

Katie



The Sunday
School Lady



MATTHEW 6

TREASURES IN HEAVEN

Scripture: Matthew 6:19-24

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Butterfly wings, masks, treasures to hide (maybe balloons), eye coloring page

Ask:

See if the kids remember the Lord's Prayer. Try to say it together and if the poster boards from the previous lesson are still up, walk around while saying it.

Today we are going to continue with another of Jesus's teachings. Remember, for the past several weeks, we've been studying the Sermon on the Mount. If you want to know what Jesus taught, this is a great place to start!

Read: Matthew 6:19-24

Explain:

This seems a little strange, doesn't it? Jesus goes from talking about money to eyes to money again. This is where it helps to understand a little about the background of the writing. When we read the Bible we have to remember that it was originally written in a different language from a different culture. This culture had idioms, just like we do. Does anyone know what an idiom is? (It's a group of words established by usage that isn't always understood by the words). If that doesn't make sense, let me help by giving you some examples: "it's raining cats and dogs" "I see the light" "hit the sack" "call it a day" See if the kids can think of any.

The Jewish idiom Jesus quoted was that the eye is the lamp of the body. In Judaism to have a good eye meant to be generous and to have a bad eye meant to be stingy. So let's read those verses again. "The eye is the lamp of the body, so if you are generous, your whole body will be full of light; but if you are stingy your whole body will be full of darkness!" Does that make more sense? Jesus says that generosity gives light to us while stinginess brings darkness. This is why he doesn't want us to store up treasures on earth.

Play a Game:

In this game, two people will “store up treasures” (balloons) in a jail. The other kids will dress as moths and thieves, while others pretend to be mice. They will go in waves trying to take the treasures. The kids may tag the moths, mice and thieves. If tagged, they have to return to their side of the room and touch the wall before they come to steal more. Play until all the treasure is taken.

Play a couple times, allowing kids to have different roles in the game.

Apply:

Why do you think that being stingy could bring darkness? (We begin to think only of ourselves, we care more about our stuff than Jesus or others, etc)

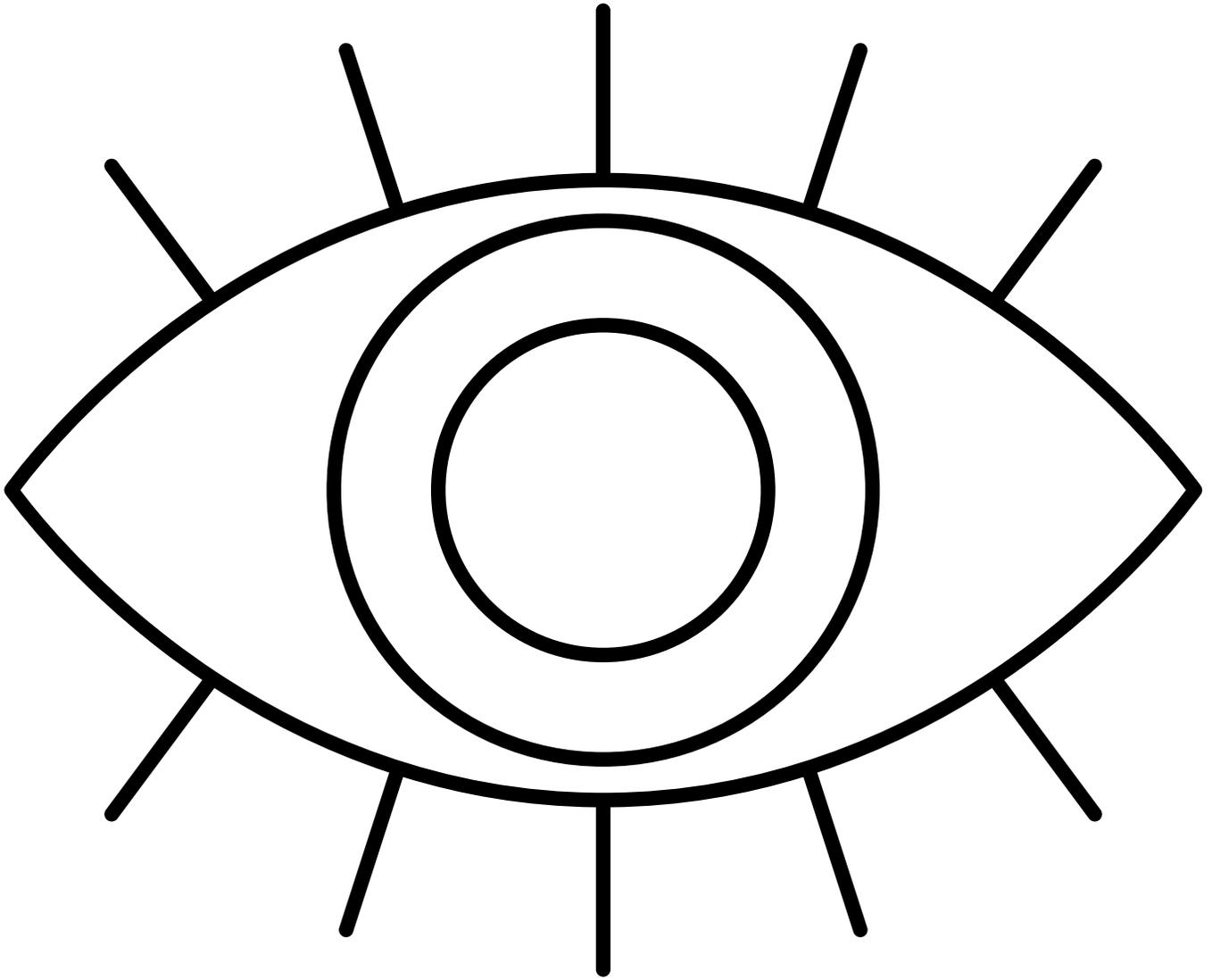
Why do you think Jesus says you can't serve both God and money? (If we love and serve money, it will squeeze out our love for God over time)

Is money bad? (Jesus never claims money is bad, but when we serve money it is. If we have been blessed with money or toys, we should always be looking for ways to give and help those less fortunate)

What ways can you be generous? (Allow kids time to brainstorm)

If time, have the kids color the good eye and write or draw a way they can be generous.

Memorize: Matthew 6:21



“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light.” Matthew 6:22

I can be generous by:
