

A Story about Investing

Luke 19:11-27

MEMORY VERSE

LUKE 19:26

“For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many copies of the “treasure box” pattern as the number of children in your class, scissors, and tape or glue.

A bag of dry kidney beans, a pitcher of water, and as many zip-lock sandwich bags and paper towels as the number of children in your class.

Construction paper and scissors, circle cutter or pogs, and aluminum foil, and white paper and crayons or markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

The Treasure Chest

Use the pattern provided to make treasure chests for the children in your class. Explain to the children that God has given us a great treasure in His Son, Jesus Christ. Through Jesus we have salvation, a relationship with the almighty God of the Universe, abundant life, and the promise of eternity in heaven.

Save the boxes and set them aside for the “My Treasure” activity you will do later.

LESSON TIME!

Imagine this: a man had ten diamond rings that were very valuable treasures. He had to leave the country for a while so he gave one ring to each of his ten best friends. Those friends would probably do different things with the rings entrusted to them.

What are some things they might do? Put the ring in a safety deposit box? Wear the ring? Take it to a jeweler to have it tightened and polished? Hide it under the mattress? Display it for everyone to see? Leave it on the sink carelessly? Put it in a ring box? Depending on what they thought of the owner and how much they respected, loved, feared or did not like him, they would do different things. How they treated the ring would show what they thought of its owner.

Jesus told a parable about a treasure, a great wealth that was entrusted to ten servants. What did they do? Let's find out!

LUKE 19:11

Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.

The crowd following Jesus was pretty excited about being with Him. They were hoping something amazing was going to happen. They were expecting Jesus to proclaim Himself King and set up an earthly kingdom. They thought that Jesus would become king and finally free the Jews from the Romans. But they missed the point; they did not understand that Jesus had come to set up a spiritual kingdom, not an earthly one. To help them understand, He told them this parable:

LUKE 19:12

Therefore He said: "A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return."

The nobleman in this parable gives us a picture of Jesus and our relationship with Him. He is the One who would ascend into heaven to prepare a place for His church before returning to set up His eternal kingdom on earth. It would be during this time of waiting for His return that those on earth would have responsibilities, things to do while He is away. Jesus is the King of kings, but His kingdom will not be fully manifested (or made known to everyone) until He returns.

Jesus is in heaven with God the Father. He has given each one of us who are His servants certain responsibilities. One day He will return, and we will give an account of what we did with those things that He gave to us. We have a great responsibility to Him. **We should share the love of Jesus.**

LUKE 19:13-15

"So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas, and said to them, 'Do business till I come.'

"But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'

"And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

The servants are a picture of us, the Church. Just like the servants were each given an equal opportunity to use what their master had given them, we each have an equal opportunity to use the gifts our Master, Jesus, has given us. The ten minas, which was a large sum of money, are a symbol of our treasure: God's love, the "Good News" of the Gospel, the Word, and the gifts and talents God has given each of us. The citizens of the world hate Jesus, but as followers of Jesus, we should seek to share the treasures He has given us with others. Jesus' servants want to win others to Him. **We should share the love of Jesus.**

A Little In - A Lot Out

The night before class, remove a good amount of dry kidney beans from their bag and soak them in water overnight. Have your class fold a paper towel to about the size of a zip-lock sandwich bag. Place the folded paper towels into sandwich bags and moisten them with water. Have your students place a few of the soaked kidney beans in the bag, and instruct them to take the bags home and place them somewhere with the bean side down for a few days.

The beans will sprout after a few days, and your children will be able to see that a few little beans can make a big plant; the "little in" has the potential to become "a lot out." Once the beans have fully sprouted they can be eaten as bean sprouts, or they can be planted to produce more beans.

Explain to your class that this is what God will do with the gifts He has given to us. If we nurture our relationship with Him and yield to His way in our lives, the gospel of Jesus Christ will be multiplied to the lives around us.

LUKE 19:16-20

"Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.'

"And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'

"And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.'

"Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'

"Then another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief.'

