

## Unit 4: GOD'S LOVE TRANSFORMS US

### Lesson 4.4 The Parable of the Unjust Steward

#### Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

**Scripture References:** Luke 16:1-13

\*Student can take turns reading this parable

#### Activity 1: Activities indicated in the lesson body

\*Can be done as a classroom by using a whiteboard or flipchart

**Activity 2:** The Dishonest Manager worksheet

**Items needed:** The printout of the worksheet and pens or pencils

**Video:** [The Shrewd Manager](#) (duration 2:39)

#### MORAL CHARACTER FOCUS:

Honesty.

**Homework Activity:** Grow your own Easter Grass

#### Words of the week:

տնտես - dndes - steward

դրամ - dram - money

տէր - der - Lord, master

#### Memory Verse:

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

**Luke 16:10**

# Lesson

## Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

*\*Wisdom Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

### Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն:

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

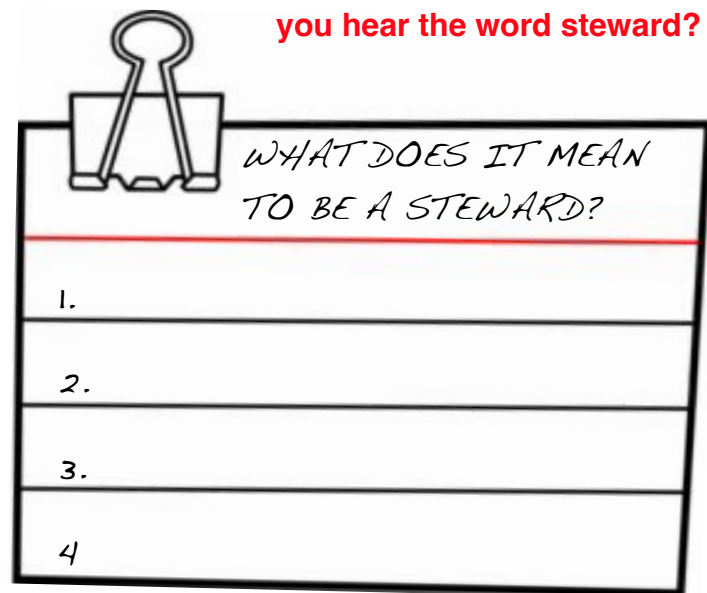
## Lesson Body:

### Read Luke 16:1-13

Throughout his three year ministry, Jesus told many parables. The Parable of the Unjust Steward in Luke 16:1-13 teaches us about trust, responsibility, wisdom, and preparation. The steward who was trusted with the great responsibility of managing his master’s wealth, was tempted by greed. He was unjust and stole from his master. Of course, his thievery was discovered and he was fired from his job. He knew well that after losing his job, he would not have an income to live the lavish life he was used to. So, he decided to gain friends who would be helpful to him in the future by lessening their debt. He lost the trust of his master, but gained the trust of the debtors he helped. When the master found out, he praised the steward for being clever and securing his future.

So, what is a steward? Let’s take a moment to think and write about stewardship.

**Write what comes to mind when you hear the word steward?**



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A STEWARD?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

A steward is someone who takes care of things, someone who is trusted with certain responsibilities. Each of us make household contributions that we fulfill one way or another. By doing so you become one of the stewards of your house. Those responsibilities can include taking a good care of our houseplants, pets, keeping our homes tidy, our family, our money: all the beautiful things that God has given us.

He gives us things and trusts us to take care of them. He wants us to be good stewards. The same way your parents give you responsibilities and trust you to do them with care and respect.

In today’s memory verse, we are reminded to be faithful in caring for things big and small. If we are dishonest or we are not good stewards in little things, most likely we will be the same with big things. How we care for small responsibilities says a lot about how we will take care of bigger responsibilities.

