



ANOTHER DIMENSION

Jesus' picture of
life from the
Sermon on the mount



• Student handbook by Rhonda Watson

LESSON 6

WHAT DO I WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE?

Matthew 6:19-34

IT'S LIKE, I'M SO INTO THE SIMPLE LIFESTYLE THING. LIKE, Y'KNOW, THERE'S TOO MUCH, LIKE, CLUTTER EVERYWHERE?



OH TOTALLY, LIKE, ME TOO, I'M TOTES BORED WITH ALL MY STUFF LATELY? I'M JUST, LIKE, REALLY, Y'KNOW, JUST INTO THE ESSENTIALS OF LIFE, IT'S SO FULFILLING?



? 1. What would you say are the essentials of life?

2. Think of someone whose life seems more appealing than yours. What is it that they have, that you feel is missing in your life?

“
WHOEVER SAID MONEY CAN'T BUY HAPPINESS
SIMPLY DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO GO SHOPPING.
”



Bo Derek
 US actor

3. Money buys happiness. Come up with one argument that supports this argument and one that disagrees with it.

TWO DIFFERENT TREASURES

Jesus challenged his listeners to think about their attitude to money and the kind of 'treasure' it can give us.

+ Read **Matthew 6:19–21, 24.**

↔ 4. Summarise what Jesus says in verses 19–21 under the following headings:

Do not store up:

because:

Do store up:

because:

Where your treasure is ...

↻ 5. What do you treasure most in life? Can you see yourself organising your life around this treasure? What do you hope to gain from this treasure?

💬 6. With a partner, list five 'earthly treasures' you might find appealing, and in the right-hand column describe what could destroy this treasure.

| EARTHLY TREASURE | DESTROYED BY |
|------------------|--------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |

“MONEY DOESN'T MAKE YOU HAPPY. I NOW HAVE \$50 MILLION BUT I WAS JUST AS HAPPY WHEN I HAD \$48 MILLION.”



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Actor and former US governor

7. Jesus tells his followers to store up 'heavenly treasure'. What do you think he might mean by this?

The heavenly treasure Jesus speaks about cannot be destroyed or stolen. It is safe for eternity. This includes things such as our relationship with God, his love for us and his forgiveness, the friendship we share with others who follow Jesus, hope for a future of freedom from sin and evil, and meaning and comfort for our lives now. All of this is given freely to Jesus' followers and guaranteed by the gift of his Spirit.

8. Do you find this idea appealing? Why/Why not?

THE CRUNCH!

We organise our lives around what we treasure most. There is only room for one core treasure in our hearts, says Jesus. You cannot worship both God and money.

9. Do you agree with Jesus? Could it be possible to follow Jesus and worship earthly treasure at the same time?



David Livingstone (1813-1873)

Livingstone grew up in Scotland, and was forced to leave school at the age of ten to work in a mill to help support his family. He became a Christian at 17 and from that time on was deeply committed to travelling overseas to share his faith.

Livingstone became interested in the needs in Africa, which at that time was largely unexplored by Europeans. He arrived in Africa in 1849, at the age of 36. Immediately he moved to unexplored regions, beginning his African travels which were to take him more than 48,000 kms over the African continent.

“I WILL PLACE NO VALUE ON ANYTHING I HAVE OR MAY POSSESS, EXCEPT IN RELATION TO THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST.”



David Livingstone

He became well known as an explorer, doctor, missionary, writer, scientist and geographer. But above all, his understanding of God's love for all people compelled him to work tirelessly to draw attention to the evils of the slave trade, which at that time was responsible for the forced removal of black Africans to many parts of the world.

10. Think of something you treasure deeply (not God). It might be a precious thing, a relationship, how people think about you or something you are hoping for. What worries or anxieties do you have about this treasure? Why do you think that is?

“WE HAVE VERY LITTLE, SO WE HAVE NOTHING TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH. THE MORE YOU HAVE, THE MORE YOU ARE OCCUPIED, THE LESS YOU GIVE. BUT THE LESS YOU HAVE THE MORE FREE YOU ARE.”



Mother Teresa
Catholic nun who devoted her life to the outcasts of Calcutta

NO WORRIES!

11. Complete the mind map below to show what you worry about in a typical week of your life.

I worry about ...

“ THAT’S THE SECRET TO LIFE ...
REPLACE ONE WORRY WITH ANOTHER. ”



Charles M Schulz
Creator/Cartoonist of Charlie Brown

Read **Matthew 6:25–34**.

12. Do you think it is really possible to not worry? Explain your opinion.

13. What does Jesus says his followers shouldn’t worry about?

14. Describe how you think people today might ‘run after’ things like clothes and food and try to control their future.

It sounds almost impossible—‘Do not worry about your life!’—but Jesus shows us how we might. Firstly, he reminds his followers that God is a heavenly Father who knows us completely and, if we trust him, calls us ‘son’ or ‘daughter’ (Matthew 6:32). He is able to care for the entire creation, so he is certainly able to look after our needs too.


Secondly, Jesus says if we treasure what God treasures, God will give us everything we need—both in this life and into eternity. No worries!

15. Is it hard or easy for you to believe God is a loving heavenly Father, who cares about you deeply and who welcomes you when you put your trust in Jesus? Why?



World poverty

If God promises to feed and clothe his children, then why are so many of them poorly clothed and under-nourished?

 Read **Matthew 25:41–46** and **James 2:14–17**.

Through the centuries many people have responded to Jesus' call to seek God's Kingdom first by caring for the poor and suffering. So much so, that if Christians suddenly stopped all they do around the world to care for those in need the result would be catastrophic.


Research the following Christians who helped others in need:

- Mother Teresa
- William Wilberforce
- Florence Nightingale
- Joni Eareckson Tada
- Everett Swanson
- Tim Costello
- John Wesley
- Harriet Beecher Stowe.

16. What would it look like in your life if, in response to Jesus' call, you truly made God your first and foremost treasure?

SEEK FIRST

Jesus' demand is extreme and radical and exciting and liberating. It will look different for everyone but, incredibly, Jesus says that those who seek what God seeks will be given more than they could ever hope for. For Christians, knowing God loves them and 'has their back' is key to chasing after the right treasure and living righteous lives.

 17. What is your response to this demand of Jesus? Tick any of these comments that reflect your reaction:

- It's asking too much! He's got to be kidding!
- I'd really like to live my life my way for a while first, actually. Try out some other ways and then maybe I'll get back to considering Jesus.
- I think I'd like to try to follow this, even though it seems like a hard call and I don't know what it will look like.
- I think if Jesus loved me enough to die for me, then following him and obeying this demand is OK with me.
- It's kind of appealing to have such a strong core faith to base your life on. It would give you a sense of purpose I guess, but I'm not ready to commit right now!
- It makes me want to follow Jesus and to pray for help to do it.
- My response is ...



If you want to, you could pray like this:

Heavenly Father, it's a bit mind-blowing to think that you know me so well that even the hairs on my head are numbered.

There's so much that I worry about each day. Some of it's pretty serious but some of it won't matter one bit in 10,000 years!

There's so much of my life that shows I don't really trust you. Please forgive me for this. Help me to trust more deeply in your love for me and to learn to put you first, above everything else. Amen

You might like to write your own prayer to the right.



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