



Date: _____
Series: A-MAZE-IN Life
Summer Year 2, Lesson 3

Money... What Will You Choose?

Take Home Point: *Let God guide your spending.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Matthew 19:16-26 and 1 Timothy 6:6-10

Key Verses: 1 Timothy 6:10, "Certainly, the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. Some people who have set their hearts on getting rich have wandered away from the Christian faith and have caused themselves a lot of grief."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of the Rich Young Dude who loved money more than he loved God. He demonstrated that money owned him more than he owned money.
- Through faith in Jesus, we can have riches in heaven that last forever.
- God will help guide our choices so that we spend our money wisely.




We will help kids feel:

- Responsible to wisely spend the money God has given them.
- Convicted if they discover they have a materialistic attitude.
- Assured of their riches in Christ through a life with God.

We will help kids do:

- Use printed Kids Cash to discuss how they earn and spend money.
- Discuss spending habits that are God pleasing.
- Make Money Handler Wallets to remind them to ask God to lead them in their choices with money.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Students will use Kids Cash printed money to show how much actual money they received during the last two weeks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kids Cash printed money (one dollar bills and five dollar bills in different colors) (p.25-26)
Large Group 	4 8 8 9 11	Overview Money...What Will You Choose? The Keeper of the Clues narrates a journey through the maze of choices in spending money. Attention Grabber: a video selection from <i>Toy Story 2</i> Money Maze: Three students will each follow an assigned yarn color on a floor maze pattern. They will answer questions about money as they progress. Each question is worth a different amount of money. Interactive Drama: "The Rich Young Dude"--- A rich young man with an attitude talks to Jesus. This is a paraphrase of the Bible event found in Matthew 19:16-26.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a sports jacket for the Keeper of the Clues (Paper question marks taped all over) video clip from <i>Toy Story 2</i>. Produced by Walt Disney Home Video, 1999, ISBN 0-7888-2856-8 diagram of maze (p. 24) three pieces of 20' yarn for maze pattern on the floor nine Maze Question Cards, each printed on 8.5 X 11" paper (p. 14-23) Kids Cash to be hidden under each maze question (p.25-26) some stylish or trendy clothes that kings might wear. This might be a simple hooded sweatshirt, a trendy t-shirt or even a shoebox symbolizing some expensive sport shoes
Small Group Application 	4	Students will make "money handler wallets." This will remind them about how they should not let money handle them. Instead, students are encouraged <i>*to let God guide their spending.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kids Cash printed money Scissors and rulers permanent or paint markers stickers colored duct tape

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

As kids gather: *Listen to memory verses from last week and give coupons for memory verses, remembering to bring your Bible, and bringing a guest.*

Supplies: enough Kids Cash to provide \$50 per student—though not all of it will be used in this activity

Show kids all the Kids Cash you have and say:

Take a look at all this money I have! We call it Kids Cash. I will give you in Kids Cash the same amount you have received in actual currency in the past two weeks. Think about how much money you made in the last two weeks. This could include allowance, money you received for a birthday, or money you earned from doing extra chores.

How much money did you receive?

Pass out the same amount of Kids Cash as the kids earned in real money and have them explain how they received it. Did they earn it or receive it as a gift? Then ask:

Who in our group is the richest? Who is the poorest?

Ask the richest person if he or she feels rich. Ask the poorest person if he or she feels poor.

Be sensitive if a child truly might feel self-conscious because of an economic disability but help students talk about their perceptions of what makes someone rich or poor.

Look at the money in your hand. If you had to spend it this week, what would you buy?

Discuss and then continue with:

As you grow older, you have probably discovered that you have more choices about how you spend your money. Those choices make a big difference in your life. Your choices can even shape the type of person you are.

There can be dangers with having money. At times, it can own you more than you own it. In other words, money can have a grip on your life. So we need to handle money well. We will learn today to **let God guide your spending.*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Money...What Will You Choose?

The Keeper of the Clues narrates a journey through the maze of choices in spending money.

Attention Grabber: a video selection from *Toy Story 2*

Money Maze: Three students will each follow an assigned yarn color on a floor maze pattern. They will answer questions about money as they progress. Each question is worth a different amount of money.

