

Kingdom of God 25 – Leader's Guide

See Bible study at bottom of the page.

- 1. What 2 groups of people did Jesus describe in his teaching on the mountain (Sermon on Mount)? (Group 1 – anxious, worried people focused on money and material things. Group 2 – people focused on their relationship with God. They think eternally and store up treasure in heaven.)**
- 2. What bad things can happen to the treasures you store up on earth? (Moths and rust can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal your treasures.)**
- 3. What happens if your eyes are focused on money? See Matthew 6:23. (The light can't get in. Your whole life will be filled with darkness.)**
- 4. What happens if your eyes are focused on God? See Matthew 6:22. (Your whole body will be filled with light.)**
- 5. According to Jesus, what happens when you put God first? See Matthew 6:33. (He'll give you everything else you need- food, clothing, money.)**
- 6. What does the man in the crowd ask Jesus to do? See Luke 12:13. (He wants Jesus to force his brother to give him more money, his inheritance!)**
- 7. How does Jesus respond? See Luke 12:14-15. (He tells the man to work it out himself. He tells the crowd to watch out for greed, tells a story about greed.)**
- 8. What does Jesus teach about "things"? See Luke 12:15. (He says life is not measured by how much you own. Things don't give life or make you happy.)**
- 9. Describe the rich fool's lifestyle. What is his biggest problem? (He's living for fun, comfort and self. He trusts in his wealth and never shares any of it. His biggest problem is he doesn't have enough space for all his crops.)**
- 10. How does God interrupt the fool's plans? (He tells him he will die that night.)**
- 11. What will happen to his money? (Someone else will get it.)**
- 12. Why does God say this man is a fool? (This man stored up earthly wealth, but it doesn't last. He does not have a rich relationship with God.)**
- 13. How can we become rich toward God? (By accepting the free gift Jesus gave when He died on the cross- forgiveness and eternal life. We develop a love relationship with God through spending time with him.)**
- 14. Are you putting God's kingdom first? Why or why not? (Answers will vary.)**

Kingdom of God 25

Putting God First Bible Study

1. Matthew 6:19-24; 31-33 Who Is Jesus?

- Teaches people to store treasures in heaven, not on earth v.19-20
- Teaches people that things are temporary and won't last (moth, rust) v.19
- Teaches people not to worry about food and clothes v. 31
- Wants us to put God and his kingdom first. Wants God to be # 1 in our lives. v. 33
- Wants us to focus on living God's way (living righteously) v.33

Who Is God?

- Father in heaven v. 32
- Knows we need food and clothing v. 32
- Will give us everything we need if we put Him first v. 33

Who Is Man?

- Can store up earthly treasures v.19
- Thieves. Steal treasures from others v.19
- Can store up heavenly treasures v.20
- Hearts will always focus on things we treasure v.21
- If we focus on God, we are full of light v.22
- If we focus on money, we are full of darkness v.23
- If we love God, we will not love money v.24
- If we are devoted to money, we will not be devoted to God v. 24
- We can be slaves of money v.24

- Can not serve both God and Money v. 24
- People who don't know God worry and focus on food and clothing v.32

So What?

- Where is my treasure – on earth or in heaven?
- Do I focus on God or Money?
- Is my heart right toward God? Is He # 1 in my life?
- Do I trust that God knows my needs and wants to help me?

2. Luke 12:13-21 Who Is Jesus?

- Refuses to get involved in family fight over money. Tells them to work it out v. 13
- Teaches people to be careful about greed v. 15
- Storyteller v. 16
- Teaches we need to trust in God and not money v. 20-21
- Teaches we need to have a rich relationship with God v. 21

Who Is Man?

- Gets in fights about money. Asks Jesus to help him get more money! v.13
- Finds it easy to be greedy. Needs to guard heart against greed. v. 15
- Thinks that owning a lot of nice things is important v. 15
- Rich farmer has too many crops, no place to store them v. 16
- Decides to build bigger barns, store up crops v. 18
- Trusts in his riches to make him happy, comfortable v. 19
- Lives a selfish life. Doesn't give to poor or share wealth.
- We don't know how long we have to live v. 20

Who Is God?

- Tells rich man he is a fool v. 20
- Tells rich man he will die that night v. 20
- Others will get to enjoy his riches v. 20

- **Thinks it's foolish to store up earthly wealth and not be wealthy toward God v. 21**

So What?

- **Are you focused on money like the rich guy in the story?**
- **Are you living a selfish life?**
- **Have you become rich toward God? You can start today!**
- **Are you putting God's kingdom first? If not, you can change!**
- **Have you ever asked God what he wants you to do with your life?**
- **Have you ever asked God where he wants you to spend your time?**
- **Have you ever asked God how he wants you to spend your money?**
- **Is God the boss over your friendships? Have you ever asked God who he wants you to be friends with?**