

LESSON 1 • Wants vs. Needs

Wants vs. Needs**1 Key Concepts**

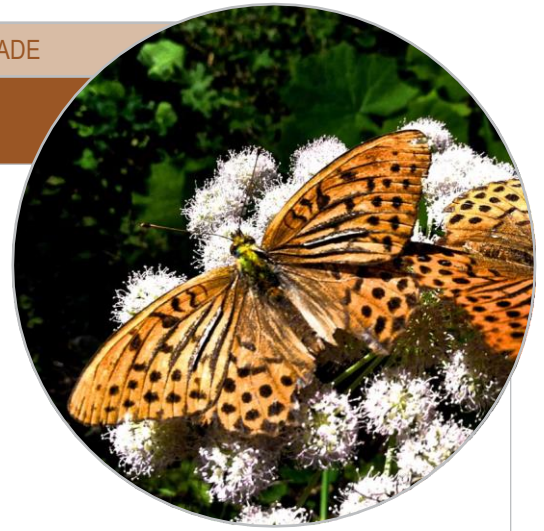
- Wants vs. Needs
- Teach the students what it truly means to be content.
- Teach the students how to be good stewards of what we have.
- Teach the students how we can use our abilities to help others.

2 Teacher Preparation

- Be ready to read **Matthew 25:14-30**.
- Talk about the Parable of the Talents.
- Be ready to write down ideas on the board.

3 Lesson

- Have the children read **Matthew 25:14-30**. Talk about the story.
- A talent is not talking about abilities here. It is a value of money about 20 years' worth of wages. This is a lot of money to receive at one time.
- Two of the servants used the money wisely and grew the amount. The one servant did nothing but bury it. He didn't even try to earn more money. He was lazy and did nothing. The master was not happy with what his servant did. The master ended up taking the only talent the servant had and gave it to the one that already had ten talents.
- God also wants us to use what we have to help others.
 - Are all of us happy with the things that we have?
- Let's make a list of things we would like to have.
 - Are these things what we really need or things that we want?
- Let's look at some of these things.
 - Are these things wrong to have?
 - We could save our money and buy them.
 - We could do work for others and earn money.
- We can use our abilities to earn money.
 - There are things we can do to earn money to buy these things.
 - Are these things really what is important?
- What if you see someone in need?
 - Would you use your money or gifts to help them?
 - Would you sell some of your possessions to earn money to help someone?
- All that we have is from God. He wants us to use what we have to help others.
 - That doesn't mean we need to sell everything that we own.
 - It means we should be willing to give up our possessions, if needed, to help others.
 - It means we need to use what we have wisely. Waste nothing.
 - That is what it means to be a good steward. We need to use everything wisely.
 - Nothing is our own. It is all from God.



1 Timothy 6:8

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

Continued (over)

Wants vs. Needs

Lesson (continued)

- God will always give us what we need. We won't lack anything.
 - We always have food and something to wear.
- God wants us to use what we have to help others.
- He also wants us to be satisfied with what we have.
 - Not wanting more.
- In the end, our stuff isn't what is important.
 - It is how we have used our gifts to honor God and help His people.

4 Conclusion

God wants us to be happy with what we have. God also wants us to use what we have to help others. God has given each of us what we need. He wants us to use what we have wisely and not be wasteful. We have been given many things. We can't be thankful and content with what God gives us.

5 Echo Prayer

Dear Lord,

Thank you for all of the wonderful gifts you have given us especially the gift of Jesus and His forgiveness. Help us to use our gifts wisely and not waste them. Help us to be content and be good stewards of the gifts you have given us. Forgive us when we become greedy and teach us to share. Amen.

6 Resources

- **Bible**
- **Webster's Dictionary**
- **Paulsen, Gary. Lawn Boy**
This book is about a boy who uses an old lawn mower to make money to buy a new inner tube for his bike.
- **www.youtube.com**
Search CIA Skit-Parable of the Talents. This is a skit of the parable.

7 Vocabulary

Needs: a lack of something required

Wants: to crave

Stewards: keeper-a person put in charge of something

Abilities: being able to-the power to do something

Talent: a measurement of money, abilities