Interactive Drama: "The Rich Young Dude"--- A rich young man with an attitude talks to Jesus. This is a paraphrase of the Bible event found in Matthew 19:16-26.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson. Our process of learning to use the Bible involves three types of questions. Observation Questions ask, "What happened?" or, "What does it say?" Interpretation Questions ask, "What does this mean?" Finally, Application Questions ask, "What does this mean to me?" This question helps the student discover how to best apply it to his or her life.

For this lesson, these questions are grouped around the Bible verses being examined so that the questions follow a logical progression of thought.

Read Matthew 19:16-17.

How did Jesus respond to the man's question about how to gain eternal life? (Verse 17. Jesus responded with the question, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good.")

Why do you think Jesus asked him this? (Discuss. Many say that Jesus wanted to see if the man recognized that Jesus was God, and therefore, the only perfect man whoever lived. Later in the Bible event, Jesus alludes to the fact that only through him salvation is possible.)

Read verses 18-20.

When Jesus said that you must keep all the commandments to get to heaven, what was the young man's response? *(Verse 20. I've kept all of them.)*

Do you think he really kept all of the commandments? Why or why not? *(Let the kids discuss.)*

Do you think a person can earn heaven by doing enough good things on his/her own power? Why or why not? *(Even one sin would make a person less than perfect. Romans 3:23. One must be absolutely perfect to earn heaven. However, Jesus lived a perfect life in our place. When we trust him, we receive heaven as a gift through his power.)*

Read verses 21-22.

What did Jesus say the man must do? *(Sell his riches and give to the poor. Then follow Jesus.)*

How do you think the young man felt as he left? How do you think Jesus felt? *(Sad. See Mark 10:21 to note that Jesus loved this man. Though Jesus felt sad, he let the man make his own choice not to follow after him.)*

Read verses 23-26.

Jesus said, "It is difficult for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven." Do you think it is harder for a rich person or a poor person to get to heaven? Why? *(Maybe it is easier for the rich person to like money more than God. Or, maybe, they think they can earn it all on their own.)*

What was Jesus' final answer for how people are saved? The disciples said, "It's seems impossible." (It is impossible for people to save themselves, but it is possible for God. We know that Jesus gave his life for us. Through faith in him, we will have heaven.)

Do you think that it is a requirement that every person who wants to go to heaven must sell everything they have and give it to Jesus? Why or why not?

Does God think that having money is a good thing or a bad thing? *(Let the kids discuss. This is a trick question in that having money is neither good nor bad. But it can become good or bad depending on how we deal with it.)*

Read 1 Timothy 6:6-10.

Is money the root of all evil? (*No, but the love of money is.*)

Application Questions:

How much money do you think it would take to make you truly happy?

Do you think the ability to buy whatever you want would make you content?

According to 1 Timothy 6:6-8, we should be satisfied with our necessities. The secret of contentment is having a godly life.

Application Activity: Craft Project—Money Handler Wallet

Supplies needed: Kids Cash printed money from warm up, different colors of duct tape, scissors, stickers, permanent or paint markers, option: rulers

Say:

Kids, today we will make a Money Handler Wallet that helps remind us that buying things and using money is not a bad thing at all. God gives us money to supply our needs. But it is very important to make proper decisions about how to spend what he gives us—decisions to be guided by God.

Instructions for making the wallet:

Tear off or have kids' tear (easier than cutting) four 7inch pieces of duct tape. Have kids carefully (very sticky) lay the sticky side of one strip face up on the workspace. Place the second strip side up so it slightly overlaps the edge of the first strip (sticky side up). Repeat with the next two strips until you have all four strips slightly overlapping with the sticky side up.

Now turn the sheet of duct tape so the lines run vertically on the workspace. Have kids tear pieces of tape that will lie across the sticky-side-up strips. This time the strips will go sticky side down on top of the first set. Start at the top and just like above, be sure the strips of tape overlap slightly. Continue laying the strips sticky side down until all of the sticky-side-up strips are covered. Then trim off uneven edges.

Fold the sheet in half forming a long rectangle the size of an open wallet. Tear a piece of tape to seal the edge of one of the short sides of the wallet. Fold it around the side edge and trim off extra tape. Fold the wallet in half so the short sides line up. This is done before taping the other short side so wallet will lay flat when finished. While in the folded position, tape the other short side and trim any excess.

