

The Love Of Money

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: The love of money is the root of all evil

Scripture: 1 Timothy 6:10

Memory Verse: For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. - 1 Timothy 6:10

The Children's Sermon

You'll Need:

- **Vase**
- **A dollar bill**

Wow, do I have a problem! I dropped a dollar in this vase. Instead of shaking the vase upside down, I wanted my money back so badly that I just dove in to get it. But now my hand is stuck! (Pretend to tug on the vase a couple of times until your hand pops out.)
Wow, is that a relief!

You know, this little adventure of mine with the vase and the dollar makes me think about something important. It's about the love of money. Sometimes, we want money so much that we end up in tricky situations, just like my hand was stuck in the vase.

The love of money can make us do silly things. Imagine wanting a toy so badly that you forget to play with the friends you already have. Or think about saving all your allowance and not sharing even a little bit with someone who might need it more.

Now, let me tell you a story about a man named Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus loved money a lot. He collected taxes from people, but he took more than he was supposed to. This made him very rich, but not very liked. One day, Jesus came to his town, and Zacchaeus wanted to see Him. But because Zacchaeus was short and people didn't let him through, he climbed a tree. When Jesus saw him, He told Zacchaeus He would visit his house. Zacchaeus was so happy that he decided to give back the money he had taken wrongly and even more. He learned that the love of people was more important than the love of money.

Sometimes, we might think having a lot of money will make us happy. We might want to buy all the toys in the world. But, have you ever noticed how playing with a friend can make you forget about the toys? That's because being kind and sharing time with others makes our hearts happy, not just having things.

The love of money can also make us forget to be thankful for what we have. Think about it. If you have a home, food, and family, you're richer than you know. Being thankful for these things is important. When we only think about getting more money or stuff, we forget to say "thank you" for the good things we already have.

Also, helping others can make us feel really good inside. Imagine you have two cookies, and you see someone who doesn't have any. Sharing one of your cookies can make you both happy. That's way better than having two cookies all to yourself. It shows that you care more about people than just having more things.

Now, what can we do to make sure we don't get too caught up in the love of money? First, we can remember to be thankful every day for what we have. You can even make a list of things you're thankful for!

Second, we can share. Whether it's our time, toys, or a little bit of our allowance, sharing with others can make a big difference in their lives and ours.

Third, we can remember stories like Zacchaeus's. They teach us that it's never too late to change and that caring for others brings us true happiness.

So, next time you find yourself wanting something a lot, ask yourself, "Is this more important than being kind or helping someone?" Remember, the best treasures are the ones we carry in our hearts, like love, kindness, and friendship. These treasures are way better than any amount of money.

Let's try to be like Zacchaeus after he met Jesus, not before. Let's be people who love others more than money. And remember, if you ever get your hand stuck because you're reaching too hard for something, it might be time to let go and think about what really matters.

In the end, it's not the money we have but the love we share that makes us truly rich. Let's choose to be rich in love, kindness, and generosity. These are the things that make life beautiful and worth living.

Bible Memory Verse

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. - 1 Timothy 6:10

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons

-Stickers or stamps with hearts and other shapes

Get Ready:

-Cut the construction paper into large coin shapes.

-Write '1 Timothy 6:10' on each paper coin with a marker.

Do This:

1. Sit the children in a circle and show them the paper coin. Explain that the coin represents money and read the memory verse together.

2. Ask the children to decorate their coin with markers, crayons, and stickers.

Encourage them to use hearts to remind them that loving money too much can lead to bad choices, but loving people is what's truly important.

3. Once everyone has finished decorating, gather the coins and create a 'tree' on a wall or bulletin board. Explain that just like a tree grows from a root, our actions grow from what we love. Remind them that loving good things helps us make good choices.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Play money (or paper cutouts of coins and bills)

- A simple treasure chest or box

- Heart-shaped stickers or cutouts

- A large piece of paper or poster board with a tree drawn on it (no leaves)

- Tape or glue

Get Ready:

- Place the treasure chest at one end of the room.

- Spread the play money around the room but not too far from the chest.

- Prepare the tree poster by ensuring it's visible and accessible to the children.

