

Money Trap Escape Room

By Kathy Applebee

Content area: Bible, money

Recommended Ages/ target audience: upper elementary and up

Ideal Group Size: 3-4

Suggested Time: 40 minutes plus reflection and introduction

Introduction video: <https://youtu.be/RirPdcB3Pac>

STORY: A friend has fallen into the money rap. In less than an hour, an abyss will open and a swarm of locust monsters with faces resembling human faces and teeth like lions' teeth will be released. They have breastplates like iron, and the sound of their wings was like the thundering of many horses and chariots rushing into battle. Their tails with stingers, like scorpions, have the power to torment people caught in the money trap. Can you unlock the 4 locks on the money trap and get your friend out of there before the locust monsters come?

Lock Combinations: What codes will open the locks on the box?

7 letter lock: Lincoln (matching)

4 digit combo: 1613 (missing chapter and verse from Luke)

6 digit combo: 147293 (One, four, seven, two, nine, three from Matthew 6:19)

6 color: PVCGRS (pink, violet, copper, green, red, silver on pictures)

MATERIALS NEEDED

Clues .PDF

Website link <https://sites.google.com/view/themoneytrapesca room/home>

Answer key

Reflection questions

Setup Instructions:

- 1 Print or make available remotely the student player materials
- 2 You will need the answer key (printed or digital.)

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- 3 Introduce the story
- 4 Set the timer for 30-45 minutes. I use the online timer at <https://www.online-stopwatch.com> and have it projected so they can monitor the time
- 5 Wrap up with discussion/reflection questions

Reflection Questions:

1. What was the easiest clue? The hardest
2. How did you work together well?
3. What would make it easier to work together next time?
4. What one thing would you do differently next time?
5. Luke 19:8-10 Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." Why did Jesus react this way to Zacchaeus's cheerful willingness to part with his money? Why did He link it to Zacchaeus's salvation from sin? Had money been a trap to Zacchaeus? Why or why not?
6. Matthew 19:21-26 (The Non-Conversion of the Rich Young Ruler) Seemed to be a perfect "candidate for discipleship": humble, successful, showing great interest in Jesus, outwardly moral, but knowing he needed more Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Was the rich young ruler in a money trap? Why or why not? What does Jesus' encounter with the rich young ruler teach us about true conversion and salvation? Does

Jesus call on all converts to sell everything they have? If not, what does this story say to every Christian?

7. Ephesian magicians and true conversion: Acts 19:19 A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to 50,000 drachmas. (a drachma is a day's wage; so this amounts to about 137 year's wages or a little less than the wages earned by fourteen men over ten years) What does this teach about true conversion? What things might you need to get rid of in your life?
8. Read these accounts of the early church: Acts 2:44-45, Acts 4:32, Acts 4:34-37 . What is the relationship between our spiritual condition and our attitude and actions concerning money and possessions?
9. Read Mark 12:41-44, Luke 12:15-21 and compare the poor widow and rich fool. What might a worldly financial planner have said to the 2 of them? How does that differ from what Jesus said? Which today would be most likely to serve on a church or Christian board of directors? Would God appoint the same people? Why does Jesus hold the widow up as an example of giving? Why does Jesus call the rich man a fool? Was the rich man in a money trap? What does it mean to be "rich toward God" (see Luke 12:21)? How do these scriptures relate to "God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7)
10. Read Matthew 16:24-26. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? How much is your soul worth? What can a man give in exchange for his soul?
11. Money can be a great opportunity and tool, but it can also be a terrible temptation and a significant stumbling block. With money, we can accomplish great things for God, or we can lose sight of our dependence on God and rely instead on our abilities and focus on our own selfish interests and desires. Money is the means to an end—not the end in itself. Agree or disagree?
12. In the parables of the sower (see references in escape room), the seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. What worries you? What gives you pleasure? How can these 2 things and riches hinder you as a Jesus follower?