

Lesson #25
Heb. 13:1-14
April 29, 2015

Teachers, read the following story to your class...

“Money! Money! Money! All for me!” Mary Lou sang as she ripped open her birthday cards and grabbed the dollar bills tucked inside. Seven-year old Mary Lou also loved the sound her coins made when they jingled inside her piggy bank. “Ah,” she’d say, “it’s like music to my ears!” She loved the feel of dollar bills in her hands and how nice they looked in her shiny new red wallet. “What a beautiful sight!” She squealed with delight. Whenever her mom told her to do a chore around the house, she would ask, “Umm, so how much are you going to pay me for that?” Mary Lou seemed to love money more than anything or anyone.

What Mary Lou *didn’t* love was spending her money on anybody but herself. One day she found her twin brother Billy Bob emptying out his piggy bank.

“Whatcha doing that for?” she asked.

“Mom told me some missionaries from church need a new car so I’m going to give them some of my money to help buy one.” Billy Bob said, dumping the coins onto the table. “Do you want to give them some of your money, too?” he asked with a big grin on his face.

Mary Lou shook her head. “If I give them some of my money then I won’t have as much for me,” Mary Lou replied matter-of-factly.

Later, Mary Lou heard Billy Bob volunteer to help Dad clean out the garage.

“How much is Dad paying you to help him?” she asked her brother.

“He doesn’t have to give me money,” Billy Bob smiled as he swept the garage floor. “I just want to help him.”

That afternoon, when her brother finished helping in the garage, Dad handed Billy Bob a crisp new dollar bill.

“I want to thank you for being such a big helper today,” Dad said.

Billy Bob jumped up and down. “Thanks for the dollar, Dad! Now I have more to give to the missionaries tomorrow!” Billy Bob took the dollar and skipped into his room to add it with his other money. The next morning at church, Mary Lou watched as her brother gave all his coins and the fresh new dollar to help pay for the missionaries’ car. He was so excited that he giggled as his money was dropped into the offering plate. All morning he had a smile on his face.

“What’s the matter with you?” Mary Lou whispered to her brother sitting next to her. “Why do you like to share your money and work for free? Don’t you love money?”

Billy Bob stared at his sister and then smiled. “No, silly! I *like* money,” he whispered back, “but I don’t love it. I love people. And I love God, of course.”

Dad put his finger to his lips, letting the kids know he wanted them to stop whispering. Mary Lou fidgeted in her seat with a frown on her face, thinking about what her brother said. A few minutes later, her ears perked up.

“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have...” Pastor Mike was saying from the pulpit. “Because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”

Billy Bob elbowed his sister and grinned. She felt her face grow red and kept her eyes down so she wouldn’t have to look at him.

Later that day Mary Lou took her piggy bank down from the shelf. She shook it and heard the coins jingle. Then she opened the bottom and let the coins fall onto her bedspread. For a few minutes she looked around her room and saw all the books on her bookshelf, the big basket of toys on her floor and her collection of stuffed animals and she sighed. She had to admit, she did have a lot of nice things.

“Jesus,” she prayed out loud. “Help me to be happy with what I have and not always want more things. Help me to not love money and to share what I have with others. Amen.”

After praying, Mary Lou gathered her coins and stuffed them into a plastic baggie. Inside the baggie she tucked a note that said: “This is to help you buy the car you need. I love you more than this money.”

When it was time to get ready for church the next week, Mary Lou was the first one dressed and downstairs.

“Can’t you eat your breakfast a little faster?” she asked Billy Bob, “I don’t want to be late this morning.”

Dad assured her he would get them to church on time. Not long after taking a seat in the pew, the moment she was waiting for finally came. The offering plate was passed down her aisle and Mary Lou put her baggie of money into it. As she did, a little giggle escaped her lips. God had answered her prayer! He helped her to be happy with what she had and to love others. She smiled to herself—it felt good to share and she knew God was pleased which made her especially excited to give. Money would come and go, but God would never leave her.

When the offering plate had been passed down all the aisles and they stood up to sing, Billy Bob elbowed his sister and they both grinned.

Bible Verse: “Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’” Hebrews 13:5

Grow At Home #25
Hebrews 13:1-14
April 29, 2015

Today the children learned these God facts:

- We are not to love money (we are to love God and people).
- God wants us to be happy with what we have.

Live It Out: In our story today, twins Mary Lou and Billy Bob had two very different attitudes about money. Mary Lou loved money so much that she wanted it all for herself and she didn't want to share it. Whenever she was told to do a chore, she always asked, "How much will you pay me for that?" Billy Bob, on the other hand, liked money, of course, but he **loved** people. He enjoyed giving to others and being helpful around the house, even if he wasn't getting paid. (Ask your child to tell you what happened next in today's story. *Hint—Mary Lou gave giving to others a try and learned that it brought her much joy to share her money with someone in need.)

Next, walk with your child into his room and ask him to look at all the things he owns. Perhaps he will name his toys, books, clothes, pet, etc. Tell him, "Wow! You sure have a lot of nice things." Then ask him to name the people in his life. He may name his parents, grandparents, cousins, friends, etc. If he forgets, remind him that He also has God and He will never leave him or forsake him. Then, simply pray with your child:

Prayer: "Thank you, Lord, for all the blessings you've given (your child's name). Help him to be happy with what he has. Help him, too, to not be a lover of money and things, but to love You and people. Amen."

Bible Verse: "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" Hebrews 13:5