

## PLAN AHEAD

If you choose to do the "Stingy and Generous Egg-heads" activity in week 4, prepare a sample one this week, to allow time to 'grow'. Refer instructions on page 49.



## WELCOME ZONE

\*\*Have the 'parent's letter #2' ready to hand out to children at the end of lesson. This is provided at the end of this leader's guide to photocopy, or download from the website and print.

- As the children arrive have the 'Praise Zone' song used last week playing in the background.
- Invite the children to have a look at the 'hand-prints banner' and find their own hand prints.
- Use this time for the children to tell their 'Zone In' leader the memory verse from last week. If they know it, the leader writes their names up on a special section of the white-board ready for their reward at the end of this week's lesson!
- Put up any colouring pages the children have brought back.



## FUN ZONE

### 👍 FUN ZONE-ACTIVITY ①

#### Treasure Hunt!

##### AIM OF THE GAME:

To help the children understand that heavenly treasures are more precious than earthly treasures.

##### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Enough items to hide. This will depend on the number of children that you have and how many items you would like them to find each.
- \*\*Photocopy onto card and cut out: coins, crosses and hearts (see attached templates on pages 41 & 42).
- \*\*Coins are worth 1 point each, crosses are worth 10 points each and hearts are worth 5 points each.

##### HOW TO PLAY:

- You will need to hide enough coins, crosses and hearts around the room to ensure that all children will be able to participate fully.

\*\*To help the children understand that heavenly treasures are more precious, hide more of the coins

and less of the crosses and hearts.

- Tell the children: *"Today we are going to have a treasure hunt!*
- *There are lots of pieces of treasure hidden around the room for you to find. Each treasure is worth a different amount of points.*
- *The coins that are hidden are worth 1 point each, the hearts that are hidden are worth 5 points each and the crosses that are hidden are worth 10 points each."* (show the children a sample of what each of the items looks like).
- *"The aim of this treasure hunt is to collect the most amount of points."*
- Give them three minutes for the hunt. When time is up, add everyone's points up and congratulate the child with the most points.

##### ALTERNATIVE IDEA:

Hide chocolate coins instead of cardboard coins.

If using alternative idea, at the end of the game, ask the children:

*"I wonder if you wanted to find more choc coins than hearts and crosses, even though the coins were each worth only one point? They might be yummy but once you eat them, they're gone - and you don't win!*

*Sometimes we just want things that will make us happy NOW! Sometimes we forget that if we do what's right and more important, we will receive a better reward later.*

*Did you know that Jesus actually promises us rewards in heaven? How cool is that! But right now, I have a reward for the (top three) people who chose the better thing to do—and collected the most crosses!"*

- Hand out 'REWARDS' to winners.



## GOD ZONE

\*\*'God Zone' follows on immediately after playing the 'Treasure Hunt Game'. Two activities are suggested. These activities may best be done as one large group, with one main leader. All the children can either be seated on the floor with their magazines and pens, or at their 'Zone In' tables/area (with 'Zone In' leaders supervising).

##### TEACHING POINTS:

*"I wonder what your plan was at the start of the hunt. Did you just go and see what you could find*

or were you looking carefully for the treasure that had the most points on it?

You might have noticed that there were more coins and not as many hearts and even less crosses. The coins represent all the things that we like to buy or have or get.

I wonder what some of those things might be?

The hearts and crosses represent the things that connect us to God and the benefits from being friends with him. The hearts and crosses had a higher point value because they are more valuable.

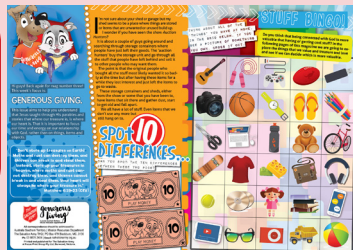
I wonder why you might think that being connected with God is more valuable than having or getting cool stuff?

## ♥ GOD ZONE-ACTIVITY ②

### STUFF BINGO

#### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Week 3 kid's mags
- Pens/textas (for each child)
- Timer (optional!)



#### HOW TO PLAY:

“Okay kids, now it's time to do a quick activity in your new kid's mag! It's on page 3 and is called “Stuff Bingo!” You need to cross out the squares of the items you own.”

(Show the children the correct game to go to on page 3 of their interactive magazine. The items include toys, books, games, DVD's, clothes, sports equipment, computers etc.)

When “time's up” ask:

“Who crossed out everything on their page? Wow! What a lot of stuff we each have!

Today we're going to think a bit more about the things that we value and treasure and love—and see if we can decide which is more valuable!”

