

Things vs. Treasure
Lesson 2



Objectives

- To understand the difference between earthly and heavenly treasure.
- To understand how to store up heavenly treasure.
- To understand God’s priorities versus our priorities.
- To challenge students to think about their pledges to STW.

Materials/Preparation

- Index cards
- Pens or pencils
- Copies of “My Top Twenty” (Reproducible 1)
- Copies of “Earthly vs. Heavenly” (Reproducible 2)
- STW pledge cards
- Week 2 Student Devos

Starting the Journey (10 Minutes)

Distribute index cards and pens or pencils to students. Ask group members to write on their cards the five things they would take if they knew they were going to be stranded on a deserted island. After everyone has written their five items, divide the class groups of three and tell them that because of space limitations, their group can only take two things per person; each group should decide what to keep and what to get rid of. They can take all five things from one person if they wish, but the group can take no more than six things. After a few minutes, bring everyone back together and invite the groups to explain why they chose as they did.

Gaining Speed (15 minutes)

Distribute copies of “My Top Ten” (Reproducible 1) and give students about five minutes to fill them out. When the lists are complete, say, **If there’s any possible way that something on your list could be taken away from you, cross it out.** For example, a person could move away or die; an object could be stolen; an injury could cause a talent or skill to be lost. After students have done this, discuss how it felt to remove items from the list. Ask, **Did you have at least a little bit of hesitation in giving some of these things up?**

Share with your students Matthew 6:19–21: **“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.”** Suggest that those students who have their Bibles underline these key verses. Ask, **According to Jesus, what happens to treasure stored up on earth? What about treasure stored up in heaven?** The things of this earth are destroyed or taken from us; things that we “store up” in heaven last forever.

Say, **If the things that are important to you can be taken away from you, then they are earthly—temporary—treasures. We need to learn how to invest in things that will last forever.**

Pit Stop (10 or more minutes)

Note: If you are tight on meeting time, we suggest you skip this option.

Say, **Let's see what it feels like to be stored up as people.** Play Sardines, which is like reverse hide and seek. One person is selected to hide and all the others are seekers. Keep all the seekers in one room for a minute while the hider goes to hide. When the seekers go out and one of them finds the hider, that seeker has to get into the same location as the hider and hide there as well. Seekers keep looking until they have all found where the rest are hiding. The last seeker to find the group loses. Play as many rounds as you have time for.

As an option, you could find the smallest closet in the building and see if you can cram the entire group into it. Make sure you do this safely and no one gets hurt by a mop or a lawn mower—or by a board member yelling at you. You could also have teams race to see which team can get all their people into the closet the fastest. Adapt this option for space availability and group size.

Down the Straightaway (15 minutes)

Invite students to look again at Matthew 6:19–21. Ask, **What did Jesus mean by “treasures”?** Things that are valuable to us. Point out that this includes a lot of things besides money!

Distribute to students copies of “Earthly vs. Heavenly” (Reproducible 2) and ask them to list some differences between earthly treasures and heavenly treasures. After a few minutes, invite students to share their answers. Ask, **Why does Jesus want us to store up heavenly treasures instead of earthly ones?** This is a matter of having the right priorities. Things that last forever—heavenly things—should be most important to us. Point out that we do need some material “stuff” in order to live in this world; most of the time it’s how *important* that stuff is to us that causes the problems.

Heading for the Checkered Flag (15 minutes)

Ask students to look again at their personal top twenty lists and to determine how many heavenly treasures and how many earthly treasures they have listed. Which do they have more of—earthly or heavenly? It is very unlikely that anyone’s “heavenly” list will outweigh his or her “earthly” list.

Say, **We have the opportunity to invest in heavenly treasures, in eternity.** Distribute to students the STW pledge cards. Explain that Spread the Word is an opportunity for teenagers across North America to help purchase tools for evangelism, spreading the love of Jesus around the world. STW provides things such as cars, vans, trucks, motorcycles, sound systems, projectors, printed evangelistic materials, and other evangelism tools; these things help get the message of Jesus out.

Say, **You can be a part of storing up heavenly treasures, investing in something that will make an eternal difference.** Discuss again the ways you named last week for raising STW funds. Remind students that they should give as God impresses on their hearts, and that the STW challenge is above and beyond their regular tithes and offerings. Encourage students to fill out their pledge cards today and hand them in or to take them home, pray over them, and bring them back next week. Say, **Will you invest in heavenly treasure? Let's work together with others from across North America to change the world, one life at a time.**

Crossing the Finish Line (5 Minutes)

Invite one or more students to lead in prayer for STW around the word and for your own group as they store up heavenly treasure. If you wish, you can write (or ask students to write) the words of Matthew 6:19–21 on index cards and challenge them to memorize the passage.

Distribute the Week 2 Student Devos and challenge students to complete this simple handout over the coming week.

Reproducible 1 My Top Ten

Make a list of the ten most important things in your life. You can put anything on your list, including:

- *stuff*—such as your stereo, your car, a skateboard;
- *people*—such as your parents, your best friend, your algebra teacher;
- *places*—such as your room, the hills and woods where you go hunting, the band room;
- *abstract things*—such as your intelligence, your popularity, your athletic ability, a talent.

The things you list do not have to be your personal items, but can be things 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 you would be pretty upset to lose or not have anymore:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



Now rank the items on your list from *most important* to *least important*.

Reproducible 2 Earthly vs. Heavenly

Fill out the boxes below with examples of earthly treasures and examples of heavenly treasures.
List at least five in each category.

Earthly Treasures (examples: money, clothes)



Heavenly Treasures (Examples: giving money to the poor, people you witnessed to)