Then have kids write "God, guide my spending" on the wallet. It can be decorated with a cross, as well. This is where their Kids Cash from Warm Up will be inserted.

We certainly don't want money to become so important to us that it controls us rather than we control our spending.

This craft reminds us that we are to handle money as guided by God. We want to handle money in a godly way and not let it control us. We want to **let God guide our spending.*

As the kids complete their art projects, discuss with them some of the things that they like to spend their money on. After completing the art project, these items can be written on the back of the Kids Cash and put into the Money Handler Wallet. They can keep their wallets in their Bibles as a reminder of how God would want us to be in control of our money and not let money control us.

Closing Prayer:

Have each person thank God for some of the material gifts that they have. Then, invite each one to ask God to help guide them in their spending. Close the prayer with thanksgiving that Jesus has paid the full price for our salvation. Because of that, we are rich with something that lasts forever... treasure in heaven. Help us spend those treasures by leading godly lives here.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

The Maze in Life... What Will You Choose? Money...

Props Needed:

- *Toy Story 2* video – show the short portion of big Al on the phone saying how much money he'll make with his toy
- yarn in three different colors, each about 20 feet in length (*see diagram or picture*)
- Maze Question Cards
- Kids Cash

Introduction

The Keeper of the Clues begins:

Welcome kids, to the maze of life and all the choices you face. Yes, you know that life is meant to be an A-MAZE-IN adventure. Life can have a wonderful destination when you meet God along the way. But mazes can be hazardous as well. Some of your choices may lead you to dead ends and detours. Along the way, as you seek God's direction, you will discover that he is the Maze Master who will lead you on a path that encounters him. As a matter of fact, every day he invites you to make choices that lead you to the destination of meeting his own Son Jesus, who will lead you through the maze of life. Your final destination can be a wonderful life with him forever.

I am the Keeper of the Clues who will give you some clues to help you in your choices throughout the maze. Today we are looking at the choices you make in the area of money. To introduce our maze, I would like to show you a video clip from the movie *Toy Story 2*.

Video Clip As an Attention Grabber *Toy Story 2*

Summarize the plot with the following:

With Andy off to summer camp, the toys face a new crisis: Woody turns out to be a valuable collectible, and is kidnapped by an evil toy collector. It is now up to Buzz and the gang to find a way to save him. Take a look at this clip that shows what happens when one who has so much money is possessed by just wanting more things!

Show the short portion of big AI on the phone saying how much money he'll make with his toy.

What is the point? Money has power over people when they build their lives around what money can buy. They think that they have a hold on money, but in fact money has a hold on them. Notice the Toy Collector. He thought with money he could have anything. But before it was over, it was money and his greed that controlled him.

The Money Maze

Interactive Game

In advance, have set up a maze pattern on the floor using three different colors of yarn approximately 20 feet long. Lay out a diagram where the strings intersect one another (see *diagram*). At the intersection points, place the nine Maze Question Cards.



As each Maze Question Card is turned over, a certain amount of money is discovered and becomes the property of the contestant, IF their answer is correct or acceptable. Some questions have no right or wrong answers. If the students give their opinion, whatever it may be, they win the money for that answer. After all contestants have arrived at the finish line, the money is tallied and a winner declared. However, the Keeper of the Clues brings up the final question, "Does the one with the most money at the end of life really become the "winner?"

Ask for three volunteer contestants to come forward and explain the directions.

Begin by sitting at the beginning of your starting maze path. I will turn over the first card and read it for all to hear. You can stand and answer it. If you answer correctly, you win the cash discovered under the card. Then be seated until it is your turn again.

When it is your turn again, follow your trail of yarn until you arrive at an unanswered Maze Question Card. You may not travel over an unanswered Maze Question Card to get to another one. I will pick up

the card and read it for all to hear. Then you answer and possibly win more “moolah.” After a Maze Question Card has been used, I will remove it.

However, certain cards may have different consequences. When all contestants arrive at the finish, we will see who has the most cold, hard cash.

Money Maze Question Cards will offer the following questions. Note that the Keeper of the Clues has a response after many of these and will even introduce an interactive drama or storytelling after some questions.

