

# The Love Of Money

## LOWER ELEMENTARY 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:

- Play money
- A flower pot

- Soil or brown construction paper
- Real or paper flowers

Get Ready:

- Cut out paper flowers if not using real ones. Each flower should have a different 'evil' written on it, such as 'lying', 'stealing', or 'being unkind'.
- Fill the flower pot with soil or crumple brown construction paper to look like soil and place it in the pot.

Do This:

1. Start by reciting the memory verse together. Explain that just like plants need soil to grow, our actions can grow from the things we love too much.
2. Show the play money and explain that loving money too much can make bad things grow in our hearts, just like the 'evils' written on the flowers.
3. Let each child pick a flower and 'plant' it in the pot by sticking it into the soil or paper. As they do, discuss how choosing good things to love, like kindness and sharing, helps grow good things in our hearts instead.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Play money (enough for each child to have some)
- A large empty box or container labeled "Happiness"
- Simple prizes or treats (stickers, pencils, etc.)
- Printed cards with good deeds written on them (e.g., help a friend, share a toy, say kind words)
- A Bible

Get Ready:

- Place the play money, prizes, and the "Happiness" box at the front of the room.
- Scatter the good deeds cards around the room where children can easily find them.
- Have the Bible open to 1 Timothy 6:10 for reference.

Do this:

1. **Introduction**: Start by telling the children that today they will learn why loving money too much can make us forget what's truly important. Briefly explain 1 Timothy 6:10, saying "The Bible tells us that loving money too much can lead to bad choices. It's not money itself that's bad, but loving it more than anything else."
2. **The Happiness Box Activity**: Explain that the box at the front is the "Happiness" box. Tell the children that they will use their play money to "buy" happiness. However, instead of getting happiness from the box, they will find a note that says, "True happiness doesn't come from money."
3. **Good Deeds Hunt**: After the initial surprise, tell the children that true happiness comes from doing good deeds and being kind to others. Send them around the room to find the good deeds cards. Once a child finds a card, they should come back to you to "trade" it for a small prize from the "Happiness" box, explaining how this deed brings real happiness.
4. **Reflection**: After everyone has found a card and received their prize, gather the children and discuss how it felt to do good deeds versus the initial feeling of buying happiness with money. Highlight that true joy comes from acts of kindness and love, not from how much money we have.

5. **Conclusion**: Conclude with a prayer, asking God to help us find joy in loving others and doing good, rather than in loving money. Encourage the children to do the good deed on their card during the week and share their experience next time.

## Snack Activity: Money Trees & Heart Cookies

You'll Need:

- Green apple slices (money leaves)
- Pretzel sticks (tree trunks)
- Heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Sugar cookie dough
- Red icing (to symbolize love)
- Oven and baking supplies
- Plates and napkins

Get Ready: Preheat your oven according to the sugar cookie dough package instructions. Roll out your cookie dough on a flat, floured surface.

Do this:

1. Use the heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut out cookies from the rolled dough. Explain that just like the heart shape, our love should be for good things, not money.
2. Bake the cookies as per the package instructions. While they bake, talk about 1 Timothy 6:10 and how loving money too much can lead us to make bad choices, just like eating too many cookies isn't good for us.
3. Once the cookies have cooled, decorate them with red icing to emphasize love over money. Create 'money trees' by sticking the green apple slices onto the pretzel sticks. Discuss how money can grow if used wisely but should not be the root of our

happiness. Place a heart cookie next to each tree to remind them that love and kindness are more important than wealth.

## Game Activity: Treasure Hunt for Goodness

You'll Need:

- Paper coins or play money
- A treasure chest or box
- Good deed cards with simple tasks written on them (e.g., help a friend, share a toy, say something kind)

Get Ready: Before the game, hide the paper coins around your play area. In the treasure chest, place the good deed cards. Make sure you have enough for each child to find at least one coin and perform a good deed.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that in the Bible, 1 Timothy 6:10 tells us 'For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil.' This means that wanting money too much can make people do bad things. But today, we're going to find money for a good reason - to do good deeds!
2. Let the children search for the paper coins. Once they find a coin, they must come to you to exchange it for a good deed card.
3. After a child completes their good deed, they receive a small reward (like a sticker or a high five). This teaches them that the true treasure is doing good things for others, not having a lot of money.

## Craft Activity: Heart Over Treasure

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Printable money template or play money

Get Ready: Print out or gather play money. Cut out heart shapes from construction paper.

Do this:

1. Discuss 1 Timothy 6:10, explaining that loving money too much can lead us to make bad choices. Emphasize that it's not money itself that's bad, but the love of money that can be harmful.
2. Have each child choose a heart and write or draw things that are more important than money, like family, friends, love, kindness, and helping others.
3. Glue the play money around the edges of the heart, showing that while money is a part of our lives, it should not be at the center. The heart, filled with love and good values, should always be more important.

## Prayer Activity: Hearts Over Coins

You'll Need:

- Paper and pencils
- A small plant
- Coins



Get Ready: Prepare a small table where the activity will take place. Place the plant in the center of the table and scatter the coins around it.

Do this:

1. Ask the children to draw a big heart on their paper and inside it, write or draw things that are more important than money (like family, friends, love, kindness).
2. After they finish their drawings, invite them to come up one by one to place their heart drawing near the plant and take one coin from around the plant. Explain that the plant represents good things that grow in our life when we value what truly matters, and by taking a coin away, they're choosing good values over the love of money.
3. End with a short prayer, asking God to help us always value love and kindness over money.