

# Lottery Losers

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as  
**STEP 1**

**Lesson 10****Focus:**

God calls us to honor Him with our possessions.

**Lesson 10****Bible Basis:**

Genesis 14:14—  
15:1

**Lesson 10****Memory Verse:**

“You cannot serve both God and money.”  
—Luke 16:13c

**Students will learn that money is not inherently good or evil—it’s what you do with your wealth that makes all the difference.**

**Materials:**

- Internet access

Once in a while, everybody dreams about what it would be like to get rich. Adults imagine how nice it would be not to have a job or worry about bills. Little kids imagine buying all the candy they can eat—or maybe a real, live pony!

- As a middle schooler, what do you imagine when you think of getting rich? (Accept all reasonable answers.)

Everybody needs money. It’s what allows us to buy food, a place to live, and maybe the newest iPhone®. But since this is Sunday school, you may think you know what’s coming next. This is where we tell you that a little money is good, but a lot of money is bad, right?

**Wrong! Money—whether you have a little or a lot—isn’t good or bad. What you *do* with the money makes all the difference. Some people take great wealth and use it to accomplish great things!**

For example, Bill Gates, co-founder of the software company Microsoft, is among the top ten richest people in the world. But, Bill Gates has given away *59 billion* dollars to charity. Among other things, his money has made a big difference in fighting one of earth’s deadliest diseases, malaria.

- There’s an old saying that **wealth does not create character; it reveals character. What do you think that means?** (What you do when you have a lot of money reveals what’s already in your heart. If you make wise decisions with a little money, you’ll act wisely when you have a lot. The same idea applies if you make foolish decisions with money.)

**If wealth reveals character, then the fastest way to see what kind of person you really are is to win the lottery. When some people strike it rich, they use the money wisely. But for others, having too much cash ruins their lives because they aren't prepared to handle such a large amount of money. Let's listen to a former lottery winner's advice on what to do if you win the lottery.**

Show your students this video [3:48; start at 1:32; stop at 3:24].

What You Should Do Immediately After Winning The Lottery

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-HEdhE-tjM>

➤ **Suppose that lottery winners made a commitment to share their wealth with others instead of spending it on extravagant things they want. How might most of their lives look differently than the fate of many lottery winners who end up bankrupt from overspending?** (It's impossible to say for sure, but a focus on giving might have helped them maintain a better perspective on their newfound millions.)

**Today, we're going to talk about Abraham—specifically, what happened when he won the lottery!**

**Technically, there weren't lotteries 4,000 years ago. But the point is, Abraham suddenly acquired a lot of wealth. What he did with the money revealed what was already in his heart—just like it did for Bill Gates and the lottery winners. Let's take a look.**

Sources:

<https://www.forbes.com/real-time-billionaires/#148823793d78>

<https://www.gatesfoundation.org/about/foundation-faq#:~:text=Under%20this%20structure%2C%20Bill%20and,help%20the%20world's%20neediest%20people>

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

# Lottery Losers

for use as  
**STEP 4** 

### Lesson 10

#### Focus:

God calls us to honor Him with our possessions.

### Lesson 10

#### Bible Basis:

Genesis 14:14—  
15:1

### Lesson 10

#### Memory Verse:

“You cannot serve both God and money.”  
—Luke 16:13c

#### Materials:

- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

**Wealth doesn't create character—it reveals character. In other words, having money shows what kind of person you really are. Do you use some of your cash to serve God and people, or do you spend it all on yourself? Unlike most lottery winners, Abraham chose to share his wealth.**

**You might be thinking, “I'm a teenager, so I'm broke. When I actually *have* money, I'll donate some of it.” But remember—what you do with a little money reveals what you'll do with a lot.**

**You're already richer than many of the people in the world. There are more than a billion people on earth who live on less than \$1.25 per day. The lunch you're going to eat after church will probably cost more than that.**

**The point is not to make you feel guilty, but it's to emphasize this: We have already been blessed by God with lots of good things! So, don't wait until you have even more to help others. Make a commitment to give away some of your wealth *now*.**

➤ **How much of his newfound wealth did Abraham donate in today's Bible story?** (He gave 10%, which some people call a “tithe.” That's the same as giving away \$1 for every \$10 you receive.)

Challenge your students to make a hard commitment today. Suggest that whatever money they make this week—whether it's their allowance, or money made doing chores or odd jobs for neighbors—they donate 10% of the amount, whatever it is.

**Maybe you get an allowance. Maybe you earn money for good grades. Maybe Grandpa slips you 50 bucks on your birthday. Wherever the money comes from, give \$1 out of every \$10 to help people.**

**That's a hard thing to do, whether you have ten dollars or a thousand dollars. Giving**

**doesn't get easier just because you have more cash! But if you develop a habit of serving God with your money now, you're more likely to keep doing it as you get older and have more to give.**

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). **As we close our lesson, write a note to God. You might write something like, "God, I commit to giving 10% to help others the next time I get money." Then, follow through! Put money in the offering or donate to an organization in our community that does good work.**

**But of course, no one can decide for you what you'll do with your cash. And no one is going to look at what you write on your card. Instead of committing to give a tithe, you can write, "God, I can't do it right now, but help me be a better giver." Or even "Forget it, God—the money's mine, all mine!" It's up to you what you write.**

**Hopefully you'll accept the challenge to give away a little of your wealth. Whether you're Bill Gates or a middle schooler, everything you have comes from God. Consider making a commitment to help others with a little of what God's given to you.**

Give your students a few minutes to write down their commitments to God on their index cards. Remember, what they write down is between them and God—don't ask to see the cards! When your students are done writing, close in prayer.

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