Here are the questions to be placed on the back of the reproduced \$ sign intersection indicators:

1. For \$15, according to your standard, how much allowance per week do you *need* to be well off?
2. For \$20, what do YOU think? Is it easier to be happier if you have more money? True or False? *(If the person answered false, then only give them \$5 instead of \$20)*
3. For \$1, what is the best thing about having lots of money?
4. For \$100, how much money can you take with you after you die? *After they answer, declare: This is a bonus question. Your special bonus is the following drama... Go to the interactive drama, “The Rich Young Dude.”*
5. For \$30, what does it mean to be materialistic?
 - A. It means you think you are too good for others.
 - B. The most important thing in your life is getting material things.
 - C. You like to sew your own clothes out of different materials.
6. For \$20, True or False. “Money is the root of all evil.” The answer is false. Read *1 Timothy 6:10* from the Bible: “The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.”
7. For \$2, why do you think God is so concerned about money?
 - A. Because he needs lots of money to keep his church going.
 - B. Because he does not want us to get too much money.
 - C. He does not want money to get a hold of our hearts and pull us away from him.

The answer is “C.” If you got it correct, you get a bonus question for \$100. “When the rich young dude decided that he loved his money more than God, he walked away. Jesus was very sad over this, but he didn’t chase after him and try to make him change his mind. Why do you think he let him go? (Jesus let him make his own choice... just as we are allowed. Can you see how important it is that we choose not to walk away from God?)

8. For \$30, think about the money in your hand. How much of this money does God own?

- A. Ten percent of it (or 10 cents of every dollar).
- B. All of it.
- C. None of it.

The correct answer is “B—All of it.” For an additional bonus of \$30, how much does God say is an appropriate amount to return to him as a “thank you gift?” (10 percent)

9. For \$1, if you could pay for heaven, how much would it cost? *(You would have to live a completely perfect life to earn heaven... and no one could do it!)*

Bonus question for \$200: “How much did Jesus pay so that you could have heaven with him?” *(He lived a perfect life in our place and died on the cross to pay the price of our sin.)*

The Rich Young Dude

Interactive Drama

Invite a student forward. Quickly costume him with some stylish or trendy clothes that kings might wear. This might be a simple hooded sweatshirt, a trendy t-shirt or even a shoebox symbolizing some expensive sport shoes. Have him practice some of his lines with the following.

Today, you are going to be a rich young dude. Will you please audition for the part with the following?

- Can you stand for us in a cool way?
- Can you say, “Wuzzup?” (Wuzzup?)
- Can you say, “That’s cool.” (That’s cool!)
- Can you say, “I’m tight.” (I’m tight.)

Okay, we are ready to begin the drama. Listen to the story and when you hear your part, rich young dude, repeat the phrase I say.

This is a modern day version of what really happened in Jesus’ day when he met a rich young dude.

Paraphrase of Matthew 19:16-26:

Once, when Jesus was hanging out with his buds, a rich young dude came up to him. He swaggered up with great style. He was stylin’ and profilin’. Check out his outfit—the latest threads.

Prompt actor to animate.

So, the young man (This is your line, rich young dude) said, “*Jesus, hey, wuzzup?*” (Jesus, hey, wuzzup?)

Jesus said, “Wuzzup,” too! Jesus liked him right away. But he liked him for who he was, not just for what he had.

So, the rich young dude said to Jesus, (indicate to the “rich young dude” that he is to speak.) *Hey, righteous dude. What’s my ticket to heaven?* (Hey, righteous dude. What’s my ticket to heaven?) In other words, he was asking what good thing does he have to do so that he could get to heaven.

Jesus answered him, “So, why do you call me the righteous dude? God alone is righteous.”

Hmmm. I wonder if Jesus was trying to see if the rich young dude thought he was God. Anyway, Jesus went on to answer his question, “If you want to earn your ticket to heaven, then keep all the commandments.”

The rich young dude said, “*That’s cool.*” (That’s cool.) “*I’m tight.*” (I’m tight.) By that he meant that he had kept all of the commandments. He also said, “*Wuzzup, Jesus.*” (Wuzzup, Jesus.) *Is there anything else I gotta do?* (Is there anything else I gotta do?)

