

God wants a Monopoly on your life.

Psalm 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.

Matthew 13:22 The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

Exodus 20:3-6 “You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God,”

1 John 2:17 The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.

Mark 12:28-30 One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “**The most important one,**” answered Jesus, “**is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’**”

How does the writer of Psalm 73:25, probably King David, describe God's position in his life? _____

From the parable of the sower, in Matthew 13:22, what did Jesus say the seed among the thorns represents? _____

What are some *worries of this life*? _____

How can wealth be deceitful? _____

How do things you can buy or do compete with your faith and commitment to God?

Read Exodus 20:3-6. God's #1 biggie commandment to the Israelites is about other gods and idols. It was common practice, especially for Israel's neighbors to worship many made up gods. In our society we don't do this so much but there are many things that we'd rather do besides worship God.

What are some kinds of things that might cause us to make decisions about our life beside what God would want? _____

One of our big desires is money/wealth. We frequently decide what schooling to get for a job we can do that pays well. Why do we want a good paying job?

Could this desire possibly crowd out the Holy Spirit's nudging to take our lives on a different path? _____

Why does God get so upset about us having anything in our lives that is more important than Him? _____

To put things in an eternal perspective how long will the *things of this world* last compared to your relationship with God? (1 John 2:17)

Read Mark 12:28-30. Will God be satisfied with anything less than a total monopoly on your heart?

What in your life have you not given totally over to God?

Lesson Plan: God wants a monopoly on your life.

The Goal: The goal of this lesson is to give kids a proper perspective of what being Christian means. Giving one's heart and life wholly to God.

Pre-Lesson Activity:

Prepare a Monopoly game board by changing the titles of the squares to aspects of life: i.e.: Boardwalk becomes money, Baltic Ave. is labeled Friends. Other topics could be entertainment (video games), power, survival, time, and stuff. Set up the game ahead of class so play can start as soon as four kids have arrived. You'll draw parallels later about a relationship in which God has a monopoly on your heart and desires.

Leading the lesson:

Spend some time in prayer the day before, going over the verses and questions in your mind. Write possible answers on your copy of the worksheet along with additional notes of things you'd like to bring up.

If your group is younger junior-high age encourage them to fill in the blanks with the correct answers and hand in their papers at the end of class. For older kids, especially high-school age, just use the questions as discussion starters.

Have a kid read the first set of verses and then go thru the questions of the matching color. Give them time to answer. Listen to what they say and lead the discussion with additional questions of your own to lead them to the correct answers.

Note: When reading, kids will frequently stumble on words they do not know. Explain the meaning of the words so they can fully grasp the concept of the Bible verse. Sometimes you must restate the passage in your own words for them to get it.

Worries of life may be things like being poor, homeless, or hungry. One might think that having money and possessions are the key to happiness. Wanting *things* might cause a kid to take a job working on Sundays that causes him to miss his church service and Sunday school. Do they not prefer to play a video game rather than read their Bible or pray? Wanting *things* is not necessarily bad in itself but wanting them more than God is.

People in the "western" countries don't often worship idols. Get kids to think about worldly things like fame, popularity, and power as a type of idol. Anything that becomes a driving force in their lives above or without God's direction is idolatrous. Also consider adultery in a marriage relationship. God frequently called the Israelites an "adulterous nation" because in their hearts they were unfaithful to Him.

Summary:

Finish by having the kids consider their lives so far. Help them look for things that take precedence over their relationship with God. This may be the first time that they think about making a serious commitment to God. Talk about the difference in viewing God to be a part of *our* lives compared to feeling that we are servants of God for him to use in *His* life.

Take Prayer Requests

Always ask the kids for prayer requests for the next week. Ask them about their concerns from the previous week. In addition, ask God to help us make a firm commitment to be willing servants.