## ♥ GOD ZONE-ACTIVITY ③

### RUST & STUFF

#### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Old items that have started to rust to show the children.
- Photos of junk room or garage filled with junk!
- Bible readings (as below)
- Butchers paper/whiteboard

“Have you ever been exploring in an old shed or garage? What sorts of things did you, or might you find, if you were exploring in there?”

(Allow time for responses).

“I'm not sure about your shed or garage but my shed seems to be a place where things are stored or items that are unwanted or unused build up!”

\*\*Just for fun, SHOW PHOTOS of your own—or one of the other leader's—messy garages!

“Have you watched the show on TV called Auction Hunters? It's about a couple of guys going around and searching through storage containers where people have just left their goods.

The auction hunters buy the storage unit and go through all the stuff that people have left behind and sell it to other people who may want it. The point is that the original people who bought all the stuff most likely wanted it so badly at the time, but after having these items for a while they lost interest and just left the stuff there to go to waste.

The storage containers and sheds have items that sit there and gather dust, start to get old and fall apart, and the items that are made from metal start to rust!

Have you ever seen an item that is starting to rust?”

\*\*Show items you have brought that are beginning to rust.

“Lots of these items that end up in a shed or garage or junk room are items that are not used anymore. Sometimes you just update and get a newer model, or buy something that you think is better and add it to your ‘stuff’ and put the old one away in the shed.

I think that we all have a lot of stuff—even stuff that we don't use any more but still hang on to! Let's have a look at the Bible and see what it says to us about collecting a lot of ‘stuff’.”

## BIBLE READINGS

Tell the children that as you read you want them to listen carefully for the things they think are important, because they will then write or draw them in their magazine.

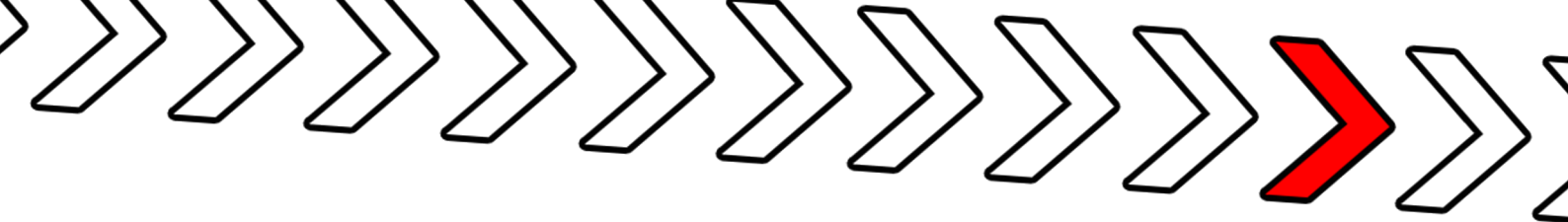


#### READ:

Luke 12:13–21 (NLT)  
“The parable of the Rich Fool”

Then someone called from the crowd, “Teacher, please tell my brother to divide our father's estate





with me.” Jesus replied, “Friend, who made me a judge over you to decide such things as that?” Then he said, “Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own.”

Then he told them a story: “A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, ‘What should I do? I don’t have room for all my crops.’ Then he said, ‘I know! I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I’ll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods. And I’ll sit back and say to myself, “My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and enjoy life!”’

But God said to him, ‘You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?’

Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.

#### READ:

### Matthew 6:19–21 (ICB)

Don’t store treasures for yourselves here on Earth. Moths and rust will destroy treasures here on Earth. And thieves can break into your house and steal the things you have. So store your treasure in Heaven. The treasures in Heaven cannot be destroyed by moths or rust. And thieves cannot break in and steal that treasure. Your heart will be where your treasure is.

“Okay everyone, now turn to page 4 and write down or draw what you think was important in those readings.”

Allow children to share what they have drawn/ written.

#### TEACHING POINTS:

“I wonder what you think earthly treasure is?”

“I wonder what you think heavenly treasure looks like/ how would you describe it?”

“After talking about and looking at all the stuff we have, I wonder why you think Jesus has told this story?”

“Earthly Treasures are things that we have already been talking about—our ‘stuff’. We collect lots of things along the way and our pile of ‘stuff’ builds up and up. It is objects and items that people want to get more and more of, even if sometimes, like the stuff sitting in the shed going rusty, we can’t use them!

Heavenly treasures are not necessarily items that you can see or touch. They include things like God loving us so much, God being with us wherever we go, they also include spiritual gifts God has given us and the ‘fruit of the spirit’—things like: patience, kindness...who can think of some of others? “

(List/write up the list found in Galatians 5:22–23)

“These heavenly treasures and our connection with God are things that last forever! You won’t have an iPod or a football or a jewellery box forever, but you will be loved by God forever!”