I think by now, the rich young dude was thinking he was pretty hot stuff.

Jesus answered him, “Yo, dude. Empty your cash and give it all to the poor. Then, check it out and come follow me.”

So, the rich young dude said, “*Wh-o-oa-a-a, dude.*” (Wh-o-oa-a-a, dude.) *That’s not cool!* (That’s not cool!)

And, sadly, the rich young dude turned around and walked away.

Jesus just shook his head and said, “Too bad, so sad. It’s harder for a rich man to get to heaven than a camel walking through the eye of a needle.”

His buds looked at him and said, “No way, Jesus. How can anyone be saved?”

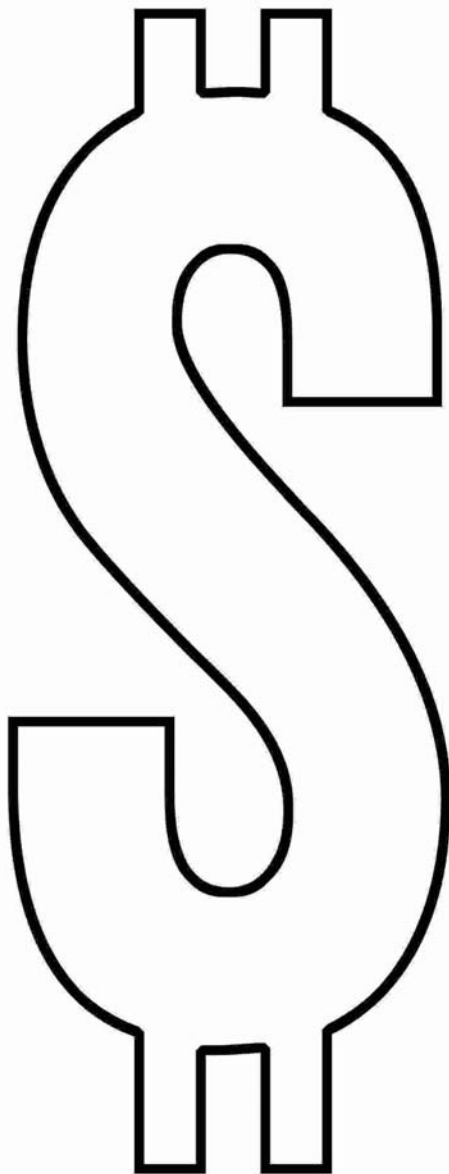
Jesus looked at them with a confident smile and said, “It’s a no way deal for people to earn their way to heaven, but for God it’s possible.”

Give a round of applause for the actor and have him return to his seat.

After the Maze Game conclude with closing prayer:

Dear God, thank you that you are the Master of the Maze. You help us find the right answers for our choices in life, when we come to you and ask.

We all want money to use as we would like, but we really need your wisdom to use money as *you* would like. We know you will bless that which is used for your kingdom and used wisely for our needs. Show us how to use it properly—as you are the one that gave it to us in the first place. Thank you for your blessings. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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After they answer, declare: This is a bonus question. Your special bonus is the following drama... Go to the interactive drama, "The Rich Young Dude."

For \$30, what does it mean to be materialistic?

Multiple Choice:

- A. It means you think you are too good for others.
- B. The most important thing in your life is getting material things.
- C. You like to sew your own clothes out of different materials.

For \$20, True or False. “Money is the root of all evil.”

The answer is false. Read *1 Timothy 6:10* from the Bible: “*The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil.*”

For \$2, why do you think God is so concerned about money?

Multiple Choice:

- A. Because he needs lots of money to keep his church going.**
- B. Because he does not want us to get too much money.**
- C. He does not want money to get a hold of our hearts and pull us away from him.**

The answer is “C.” If you got it correct, you get a bonus question for \$100.

