



### ***Spread the Word—Student Devos***

God wants to work in your life! For him to be able to speak to you, however, you have to be still and listen. These Student Devos were written specifically to help you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ.

Each week during your Spread the Word study you will receive a set of five daily devotionals. If you miss a day or even a whole week, don't panic! Just start with the next devotional. We just want you to grow! If you stay on track with the Spread the Word study, you'll get the most out of the devotionals and the study.

These devotionals are a part of the bigger picture of Spread the Word (STW). Spread the Word is an opportunity for teenagers to give in support of evangelistic efforts that spread the love of Jesus around the world. STW gives specifically to purchase tools for evangelism—cars, vans, trucks, motorcycles, sound systems, projectors, printed materials, and other evangelism tools that help those working in other countries to get the message of Jesus out.

You can be a part of investing in storing up heavenly treasures by investing in something that will make an eternal difference. Your group will be working together to pool their funds to help support Spread the Word. Talk it up in your group and with your friends about how you can help. You may want to give up going to the movies for the five weeks, taking the money you would have spent and giving it to Spread the Word. You may want to give up soft drinks during this time and pledge the money saved to STW. You may want to take the money you would have spent on clothes, CDs, or DVDs and give it to STW—whatever God lays on your heart.

The STW challenge is above and beyond your regular tithes and offerings to your local church. If you need more information on STW, check out [www.chogy.org](http://www.chogy.org).

**Spread the Word Student Devos**  
**Week One**



**Day 1**

You have just been shipwrecked on a deserted island, nowhere near civilization. While searching for ways to escape, you discover a buried treasure of gold, silver, and rare gems. You are excited. You are now filthy rich, covered in sand and dirt, with millions of dollars of treasure at your feet. You have never been this excited. You start jumping up and down, yelling and screaming, because of all this wealth. You can buy anything you want—as long as it’s on the island. Suddenly, you stop. What is there to buy on this stupid, dirty, sandy little island? You’re getting hungry and thirsty; you have enough money to pay \$10 for a Coke, \$25 for a Whopper, or \$100 for a large double-pepperoni pizza. But you can’t buy what you really want—something to eat, something to drink, and something to get you off this stupid island before someone makes it into a stupid TV show. Then you start thinking your deep spiritual thoughts again and decide this really means something about treasure and what is important to you. You sit down on the treasure chest (closed, of course) and ask yourself, “Self, just what does God want me to discover here?” And you decide to find out.

Matthew 6:19–21 says, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Put this verse somewhere you can see it and memorize it. What is God saying to you through this verse?

**Day 2**

Think about the ten most important things in your life. Now, list them out below. You can put anything on your list: stuff, such as your stereo, your car, or a skateboard; people, such as your parents, your best friend, or your algebra teacher; places, such as your room, the hills and woods where you go hunting, or the band room; and abstract things, such as your intelligence, your popularity, your athletic ability, or a talent you may have. The things on your list do not have to be your own personal items; they can be something owned by your whole family, something at school, or a place that’s not really owned by anyone. List whatever is *the most important* to you, things that you would be pretty upset to lose or not have anymore:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

Look at the things on your list. How many are things you can touch or see? How many are abstract ideas or concepts? How many are people? How would you rank this list? Now, for each thing listed, ask yourself, “Is there any way I could possibly lose this?” (Could it die or be taken away?) If so, mark through it. Spend time today thinking about these ten things that are important to you, and what Jesus said in Matthew 6:19–21.

Now consider this: You have been selected to be part of an exploratory team to create a settlement on the moon for two years. NASA is going to build an “earth dome” that simulates your hometown as closely as possible. But there is limited time and space for them to build it, so you have to give them a list of only three things you *must have* to be willing to live there. Stretch your imagination a little: You can take anything on your list, even the places and people, but only three; nothing else can go. What did you pick? Why? How would the list be different if you were going forever instead of for two years?

### Day 3

What is the most common place for your family to store stuff you aren’t using right now? If you can, go there now and continue the rest of your time with God there. If you can’t, answer these questions as well as you can from memory. Describe this storage space. Is it full? cluttered? organized? Are things in boxes with labels or just crammed in? What does the space look like? What does it smell like? What does it sound like? Would you be afraid to spend the night in there with no light? Why or why not? Think about a time when something that was stored there was destroyed or damaged (perhaps by leaking water or a mouse). How did you react?

Read again Matthew 6:19–21. What did Jesus mean by “treasures”? Why did he say “treasures” instead of “money”? Did he mean to never put anything in storage? to never buy anything that can be destroyed by moths or rust? to build strong bars on your house to keep thieves out? to not put too much value in things? that money is bad? that we should clean out our closets often? something else?

Fill out the following table with some examples of earthly treasures and some examples of heavenly treasures. List at least five in each column:

**Earthly Treasures**

money  
clothes  

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**Heavenly Treasures**

giving to the poor  
witnessing to people  

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Look at your lists. What are the differences between earthly treasures and heavenly treasures? What is God revealing to you?

**Day 4**

If you are memorizing Matthew 6:19–21, try to write it down without looking:

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Look again at your list of the most important things from Day 2. Think about the top five things on that list. Are they earthly treasures or heavenly treasures? (Sorry, but your CD collection is *not* a heavenly treasure, even if it’s all Christian music.) How did you decide whether these treasures are earthly or heavenly?

Jesus taught that our ultimate focus should be on God. “Stuff” isn’t bad—but making it more valuable than *God’s* stuff is. If you make things too important, you will be disappointed because they can disappear or be destroyed. Most things—including money, abilities, possessions, and friends—can be either an earthly treasure or a heavenly one. The difference is in how you value them and how they are used.

Spend time today praying about the things on your “most important” list. Give them back to God and ask him to show you how to make sure they have the right priority.

## **Day 5**

Start your devotional time today by praying. Think about the storage area you described on Day 3. Imagine that you have placed all your important things in there. Now, one by one, picture yourself picking those things up and presenting them to God. Say, “Father, I want you to move this into your heavenly storage area. Show me how to use it for you.”

Look at Matthew 13:44–46. Jesus was talking about treasure again. How does this relate to what you’ve been studying this week? Did Jesus contradict himself by saying to go after treasure?

Consider what you think is really valuable in life and ask yourself these questions:

- Do I have more things in an earthly storage area or a heavenly one?
- Are my priorities in the right order?
- Do I spend more money on myself or for God?
- Would I rather give away the money I spend on a CD to see the good news of Jesus Christ spread around the world, or would I rather keep it for myself?
- Am I more concerned about how I look or about how I act toward other people?

If you are memorizing Matthew 6:19–21, complete Jesus’ words, from memory: “For where your treasure is...”

### ***Challenge***

Choose something from your “most important list” and write it below. Are you willing, for the next forty days or so, to give the money you would have spent on that thing to Spread the Word instead?

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