

HEAVEN

Big Idea

This world is not our eternal home. The Bible says in 1 Timothy 6:17 (NIV) that this world is uncertain, that God is the source of our provision. The Lord commands us “to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.” We are actually investing for “**the coming age**,” the life beyond this life. You will never miss what **you invest in eternity**.

1. Because heaven, not earth, is my home.
2. Because the line is longer than the dot. Our life on earth is the dot; eternity is the line 
3. Because have limited time and incredible opportunity.
4. Because it's smart.

When it comes to understanding what God has blessed us with (financial blessings, talents, skills, time) we should:

1. Act like a steward, not an owner.
2. Vies everything through the lens of eternity
3. Be intentional

Scripture

- **Matthew 6:19-21 (NLT)**
 “Don’t store up treasures here on **earth**, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your **treasures in heaven**, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your **treasure** is, there the desires of your **heart** will also be.
- **Deuteronomy 8:18 (NIV)**
 But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who **gives you the ability** to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your ancestors, as it is today.
- **2 Corinthians 9:7 (MSG)**
 I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind what you will give. That will protect you against sob stories and arm-twisting. God loves it when the giver **delights in the giving**.

Discussion Questions

- Winston Churchill stated, “Self-indulgence at this time is helping the enemy.” How do you think this applies to our lives at this time in history?
- Convoy of Hope is one example of individuals laying up treasures in heaven versus laying up treasures in earth. Can you think of other examples?
- What type of opportunities do you see that are available for you to invest in the kingdom of God?

Prayer Focus

Heavenly Father, we live in a time when we are bombarded with advertising aimed at making us think that we need so many things in order to feel happy and satisfied. We know that joy comes from knowing you and serving you. Please, put in me a mindset that understands the urgency of reaching the lost while there is still time to do so. May I be focused on investing my time, talents, skills, and finances in a way that makes a difference in the lives of others for eternity.

Next Steps

This week, prayerfully consider how you might invest in the lives of others and make a difference for eternity. Think about the upcoming Legacy Offering, and ask God to show you what your part should be.

Leader Tip

Consider the effect of individuals in scripture who invested in the Lord’s kingdom. Be intentional as you think about eternity and how the dot that represents your life here compares to the line. Develop the heart of a joyful giver of the gifts of your time, talents, and finances.