When the Lord returns, He will deal with His servants according to what they have been doing while He was gone. Do we desire to please Him so much that we make full use of the truth we know of Him, like the servant who earned ten more minas? Or do we just make a partial use of the truth of Christ? Could we do better, like the servant who earned five minas? Or do we hide away our treasure so no one can see it like the servant who put his treasure in a handkerchief. He was not really concerned with pleasing the King. **We should share the love of Jesus.**

How important it is to be faithful with what the Lord has entrusted to us. The Bible says that every one of us have different spiritual gifts. God has given us these gifts that we might bring glory to Him. But we have a responsibility to use those gifts for His kingdom. What are some of the gifts that the Lord has entrusted you with? How can you use those gifts to help others to come to know Jesus?

One day we will all stand before the Lord and give an account of how we have used the gifts the He has given to us, what we have done with His son, Jesus. We need to be faithful and plant seeds for the kingdom of God so we can reap a wonderful harvest. When we stand before the Lord, there will be no greater joy than to hear Him say to us, "Well done good and faithful servant" (Matt. 25:21).

LUKE 19:21-25

'For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.'

"And he said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant. You knew that I was an austere man, collecting what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow.

'Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?'

"And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas.'

("But they said to him, 'Master, he has ten minas.')

This last servant, who did nothing, even tried to blame his failure on the master. He tried to make it sound like his master was unfair and he hid the mina out of fear. We know his accusation of the master is false by what the master says in Jesus' parable.

Jesus pointed out that the man's own words condemned him. If the master truly were mean, a servant would work much harder in order to avoid inciting the anger of the master. Jesus was pointing out that this man simply did not care. Perhaps this servant was one of the citizens in the parable who did not want the master to become king. Perhaps he was just a failing servant who neglected his opportunity. **We should share the love of Jesus.**

LUKE 19:26-27

""For I say to you, that to everyone who has will be given; and from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

'But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me.'"

Here, the master was dealing with His enemies, those people who had rejected Him and therefore His Kingdom. So too, Jesus will one day judge those who have chosen to serve themselves rather than Him, the King of kings. We are all given a choice of who we want to serve. When we choose ourselves over Jesus, we choose this world over His kingdom, and He honors that decision by not letting those who reject Him into His kingdom.

Along with all the wonders and blessings that come with our salvation, there also comes a responsibility to be faithful in what God has called us: serving, loving, and witnessing to those whom Jesus loves, and that is everyone. **We should share the love of Jesus.**

If we want to please God, we need to become like the servant with the ten minas; God will be faithful to produce good fruit, things of the Spirit, in our lives as we serve Him. Let's ask Him to show us how to be like the servant who made the greatest use of all He was given. God knows our hearts, and He will help us use every opportunity to its greatest measure.

My Treasure

Have your class cut coins out of construction paper or cover pogs with aluminum foil. Write on each of the coins, "Jesus loves you!" Have your children place the coins in the "treasure box" they made at the beginning of class.