Do this:

1. Tell the children they are going to play a game where they collect money (play money) to fill the treasure chest. Explain that this is just a game and that in real life, being too focused on money can make us forget what's truly important.
2. Once they've collected the money, gather them around the treasure chest and talk about how having money can be helpful, but loving it too much can make us unhappy or lead to bad choices. Use simple terms like "When we love money too much, we might forget to be kind or share."
3. Move to the tree poster and explain that our hearts should be filled with love, kindness, and sharing, not just love for money. Have each child pick a heart sticker or cutout and place it on the tree. Each heart represents something good (like love, friendship, sharing) that is more important than money. As they place their heart on the tree, they can say one good thing that is more valuable than money (e.g., "friendship," "family," "helping others").
4. Conclude by emphasizing that it's okay to use money wisely, but our hearts and lives are fullest when filled with love and kindness, not just possessions or money.

Snack Activity: Heart-Shaped Fruit Coins

You'll Need:

- Watermelon and/or cantaloupe
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Plastic knife (for teacher use only)

Get Ready: Cut the melons into thick slices that can be easily cut with a cookie cutter.

Do this:

1. Talk to the children about how sometimes people think having a lot of money (coins) is the most important thing, but the Bible tells us loving money too much can lead us to make bad choices. Explain that our snack is going to remind us of what's truly important.
2. Let each child use the heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut out their 'fruit coins' from the slices of melon. Explain that these 'coins' are special because they remind us to love others, not money.
3. As the children enjoy their snack, remind them that being kind and loving people is like having the best treasure. Discuss how we can share and be generous with what we have, just like sharing our yummy fruit coins.

Game Activity: Heart's Treasure Hunt

You'll Need:

- Colorful paper hearts
- Small baskets or bags for collecting hearts
- Pictures of toys, candy, and family/friends (to represent different 'treasures')

Get Ready: Before the activity, hide the paper hearts around the play area. On the back of each heart, attach a picture of either a toy, a piece of candy, or a family member/friend. Make sure there are more hearts with pictures of family/friends than toys or candy.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that they are going on a treasure hunt to find what is truly valuable. Tell them that some treasures are fun like toys and candy, but the best treasures are the love we have for people.

2. Give each child a basket or bag. Ask them to find as many hearts as they can. Once they find a heart, they should bring it back to you to talk about what's on the heart.
3. After everyone has collected their hearts, sit down together and discuss the treasures they found. Highlight how toys and candy are nice, but the love of family and friends is the most special treasure of all. Use this moment to introduce the idea that loving money or things too much can make us forget about the importance of love for others.

Craft Activity: Heart Over Coins

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (red and green)
- Glue stick
- Scissors (use with adult supervision)
- Gold foil or yellow construction paper
- Marker

Get Ready: Cut out heart shapes from the red construction paper and coin shapes from the gold foil or yellow construction paper. Prepare enough for each child to have one heart and several coins.

Do this:

1. Have each child glue their heart shape onto the center of a green piece of construction paper.
2. Discuss with the children how sometimes people think having a lot of money (coins) is the most important thing, but it's really love that matters most. Use simple terms to explain the concept that 'loving money too much can make us forget to love others and do good things.'

3. Let the children glue the coin shapes around the heart but not covering it, showing that while money is around us, it shouldn't cover or hide our heart (love). Encourage them to talk about things they love that aren't money, like family, friends, and pets.

Prayer Activity: Hearts Bigger Than Coins

You'll Need:

- Paper and crayons
- A small box or container
- Play money or coins

Get Ready: Before the activity, draw a big heart on a piece of paper and put the play money or coins in the small box or container.

Do this:

1. Show the children the play money or coins and explain that while money can buy things we need, loving people and being kind is much more important. Use simple terms like 'Money can buy toys, but being kind makes us and others happy.'
2. Ask the children to draw things they can do to show love to others (like helping, sharing, and being kind) inside the big heart. Encourage them to think about actions rather than items.
3. Explain that the heart with their drawings represents what's truly valuable and that caring for others is better than having lots of money. Conclude by praying together, thanking God for loving us and asking for help to love others more than things or money.