



elev8

life on another level

Student Workbook

YEAR 3

Life and Action

Possessions

Bible Readings

Ecclesiastes 2

Matthew 6

Matthew 19

Acts 2



Learning Outcomes

At the end of this week you will be able to:

- Locate the theme of possessions in the Bible.
- Express the theme or story in your own way.
- Apply your learning from the story to your own life and community.

Notes from Bible Reading

Scripture A word or phrase that stood out to me:

Observation What is happening in this Bible reading?

Application Something that I learned about who I am or how I should live:

Prayer What I would like to say to God, ask of God, or what I think God is saying to me:

Key Question What does the Bible say about possessions?

Engage

Go around the group and share one thing for each heading that has happened since you last met:

- Plus – What has been good or enjoyable?
- Minus – What has been difficult or painful?
- Interesting – What has been unusual or thought provoking?

If you were going to be stranded on a tropical island for 6 months and were allowed to bring 3 personal possessions, what would you bring?

Explore – Locate

- *What stood out to you in the Bible readings this week?*
- *What did you find meaningful or significant?*
- *Is there anything that you didn't understand or found confusing?*
- *Any questions or comments you may have?*

Certain objects can have different values to individuals.

There is the currency (dollar) value of an item to be replaced or to get another, or there is the emotional value you place on it (which may or may not have a dollar value at all), or a situational value (where if you had to choose between it and something else).

Also some things are more valuable at a particular time than other times.

Auctions on eBay can give you an indication of how value an object can be to some, that many other people consider worthless.

Humans can, and will accumulate possessions in their lifetime.

Ecclesiastes 2 is written from the perspective of a king, someone that could get and did get everything the world had to offer.

- Who else better to talk about what it means to have stuff, then the person who has everything?
- What conclusions did he come to?

It certainly sounds that although he had times of pleasure, ultimately he wasn't satisfied. Don't we often hear similar conclusions from modern celebrities when they are honest?

"The things you own, end up owning you," is a quote from a hugely popular movie in the 90s about the emptiness of modern life. A similar idea echoing Jesus' quote about "where your treasure is, there your heart is also".

- What are these two quotes trying to get at?
- Why is this important for your spiritual and practical life?
- Why is it hard for someone who has much (Matt 19) to follow God?
- Why does God ask some to give up all their possessions?
- Is it possible for the mega-rich to follow Jesus?
- What will they depend on for their satisfaction and joy in life?

Acts 2 details how the early followers of Jesus lived.

- What would happen if people lived like that today?
- Would it be wrong?

Explore – Express

John Lennon wrote and performed a song called: "Imagine". (Play it if you can). One of the verses says:

*"Imagine no possessions
I wonder if you can
No need for greed or hunger
A brotherhood of man
Imagine all the people
Sharing all the world..."*

The chorus suggests that if all people decided to live that way it would be achievable.

Group activity:

Imagine what a society like this would be like.

- What would people's lives be like?
- How would people spend their days, weeks, months, etc?
- What would their living arrangements be like?
- What would their future look like?

Other questions you might like to discuss:

- What would it mean practically for me today if I decided to share all my possessions?
- What possessions would I not want to share?
- How can the things we own, end up owning us?
- What did Jesus mean by saying where your treasure lies, there your heart is?
- What has been stuff that you thought was so important for you to have, and then later you no longer care about?
- Why do so many people who start off being young not caring much about possessions, end up having so much stuff and worrying about the minor details about them?
- For the many rich celebrities that are not happy with their lives, what ends up being more important for them?
- How environmental and ethical are the practices of the companies that make the products you are interested in?
- Do you know what the environmental footprint of the product, its maker, and its eventual disposal are like?
- Do you know if sweatshop or other exploitive practices are involved? Is the product valuable in the long run for humanity or a product that encourages manufacturers to pander to meeting the trivial needs of the affluent?

Explore – Integrate

- What things do I currently want because they will make my life better or happier?
- Why will it improve my life?
- Are they really necessary, are my thoughts on their benefits realistic, is it really worth it in the long run, or am I just worried I'm being left behind compared to others?
- How can I use my time, money and effort in more beneficial ways for myself or others than to work towards accumulating more new stuff for myself?
- How can I share my possessions more with others?
- How can I discover more the needs of others around me (starting with my friends)?

Extend

Discuss with your group the challenges you are tackling. Use the time to ask for any help you might need or to work together on any shared projects that you have.

Questions that may be helpful include:

- What challenges are you working on at the moment?
- Do you need any support or assistance?
- Are there any challenges that you have completed that we need to recognise and celebrate?
- Are there any new challenges that you want to work on?

Encourage

Tell another student in your group something you value or appreciate about them.

Share one thing you would like to pray for and pray for one another.

Pray that I can see more of the needs of others around me.

Give thanks for the things that God has given you the opportunity to own and to share.

Pray that I am not too caught up with owning more stuff, but to see how I can help other people's lives be better.