## ZONE IN-ACTIVITY ④ CREATING TREASURES!

#### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Whiteboard/Butcher’s paper
- Markers
- Playdoh
- DAS White modelling clay (optional)
- Tables or round plastic table-cloths taped to floor as ‘mats’.
- Plastic plates for each child to put their Play-doh or clay on.
- Small container for each child to put their ‘treasure’ in (eg. shoe-box or noodle box)
- Powerpoint: 1) Matthew 6:19(a)  
2) Matthew 6:20,21

#### WHAT TO DO:

- Use whiteboard or two pieces of butcher’s paper with the headings “Earthly Treasure” and “Heavenly Treasure”. Get the children to brainstorm briefly for different things they think could go under each heading.
- Ask the children to go to the designated area (‘Zone In’ tables or sit around on plastic ‘mats’ on the floor).
- Give each child a small amount of playdoh, saying: ‘Use the playdoh to make one thing that we have spoken about today that represents an earthly treasure or ‘stuff’. It could be something from the first list we just made, or from the stuff you circled in your magazine earlier, or something different you can think of!’
- When finished creating their play-doh treasure, ask the children to read the verse out loud together. Then say: ‘Ok everyone! Squash your earthly treasure!’
- If you’ve bought DAS modelling clay, give this out now.

#### SAY:

- “This time I want you to make something that represents a heavenly treasure. This might be



from the second list we made, or from other things we've talked about."

- When the children have finished making their 'treasures' with clay, read the verses together.

**SAY:**

- "We're going to keep the item as it is now, to remind us that putting our time into our relationship with God is something that will last—it is a heavenly treasure."

**SUGGESTION:**

Children can either take home their clay creations (in a shoe-box or noodle box) or leave them with you for this week to air dry (24 hours min.) and paint as an additional activity next week.

- "Over the past few weeks, we've been exploring and talking about how God is generous to us through his creation and how God is generous to us by giving us Jesus.
- Today we have been talking about how earthly treasures don't last, but heavenly treasures are forever!
- I wonder what we can give back to God to say thank you? (Ask children for their ideas, then suggest the following):
  - Our hearts—what does this mean? (Guide answers).
  - Our time—spending time with God getting to know him.
  - Our talents—offer God the skills and talents that he gave us. (Give examples)
  - Our offering—money that can help run his Church and for the Church to use to help people less fortunate than ourselves.
- God gives us so much and we want to give back to him!"

**WORD ZONE-ACTIVITY ⑥**

MEMORY VERSE GAME  
(optional—if time permits)

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Monopoly or play money (see templates pg 43). Play money is also available from Kmart

**WHAT TO DO:**

- Write the words of the verse on the back of the play money and have the children arrange the money in order of the verse.
- Then take away a note one at a time until the children have memorised the verse.
- Give each child a 'note' and ask them to write on the back of the play money the verse from Luke 12:21. They can take the money home as a reminder of the verse.

**WORD ZONE-ACTIVITY ⑦**

MEMORY VERSE PUZZLE  
(optional—if time permits)

**WHAT TO DO:**

- Children go to page 6 of this week's kid's magazine to find a code puzzle for this scripture verse.



\*\*Remind children to learn the memory verse during the week for a reward.

**ZONE IN-ACTIVITY ⑤**

HEAVENLY TREASURES  
CROSSWORD

- See page 5 of kids magazine.



**PRAYER**

Pray together, thanking God that his love lasts forever!



**WORD ZONE**

'Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.'

Luke 12:21

## ANNOUNCE

Excitedly announce that next week everyone's invited to a 'Generosity Party!'

- Give out invitations to each of the children and encourage them to invite their family along too!
- Give a reward to each child who memorized last week's Bible verse.
- Give out Parents Letter #2 for children to pass on to parents included at the end of this leader's guide.



## BEYOND THE ZONE

Refer page 7 of the kid's magazine:

- Think about what you can give to God. Perhaps you would like to ask Jesus to be the most important person in your life; your best friend. Think about ways that you can offer your skills and talents to God. If you earn any pocket money, think about giving some of that money to help people learn about God's love.



# WEEK THREE-ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY:

## BONUS ACTIVITY GIVING ENVELOPES

*\*\*This activity can be used if Children's Generous Living Envelopes have not been previously ordered (with THQ).*

### PURPOSE:

For each child to decorate an envelope to place their offering in and bring it along next week during the special offering time (when Pledge cards are also given out).

