



COST—WEEK FOUR

INVEST (TRUST CHECK)

September 29

Matthew 25:14-30

This teaching is based on the famous parable of the master who entrusts three servants with varying amounts of his wealth. To one, he gives five talents. To another, he entrusts two and to another, he gives one. Then he goes on a trip. Upon his return, he judges their faithfulness and worthiness of stewardship on one thing and one thing only. The faithful stewards invest what he has given to increase his kingdom, but the unfaithful steward does nothing with what his master has entrusted to him, and in fear, buries it in the ground. The lesson for us is that God (the master) has given each of us (his servants) resources to steward for his name and for his kingdom. Can God trust us to be faithful to invest all that he has given us for him, or are we fearfully burying what we have?

1. Read the Text from the Bible

Read Matthew 25:14-30 together and pray aloud. Ask God to speak to your family.

2. Share Your Personal Reflections

What has challenged you this week? What is something you learned that you didn't know before? What things are going well, and what things need to change?

3. Watch Mike's Teaching Video (length 9:54)

4. Discussion Starters

- What is something you learned that you didn't know before?
- What do you think we are supposed to learn from this lesson?
- What does it look like for us to "invest" in God's kingdom? (Note: investing money to make it grow might be a hard concept for young children, so feel free to explain it by using a metaphor of planting a seed that will grow into a plant or tree.)
- Share all the things you can think of that God has given us to use to bless the world.
- How can we use them to help God's Kingdom grow?
- Are there some things we need to change as a family? How about you personally? What can you do to "invest" in the Kingdom more? (Younger children – "plant more seeds for God?")

5. Family Memory Maker

Piggy Bank

Get an actual piggy bank (or just a jar) and use it to hold extra change. As the kids find money on the ground, or if you get change from the store, or if you have a few extra bucks in your pocket at the end of the day, start filling the piggy bank. After giving your offering at church, encourage your kids to give a little to "the pig." Over time, your pig will get full and when it is, gather as a family and make plans to use the money to do something for God's kingdom. Be praying that God will show you what he would like you to do with it. It could be anything from buying food pantry goods to making a donation to a friend's mission trip, or perhaps even go into the cost of taking your own family mission trip. Whatever you choose, write a note about what you did, and stick it in the pig before you store it away. Someday when you're going through your belongings, you can pull it out and remind your kids of the day you all...

- **Investing in Children**

Mike talked about investing in children in his video. A couple of the ways he mentioned were to sponsor a child through one of our mission partners and to serve in our children's ministry. If your kids are older; in junior high and high school, consider serving in Eastview Kids together as a family. If you choose to sponsor a child, make sure your children are a part of the experience by praying for, writing letters to and learning about your sponsored child.

- **Include Your Kids in What You're Already Doing**

You might already be investing in God's Kingdom in several ways. If you are not involving your kids in your contributions, consider how you might help them be part of what your family is already doing. Consider having them help shop for the Food Drives or Imagine. Encourage them to keep a dollar in their Bibles for whenever the next Dollar Offering happens. Share your year-end giving statement to the church with them and talk about how some of your family's money impacts people all over the community and the world for Jesus.

6. Daily Readings This Week

Want to keep the conversation going? Use one of the daily readings to discuss something further today, or another day this week.

Reminder: For younger kids, it is better to keep the conversation to one central topic. Junior high and high school students can handle more subpoints during a lesson or conversation.

- **September 30:** Luke 12:16-21: Parable of the rich fool – “this is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich towards God.”
- **October 1:** Acts 2:44&45: “All the believers had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need.”
- **October 2:** Malachi 3:10: “Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, says the Lord.”
- **October 3:** II Corinthians 9:6: “The point is this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

- **October 4:** I Corinthians 16:2: “On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.
- **October 5:** Isaiah 55:1: “Come, everyone who is thirsty, come to the waters. And he who has no money, come, buy and eat. Come buy wine and milk. Without money and without price.”