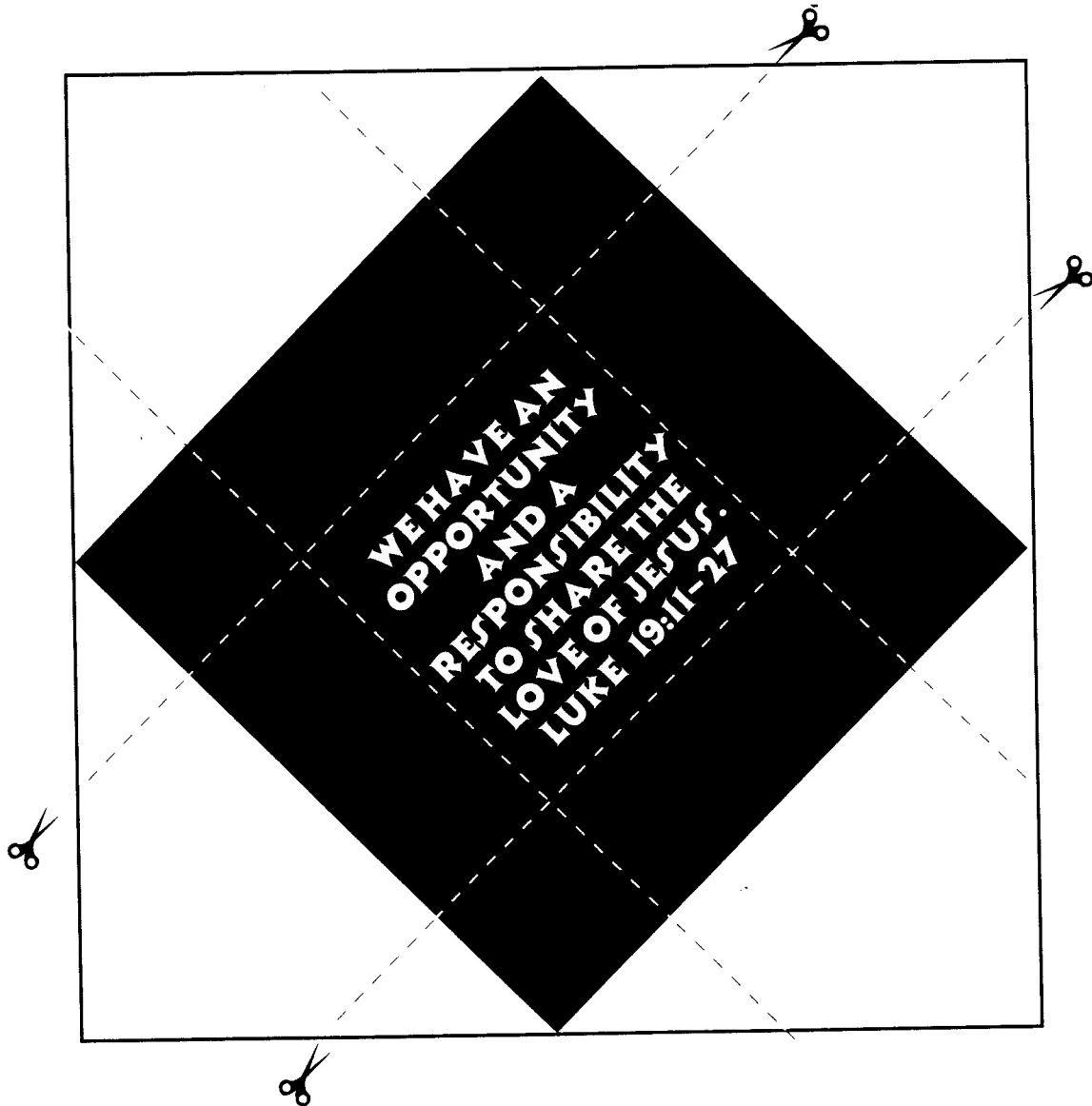
Explain to your class that Jesus has given each of us His love and His promise that He will never leave us or forsake us; He will always be there for us (Heb. 13:5). He has given us salvation, a relationship with the almighty God of the universe, abundant life, and the promise of eternity in heaven.

Challenge your children to invest the gospel in the lives of others, just like the faithful servants invested the minas entrusted to them by their master. Encourage your children to give these coins out of their "treasure box" to other people in their lives who do not have the "treasure" of a relationship with Jesus.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to live a life eager to share the love of Jesus with others. If any children have not responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.

Template - Treasure Box (1 of 2)



1. Cut out the outermost square. (Note which dotted lines to be cut later.)
2. Turn the blank side of the paper facing up, fold all four points to the center. This should leave only a black square on the other side.
3. With the black side down, crease along each dotted line, opening back to step 2 after it is creased.
4. With the whole black square showing (step 2), cut on two parallel dotted lines stopping at the intersection (4 cuts total), but DO NOT cut into the innermost square.
5. Unfold the skinny sections completely. The little piece of the wider section should fit underneath the skinny section as you bring the sides up to make a little box.
6. Staple or tape to hold the box together.