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Bible verse: 'God loves the person who gives happily'—2 Corinthians 9:7
- Bibles for children to look up verse, or verse can be pre-printed on labels or written on white-board/power-point slide for children to copy
- White or assorted colourful envelopes—one per child
- Textas, coloured pencils, pens
- Assortment of small stickers
- Glitter, glue

### WHAT TO DO:

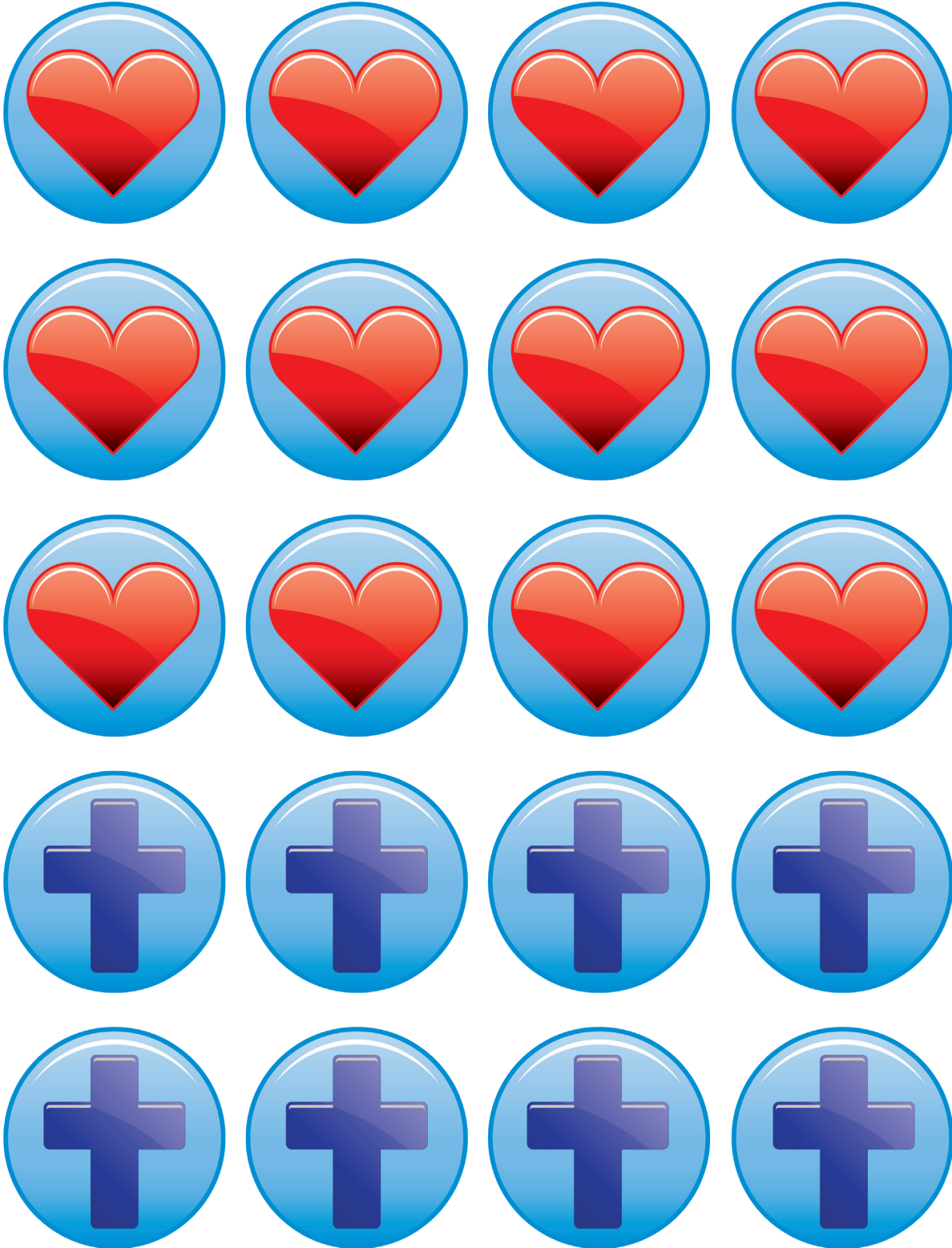
- Allow children to choose a coloured envelope. Ask them to write the Bible verse on the front of the envelope (or add a pre-printed label) and decorate. Ask children to take home their envelope and put a coin offering in it to bring back next week.





# TEMPLATES

for 'Fun Zone' activity (page 35)—  
Photocopy onto card and cut out individual tokens.



# TEMPLATES

for 'Fun Zone' activity (page 35)—  
Photocopy onto card and cut out individual tokens.





# TEMPLATES

for 'Word Zone' activity (page 38)—  
Photocopy onto card and cut out individual notes.