Bonus: “When the rich young dude decided that he loved his money more than God, he walked away. Jesus was very sad over this, but he didn’t chase after him and try to make him change his mind. Why do you think he let him go? *(Jesus let him make his own choice... just as we are allowed. Can you see how important it is that we choose not to walk away from God?)*

**For \$30, think about
the money in your
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Multiple Choice:

- A. Ten percent of it (or 10 cents of every dollar).**
- B. All of it.**
- C. None of it.**

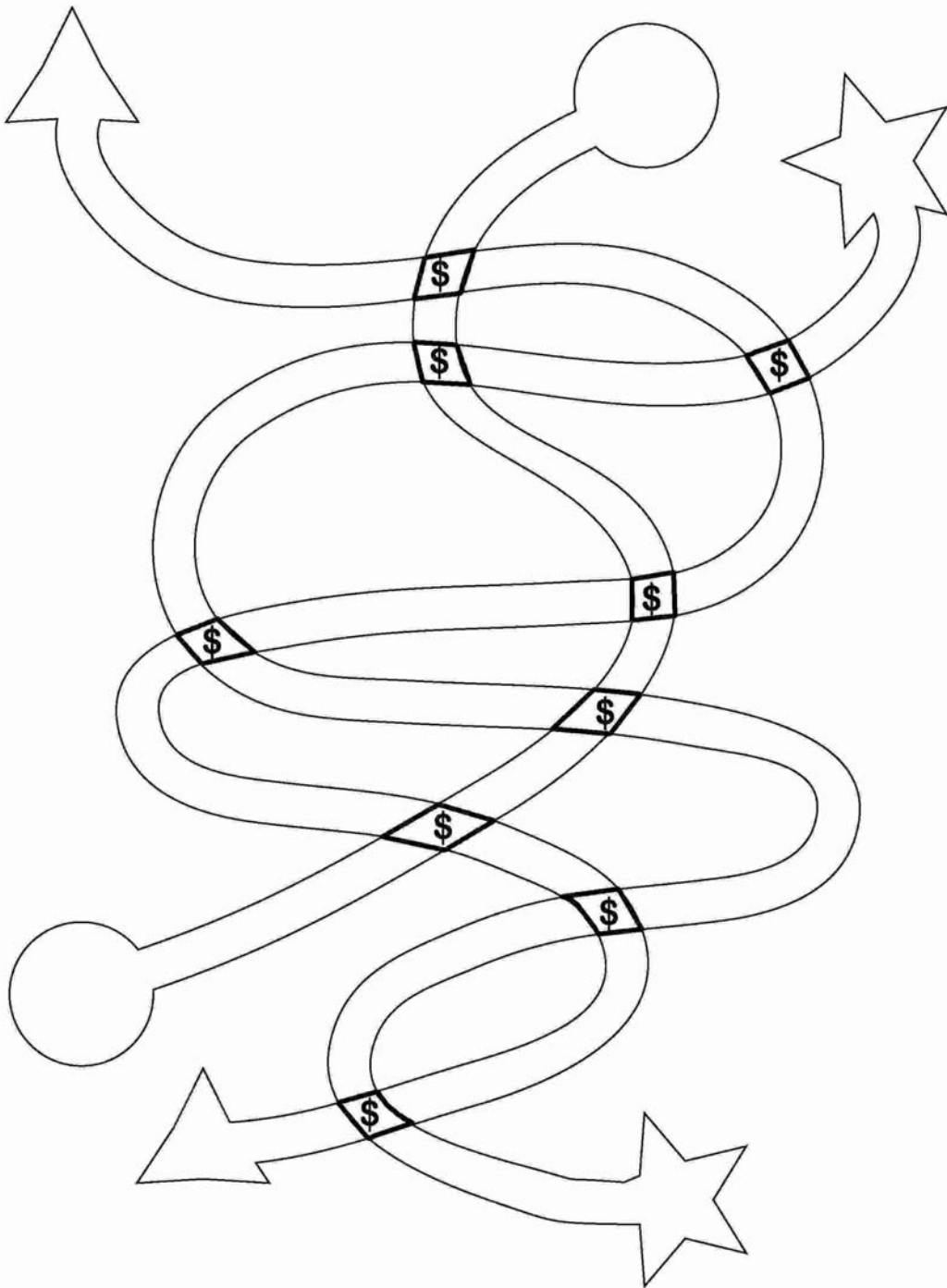
Bonus: For an additional bonus of \$30, how much does God say is an appropriate amount to return to him as a “thank you gift?” (10 percent)

