

The Love Of Money

UPPER 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. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. - 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. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. - 1 Timothy 6:10

You Will Need:

- Construction paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Printed tree and root templates

Get Ready:

- Cut out the tree and root templates before class.
- Set up a table with markers, crayons, scissors, and glue sticks.

Do This:

1. Give each child a set of tree and root templates and ask them to write '1 Timothy 6:10' on the tree trunk.
2. On the roots, have them write or draw things that they value more than money (e.g., family, friendship, love, faith).
3. Have them glue the roots to the bottom of the tree, illustrating that good values are the root of a happy life, not the love of money. Discuss how focusing on what truly matters can lead us to live a life full of joy and away from the griefs mentioned in 1 Timothy 6:10.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Play money (enough for each child to have some)
- A treasure chest or box
- Printable "Heart Values" cards (with values like kindness, generosity, love, faith, etc.)
- Tape
- Markers and paper

Get Ready:

- Print out "Heart Values" cards and cut them out.
- Place the play money into the treasure chest or box.
- Prepare a space where children can move around freely.

Do this:

1. Begin with a discussion on 1 Timothy 6:10, explaining that loving money more than anything else can lead us to make bad choices. Emphasize that it's not money itself that is bad, but the love of money.
2. Scatter the play money around the room and hide the "Heart Values" cards in various places. Tell the children that they are going on a treasure hunt, not just for money but for true treasures that make our lives rich (pointing out the "Heart Values").
3. Each child starts with a few pieces of play money. They can choose to collect more money scattered around the room or search for the "Heart Values" cards to collect. Once they find a card, they must tape it to their shirt.
4. After the treasure hunt, gather the children and discuss what they collected and why. Encourage them to share why they chose money or a "Heart Value" card.
5. Conclude by asking them to draw or write on paper what they believe is the most valuable treasure in life, encouraging them to think beyond physical wealth. Share these reflections in a closing circle, highlighting how virtues and love are treasures that money can't buy.

Snack Activity: Roots of Goodness Fruit Tree

You'll Need:

- A variety of fruits (grapes, strawberries, blueberries, and sliced apples)
- Toothpicks
- A foam cone (to act as the tree base)
- A large platter
- Small slips of paper and a pen

Get Ready: Wash all the fruits and dry them. Write '1 Timothy 6:10' on small slips of paper and fold them.

Do this:

1. Start by explaining the verse 1 Timothy 6:10, emphasizing that the love of money can lead us to make harmful choices, but choosing goodness brings joy and blessings. Discuss the importance of nurturing love, kindness, and generosity instead of greed.
2. Use the toothpicks to attach fruit to the foam cone, covering it completely to make a 'tree' full of 'good fruits'. As you work, encourage the kids to talk about good 'fruits' (actions) they can cultivate in their lives instead of focusing on material wealth.
3. Once the tree is complete, place it on the platter. Insert the folded slips of paper with the verse written on them into the tree at random places. Let the children pick a fruit from the tree, find a slip, and read the verse out loud again. Discuss how they can apply this lesson in their daily lives, focusing on being rich in good deeds and love.

Game Activity: Treasure Hunt for True Riches

You'll Need:

- A Bible
- Small treasure chests or boxes
- Play money and some real coins
- Small prizes or treats
- Paper and pens

Get Ready: Prepare small treasure chests or boxes with a mix of play money, real coins, and small prizes or treats. Hide these chests around your activity area. Write out 1 Timothy 6:10 on pieces of paper and place one inside each chest. Ensure there's enough for each child to find one.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and explain the rules: They are going on a treasure hunt to find the true riches. Explain that while they will find money and prizes, the real treasure is understanding what true riches are according to the Bible.
2. Let the children start the hunt. Once they find a chest, they must come back to a designated reading area to open it with the group.
3. After opening each chest, discuss the verse inside (1 Timothy 6:10) and how the love of money can lead us away from true happiness and contentment. Emphasize the importance of valuing what really matters, like kindness, generosity, and love over material wealth. Conclude the activity by encouraging the children to share their prizes with each other, demonstrating generosity and the joy of giving.

Craft Activity: Roots of Goodness Tree

You'll Need:

- Green and brown construction paper
- Scissors

- Markers or crayons
- Glue
- A printout of 1 Timothy 6:10

Get Ready: Cut out a tree trunk from the brown construction paper and several leaves from the green construction paper. Prepare a large sheet of paper or poster board to assemble the tree.

Do this:

1. Discuss 1 Timothy 6:10 with the children, explaining that the love of money can lead us to make poor choices, but focusing on God and goodness leads to a rich life in spirit. Emphasize that it's not money itself that is evil, but the love of it over everything else.
2. Have each child write or draw on a leaf something of true value that isn't money (e.g., family, friendship, love, kindness, faith). Encourage creativity and personal reflection.
3. Glue the tree trunk to the large sheet of paper or poster board. Then, have the children come up one by one to glue their leaves onto the branches, creating a 'Roots of Goodness Tree'. As they add their leaves, encourage them to share why they chose what they did.
4. Once the tree is full, place the 1 Timothy 6:10 printout at the base of the tree. Conclude by discussing how focusing on these 'roots' of goodness can lead to a fulfilling and spiritually rich life, free from the pitfalls of valuing money above all else.

Prayer Activity: Treasure Hunt for the Heart

You'll Need:

- A Bible or printed verse of 1 Timothy 6:10
- Small treasure chests or boxes (one per child)
- Paper and pens

- Various small items to use as 'treasures' (stickers, small toys, etc.)

Get Ready: Before the class, hide the small treasure chests around the room. Write the verse 1 Timothy 6:10 on a large piece of paper or a whiteboard for all the children to see.

Do this:

1. Start by reading 1 Timothy 6:10 together and discuss what it means to love money and how it can lead us away from loving God and others.
2. Explain to the children that they will go on a treasure hunt to find hidden chests around the room. However, the real treasure they're seeking isn't the items inside the chests but understanding the value of things that are not material, like love, kindness, and faith.
3. After they find the chests, gather the children and have them open their chests. Inside each chest, have them find a piece of paper and a pen. Ask them to write or draw something they are thankful for that money can't buy. Share in a circle, discussing how these treasures are more valuable than any material thing.