

LESSON 1 • Wants vs. Needs

WANTS VS. NEEDS

1 Key Concepts

- Wants vs. Needs
- Teach the children that economic wants are things that people would like to have.
- Teach the children that economic needs are the things that people need every day to live their lives.
- Teach the children about being good stewards of the things we have.
 - How do we do that?

2 Teacher Preparation

- Be prepared to make a list of the wants and needs that the children have.
- Write them on the board for the children to see.

3 Lesson

- Have the children read **Exodus 16**.
- Talk about the needs and wants of the children of Israel.
 - What did they really need to have to survive?
 - What could they do without?
- What are some of the things that we really need to live each day?
 - What are some of the things we have that we can do without?
- How could we use the things we don't really need to help others?
 - Talk about this and write some ideas on the board.
- Being a good steward means to take care of what God has given us and to use it wisely.
 - Use our gifts the best way that we can.
 - They are gifts from God.
 - We don't deserve them.
 - He wants us to be responsible with what He has given us.

4 Conclusion

God will always give us what we need to survive. God also wants us to use what we have wisely. God wants us to take care of all of the things He has given us. Everything we have is a blessing from God.

5 Echo Prayer

Dear God,
 Thank you for all of the blessings you have given us. Please help us to use our gifts wisely and to the best of our ability. Thank you for giving us all that we have. You are a great God.
 Amen.



I Timothy 6:8

*But if we have food
 and clothing, we will be
 content with that.*



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6 Resources

- [Bible](#)
- [Scholastic Children's Dictionary](#)
- [Merriam-Webster Dictionary](#)
- [Silverstein, Shel. *The Giving Tree*](#)
This is a story about giving and taking until there is no more to give.
- <http://gardenofpraise.com/bibl52s.htm>
This site has online activities based on the Parable of the Talents.

7 Vocabulary

Gifts: a present or special talent

Needs: things that you have to have to live each day

Wants: to wish for, to feel that you would like to have something

Steward: to manage what belongs to someone else.

Stewardship: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

8 Activity

Make a needs and wants circle. Needs on one side and wants on the other. In the middle write the things that we have that we can use for others.