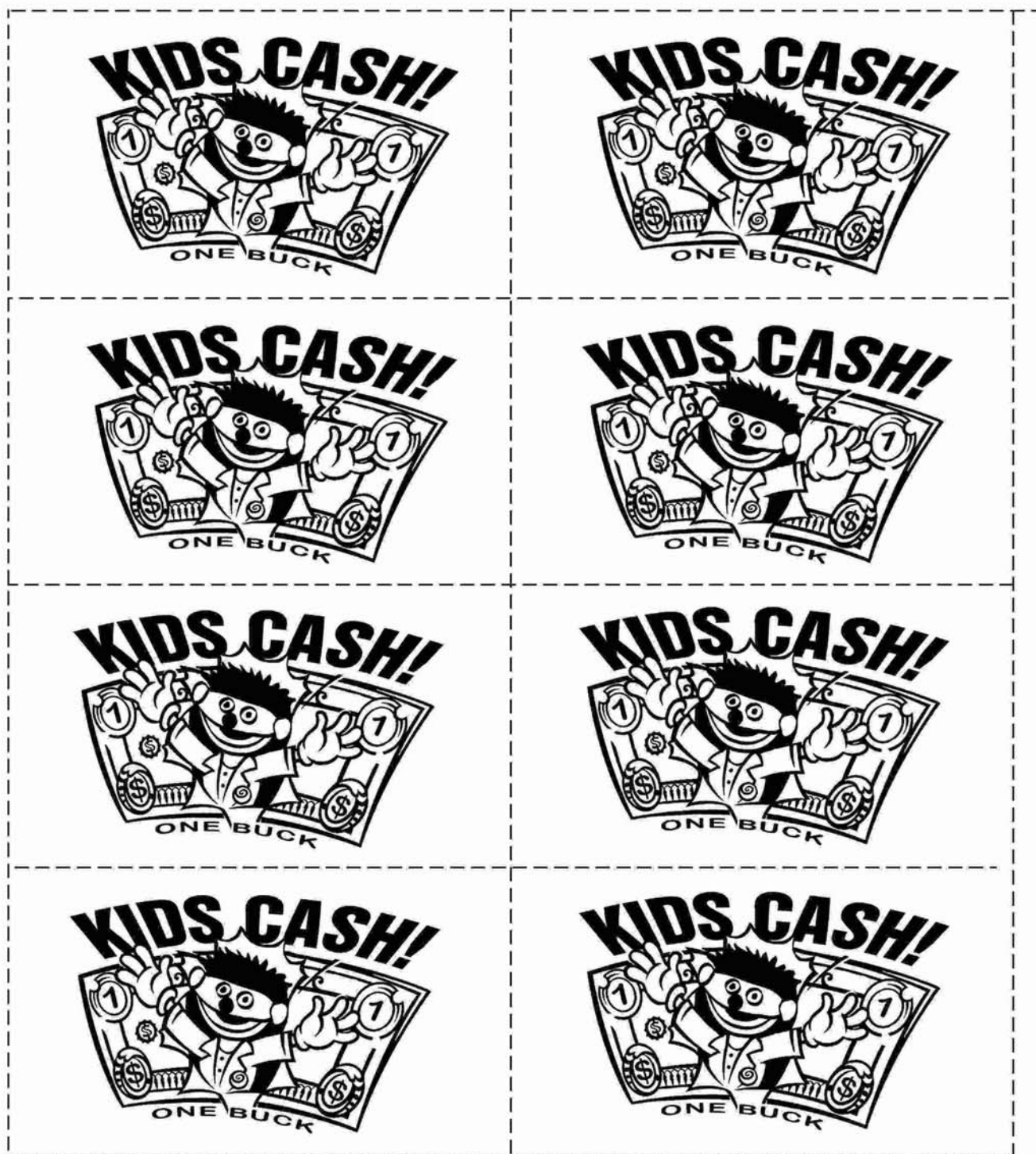
For \$1, if you could pay for heaven, how much would it cost?

(You would have to live a completely perfect life to earn heaven... and no one could do it!)

**Bonus question for \$200:
“How much did Jesus pay so that you could have heaven with him?”**

(He lived a perfect life in our place and died on the cross to pay the price of our sin.)





Kids Cash \$5.00 – Copy money on different colored paper than \$1.00.

