

CHASING THE WIND

Whoever loves money never has enough.

—Ecclesiastes 5:10

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever been outside when someone was blowing bubbles on a windy day? You probably had a great time chasing bubbles all over the place! But when you were all done, what was the result of all your effort? You were tired from all that running, and there was nothing at all in your hands. Well, maybe you ended up with a little sticky soap on your fingers! But it's kind of meaningless when you think about it.

In the book of Ecclesiastes, King Solomon wrote about how senseless it is to love money so much that you spend all your time and energy chasing it. In the end, you won't have anything truly valuable to show for it, and you will have wasted your whole life. Wouldn't it be so much better to spend your time pursuing the things that God has planned for you?

Today's devotion is based on Ecclesiastes 5:10, which says, "Whoever loves money never has enough." The devotion is called "Chasing the Wind."

DEVOTION

Danny and his mother walked into the sporting goods store to buy him some soccer cleats and shin guards. "What's that?" Danny asked. Near the front window was a glass booth with paper money swirling inside!

An employee said, "It's our 'Instant Rebate' program. If you spend over fifty dollars, you can go in the money booth for one minute. You get to grab as many dollar bills as you can."

Danny looked at his mom. "Can I do it?"

His mom laughed. "Sure, if we spend enough."

When they checked out, the employee let Danny inside the booth. Grabbing here and there, he tried to snatch the bills out of the air. When the buzzer sounded, he stepped out. "I got eleven!"

It would be fun to get into a money booth and try to grab as much cash as you could. But don't love money so much that you spend your life chasing it! King Solomon called this meaningless, like chasing the wind. He said that people who live this way are never satisfied. Solomon knew the real purpose of life. It's to "fear God and keep his commandments" (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

PEOPLE IN BIBLE TIMES

God told King Solomon to ask him for whatever he wanted. Solomon could've asked for money, but instead he asked for wisdom. God was pleased, so he gave Solomon great wisdom and great riches.

QUESTIONS

1. Did you ever get a chance to go into a money booth and try to grab dollar bills out of the air, or have you ever played some other game where you could win money? How much money did you get?
2. A key phrase in today's Scripture verse is "money enough." How do you know when you have enough money?

One answer: Explain that everybody has to have money to pay for things they *need*, such as food, clothing, and shelter. Plus, people like to have money to pay for things they *want*, such as toys, MP3 players, and video games. So the point where you have enough money is somewhere in the "want" category, after you have money for the things you really need.

3. People who love money are never content with what they have. They always think they'll be happier when they have more money so they can buy more things. Why is it important to learn to be content with what you have?
4. Is it possible to be content with what you have and still look forward to getting something else you want?

Answer: Yes, you can be happy with what you have even as you work and save up your money to get something else you want. But remember, you don't want to spend your whole life always trying to get more money and things. It's much better to put your time and energy into doing what God put you on earth to do! If you do that, you'll be far happier and feel more fulfilled.

5. According to the Bible, there are two kinds of treasures that we can chase after. What are they? Why is one kind better than the other? Also, how does the kind of treasure we choose to pursue affect our hearts?

For a clue, either have children look up Matthew 6:19–21, which says, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also," or read this passage to them.