**Words of the Week:**

**տնտես - dndes - steward**  
**դրամ - tram - money**  
**տէր - der - Lord, master**

**Memory Verse:**

**Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.**

**Luke 16:10**

**Video:** [The Shrewd Manager](#) (duration 2:39)

**READ FROM THE BIBLE: LUKE 16:1-13**

***The Parable of the Shrewd Manager***

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’ “The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’ “So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ “‘Nine hundred gallons[a] of olive oil,’ he replied. “The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’ “Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’ “‘A thousand bushels[b] of wheat,’ he replied. “He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’ “The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. 9 I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. “Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own? “No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.”

# The Dishonest Manager



"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." Luke 16:10 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	X	A	Y	W	S	R	J	L	B	K	N	G	U	D	H	E	Q	C	O	I	M	V	Z	T	F

1. 9-20-23-17 \_\_\_\_\_
2. 15-21-6-16-20-12-17-6-25 \_\_\_\_\_
3. 22-20-12-17-4 \_\_\_\_\_
4. 22-3-12-3-13-17-7 \_\_\_\_\_
5. 22-14-19-16 \_\_\_\_\_
6. 5-17-3-9-25-16 \_\_\_\_\_
7. 6-17-7-23-3-12-25 \_\_\_\_\_
8. 16-3-25-17 \_\_\_\_\_
9. 9-21-25-25-9-17 \_\_\_\_\_
10. 25-7-14-6-25 \_\_\_\_\_

DISHONEST	HATE	MANAGER	WEALTH	SERVANT
MONEY	MUCH	TRUST	LITTLE	LOVE

# Review

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## Memory Verse Review:

*Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. (Luke 16:10)*

## Words of the Week Review:

տնտես - dndes - steward

դրամ - tram - money

տէր - der - Lord, master

## Lesson Review:

### Questions:

1. What happened to the steward at the beginning of the parable? (He was fired because he was wasting his master's goods)
2. What did the steward do? (He went and gave discounts to those who owed the master money)
3. Why did he give discounts to those owing money to the master? (He was making friends with these people so when he had no job, they would help him)
4. How did the master react to this? (He was impressed that even the steward was able to think about his future and prepare for it)
5. What is a steward? (someone who takes care of things, someone who is trusted with certain responsibilities)

## Life Application

We must learn to prepare for the future, especially prepare for heaven. We prepare for heaven by living a good, faithful life in Christ, praying often, helping others in need, and being active members in the life of the Church.

*\* Departing Prayer, written by St. Nersess the Grace-filled (Shnorhali).*

### Close with prayer:

**Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն**

**Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev vog-hormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.**

**O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.**

## At Home

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**Please memorize by next week:**

**Memory Verse:**

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.” Luke 16:10

**Words of the week:**

տնտես - dndes - steward

դրամ - tram - money

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*\*Note: Consider encouraging the use of the 2024 Lenten calendar*

This is a fun activity for any age, a great practice to commit to a small responsibility, and improve stewardship skills.

**YOU WILL NEED**

- 1. Containers like pots, bowls and jars**
- 2. Potting Soil**
- 3. Wheat Berry Seeds**
- 4. Spray Bottle Filled With Water**
- 5. Plastic Wrap**



**DIRECTIONS**

**STEP 1:** You can choose a container that you like. You can chose a few. It can be a plant pot, different sizes of bowls and cups.

**STEP 2:** Fill each container with potting soil. Leave about an inch of room at the top for the seeds.

**STEP 3:** Sprinkle an even layer of wheat berry seeds over the soil. Enough to cover the surface but not to overlap too much.

**STEP 4:** Using a spray bottle, spray the seeds with water. Just enough to get the seeds wet. Be careful not to overwater.

**STEP 5:** Cover each container loosely with plastic wrap.

**STEP 6:** Spray the seed every day with water and cover them back up.

In about 4-5 days you will start seeing little sprouts. Continue this process for a week. Once blades of grass are growing, you don't need to cover your container anymore. Spray the soil once a day every day. If the grass gets too tall and starts to fall over, trim it back about 4 inches from the bottom. You can use this as beautiful decoration for your Easter table.