

# Luke 16:1-13

## Practice Good Stewardship

**Scripture:** Luke 16:1-13

**Memory Verse:** 1 Timothy 6:18 *“Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share.”*

**Lesson Focus:** God has given us many good things. In our lesson today, Jesus challenges us to practice good and wise stewardship of the good things He has given us.

**Activities and Crafts:** What God Wants Me To Steward Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.  
Activity for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Things I Can Share Worksheet

**Starter Activity:** Stewardship Scenarios

Consider getting the lesson started by reading one or more of these stories to the kids and ask what they might do in each situation (or come up with your own story!). Have a little discussion before you mention what each kid **\*could\*** have done.

- 1) Maven’s Mom just gave her \$10 for helping weed the yard. Maven is excited because now she almost has enough money to pay for the horseback riding lesson that she has been wanting. Then she remembered that she should give a portion of what she has earned back to God by putting something in the offering at church. What will she do? (She **\*could\*** give a portion of the \$10 back to God and wait a little longer for those horseback riding lesson)
- 2) Aidan just got a new baseball glove for his birthday. His old one was a little worn out, but is still in decent shape. Aidan decides he wants to keep both of them just in case. But then he meets a new kid on his team that doesn’t have a glove. What will he do? (He **\*could\*** give one of his gloves to the new kid)
- 3) Amy has worked very hard on her AWANA memory verses and has earned just enough AWANA bucks to purchase one of the biggest prizes at the AWANA store that she wants. When she gets to the store she also notices something that her younger sister would love. If she got that for her sister, she would still have enough to get something nice for herself. But she wouldn’t have enough to get the big shiny prize she wanted. What will she do? (She **\*could\*** really bless her sister and still get something nice for herself)

All of these scenarios teach us about stewardship. In our lesson today, Jesus is going to challenge us to practice good stewardship. Let’s see what that means and what that looks like!

## Bible Study:

**Luke 16:1:** So Jesus tells His disciples a story about a rich man and his steward.

Q: What is a steward?

A: A servant who is put in charge over someone's wealth or stuff. He doesn't own it himself, but is responsible for using them in a way that will please and profit the master!

Q: What was the problem?

A: He was accused of wasting his master's stuff. In other words, someone suspected that he was being a bad steward!

**Luke 16:2:** Uh-oh! Looks like he has been called into his master's office to give an account of his dealings. \*

Q: Have you ever been called into an "office" to give an account of your behavior?  
(**Teachers:** Consider sharing an appropriate personal story where you did something naughty and were summoned to give an account) \*

**Luke 16:3:** The steward begins to panic and Jesus tells us what is going on in his head.

Q: Why would he panic? A: Because he was indeed a bad steward and has gotten busted! If he was a good steward he would have had nothing to fear and would have been able to defend himself!

**Luke 16:4-7:** The steward got fired and is now on his way out of the job. But he also comes up with a plan to secure his future. He made friends with the people that owed his master money by offering them a discount. This way, they may be able to help him find a new job.

**Luke 16:8:** While I'm sure the master was upset that he got bamboozled by this dishonest steward, the one thing the master admits is that he acted shrewdly or wisely. And Jesus wants His people, "the sons of light", to be both good AND wise stewards with what He has given them.

**Luke 16:9-13:** Now we get into some more direct lessons about money and stewardship.

- 1) Use money for God's Kingdom (v. 9)! Jesus tells them to use money to "make friends" for the kingdom of God. This means winning people to Christ who will one day welcome us to heaven. Won't it be amazing to meet people in heaven that heard the gospel because of your giving? When we give to missions or give to people in need, we are wisely "investing" our money into the Kingdom of God.
- 2) Be faithful and trustworthy with what God has given you (v. 10-12)! Someone once taught that a thief says, "*What's yours is mine. I'll take it!*" A selfish person says, "*What's mine is mine. I'll keep it!*" But the Christian should say, "*What's mine is from God! I'll share it!*"

3) We cannot serve God and money/wealth/stuff (v. 13)! We must choose!  
Q: What does a thermometer do? A: It measures the temperature and tells you whether something is hot or cold. You take one to determine whether you are sick!  
(**Teachers:** Consider bringing in a thermometer into class to help illustrate this point. Consider even taking a kid's temperature for fun) \*

In the same way, how well we “steward” our money/wealth/stuff sort of serves as a spiritual thermometer for us showing us how hot or cold (or sick!) our hearts are toward God.

- a. If I'm focused more on what God has given me than on God Himself, my heart is spiritually cold! (Remember the prodigal son from the last two weeks?)
- b. Or on the other hand, if I ignore what God has given me such that I'm not seeing how I can share it with others, my heart is also spiritually cold! (Remember the prodigal son's older brother?)
- c. No, we are to be thankful for all that God has given us and also be on the lookout for how we can faithfully serve God and others with those things. Then our hearts are at just the right temperature! \*

Let's finish our lesson with another passage of Scripture that reinforces some of Jesus's points.

**1 Timothy 6:6-8:** These verses challenge us to be content.

Q: What does it mean to be content? A: It means to be more thankful and satisfied with what you have than being upset and crabby about what you don't have. \*

Q: And what did it say we are to be content with? A: Food and clothing! Everything else is extra! When we are content with these things we will be more willing to share and be good stewards with the extras that God has blessed us with.

**1 Timothy 6:9:** Wow, this is quite the warning! The Bible has warnings against chasing after money from cover to cover! Why? Because God knows it will ruin us!

Q: Remember, what happened to the prodigal son? A: His lust for money and goodies almost completely destroyed him (fortunately he repented before it was too late!). \*

**1 Timothy 6:10:** This is important as it teaches us that money itself is not evil.

Q: What is at the root of all kinds of evil? A: The **love** of money! Remember the thermometer....does your heart “heat up” more about Jesus or about money/stuff?

**Key Points:** Jesus has a lot of practical lessons for us. Here are a few things you can do to assess your own spiritual temperature.

- 1) Ask yourself how you see your money/stuff (as mine, or as given from God).
- 2) Ask God how you can practice good stewardship of what He has given you.
- 3) Ask God to help you be content with what you have.

How will you respond? Always remember that we practice good stewardship not to earn God's love, but BECAUSE He loves us and we love Him!

# BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 16:13  
Why are we not able to "serve" both God and money/stuff?

Parent Signature:  
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Parent Challenge:  
What is the "root of all sorts of evil"?  
(see 1 Tim. 6:10)

Read Luke 16:10  
What has God given you to faithfully steward?

