


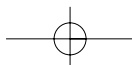
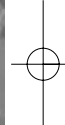
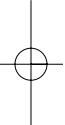
**Aged 11-15**

**Youth Teachers Guide**

# LOOKING AT GOD'S PRIORITIES



**THE PRESBYTERIAN  
ORPHAN AND  
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**  
.....





# LESSON AIM

To explore the difference between our priorities and God's priorities.

## NOTE TO TEACHERS

### You need to:

- Get the young people to list their top 5 priorities. Then get the young people to consider what might be God's top 5 priorities for their lives.
- Have a discussion with the young people on the difference between 'needs' and 'wants'.
- Read Jesus teaching in Matthew 6 : 1-4, 19-34; 7 : 1-2.
- Consider the following questions:
  - What attitude should we have to those in need?
  - Is there anything wrong with money?
  - What does God want us to be concerned about?
  - What does God think of hypocrisy?

## STRUCTURE OF THE LESSON MATERIAL

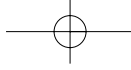
The lesson examines our relationship to God and His priorities. As a visual aid you might cut out adverts from magazines or newspapers and ask the group:

- Why do companies spend so much money on adverts?
- Do we need the product in the advert or just want it?
- Who sets the agenda for our priorities?

You might ask the group to translate part of the passage into a text message. Let everyone share their text message with the group.

The Quiz and Memory Verse can be used to reinforce the message from Matthew.

The discussion might be a way of challenging lifestyle choices and help the young people to consider serving God by helping others.



## QUIZ

### 1. What does God mean by 'treasures in Heaven'?

- He want us to avoid buying large amounts of clothing (danger of moths!) or metal objects (danger of rust!).
- He would like us to buy a 'must have' residence but not on earth.
- He wants our focus to be on His priorities.

### 2. What's the problem with judging?

- There's no problem. I have no intention of becoming a lawyer anyway.
- No problem. Someone has to go home so others can get into the last round of the competition.
- It means that I'll be judged by the same standards.

### 3. Why should we try not to worry?

- It is up to someone else to 'pick up the bills'.
- We can't do anything about it.
- We should put God first and trust Him for our needs.

### 4. Why does God want us to do our giving in secret?

- He is concerned we might look 'uncool' in public.
- He might be ashamed of us.
- He wants us to have the right attitude.

## MEMORY VERSES

***"But store up for yourselves treasures in Heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also".***

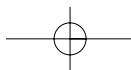
Matthew, Chapter 6, Verses 20-21

***"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For the same way as you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you".***

Matthew, Chapter 7, Verses 1-7

## DISCUSSION

- What do you really need and what do you want?
- What is the difference?
- How could we develop our thinking on the needs of others?



## **GOD'S PRIORITIES FOR PEOPLE TODAY**

God questions our priorities. He asks us to focus on the needs of others by giving with the right attitude and not judging others improperly.

In the group be sensitive to any discussion of need. The Presbyterian Orphan and Children's Society helps children and their families in a practical way. Your Congregation may currently contribute to the Society. There may even be some families in your Congregation, unknown to you, who are receiving help from the Society and some of these young people may even be in your class!

God cares for people today. God helps families and children today through the Presbyterian Orphan and Children's Society. The UK and Ireland have some of the highest rates of child poverty in Europe. Around a quarter of children in Northern Ireland live in poverty, with around 8 per cent in severe poverty. In the Republic of Ireland a quarter of children live in poverty, with 14 per cent living in consistent poverty. Poverty has a very negative impact on the lives of children and, in general, children's health and educational outcomes appear to be closely linked to family income levels.

The Presbyterian Orphan and Children's Society cannot impact every family income or take every child out of poverty. However, it can change the income, outlook, and therefore life chances, for many Presbyterian children and their families. Here are some quotes from families we help:

*"For the support you have offered, the help we have been given, it all means so much".*

*"The Society's help over the last few years has made my family's life so much easier".*

Perhaps your class could help raise funds for the work of the Presbyterian Orphan and Children's Society. If you would like to know more of what we do, contact us at:

**Presbyterian Orphan and Children's Society**  
**5th Floor, Glengall Exchange**  
**3 Glengall Street**  
**Belfast BT12 5AB**  
**TEL: 028 90323737**



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