

Daily Bible Readings:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. Try to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Luke 12:13-21	Parable of the rich fool
Monday	Deuteronomy 8:6-20	Warnings about forgetting God
Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 5:10-20	Worldly riches are meaningless
Wednesday	Isaiah 5:8-17	The greedy are doomed
Thursday	Luke 12:22-31	Trust God, not material things
Friday	1 Timothy 6:6-11,17-19	Love of money
Saturday	1 Chronicles 29:10-13	David praises the Lord
Sunday	Luke 12:32-40	Seek treasures in heaven

Scripture Verses for the Week:

Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

– Colossians 3:2-3 (NLT)

- Cut out & carry with you.
- Say at each mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memory.

Prayer for this Week:

Lord God, keep me from becoming greedy. Help me to see how rich I already am because of you. Amen. (Luke 12:15,21)

For Throughout the Day:

Lord, help me to focus today on the things of heaven, not the things of earth. Amen. (Colossians 3:2)

A Blessing to Share:

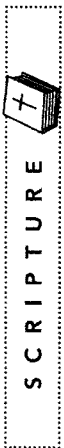
May Jesus fill you with his life. May he help you to know and follow his ways, now and always. Amen. (Colossians 3:1-10)

Mealtime Refrain:

We have been raised from the dead with Christ:
Now he is our life. (Colossians 3:1,4)

Mealtime Prayer:

Give us grace, O God, to be ever-thankful for your goodness, and ever-willing to help others in need. Amen.



Faith Talk:

- What is your most treasured possession? Why?
- Jesus warned people about wanting to have more and more things. He said that life is not made up of how much a person has (Luke 12:15). What in life can't we get from money or possessions?
- What does faith in Jesus give us that money can't buy?

Devotional Practices:

As a home devotional activity, cut out and decorate credit-card-sized cards featuring these words: "Seek after God and not things". Place these in your purses or wallets as a reminder to prioritize faith in Christ over the buying, gathering and using of things.

Service:

Being "rich towards God" (Luke 12:21) means growing in generosity towards those who are in need. Decide together on a food item or recreational activity (e.g. rental of DVDs or movie outing) to forgo this week. Set aside the money saved to donate to a charity organization.

Rituals and Traditions:

Giving consistently and regularly to God's work in and through the church is a helpful practice for keeping a check on our accumulation of earthly things. Setting aside a portion of our income for church giving reminds us that God is the giver of all we have and puts him first ahead of our expenditure on other things. Talk together about how you determine your financial giving to the church and why it is important to give in this way. If household members (including children of all ages) do not give regularly, decide on a practice that will help them do so e.g. set aside money each Saturday night ready for Sunday morning.



Parent Toolbox: Developing Stewardship in Children

Kids love to get money for birthdays and holidays, but they need to be taught the basics of using their money wisely and in a God-pleasing way. Christian parenting involves teaching our children that all we have comes from God and that we are called to be good "stewards" of our possessions. A good time to start doing so is when children are aged 6-9. Growing children in stewardship involves teaching them about giving, saving and spending (in this order)

Giving: The first thing a child should do when receiving money either as a gift, an allowance, or for any other reason, is set aside a portion of it for God's work in the church and for care of his world.

Saving: The next step in teaching stewardship is to encourage saving. Saving money is a good way for a child to reach for a goal, instead of experiencing instant satisfaction. **Spending:** The remainder of money given or earned should be available for the child to spend as they like. Children grow in making decisions as they are given the opportunity to do so, advised and guided by their parents.