

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 19:16-23

CLIP LOCATION: Approximately 0:54:47 through 0:57:42 when the VCR counter is set at 0:00:00 as studio logo appears at beginning of film. Be sure to preview the clip!

SYNOPSIS: In this scene, a pirate confesses the truth about the curse brought on by a stolen treasure.

ILLUSTRATION: Desire for money corrupts and never satisfies. It is an empty pursuit. Perhaps that is why Jesus called the love of money the root of evil. The ugliness greed causes in us may not be as obvious as the pirates sentenced to be walking dead men, but it is just as destructive.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why were the pirates cursed? What was the curse brought on by the stolen Aztec gold?
- How can wealth become a curse? How can it consume someone's life?
- Is money itself good, bad, or neutral? Explain.

Read aloud Matthew 19:16-23. **ASK:**

- Why was Jesus disappointed with the rich young man?
- How can money separate you from God?
- In what ways can you use your money for God's glory?

MUSIC DISCUSSION STARTER

Decisions, Decisions

Help teenagers explore the empty promises of money.

SUPPLIES:

The Young and the Hopeless CD, CD player, Bible

TIME: 10 to 20 minutes

ALBUM: Good Charlotte—*The Young and the Hopeless*

SONG: "Lifestyles of the Rich & Famous"

SONG THEME: Money doesn't solve our problems.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What's the most ridiculous complaint you've ever heard from a famous person?
- Why do these people complain?

- Why do people think money can solve their problems?

Read aloud 1 Timothy 6:17-19. **ASK:**

- How have you seen people put their trust in money?
- How much trust do you place in money? Explain.
- Why doesn't God give all his followers enough money to be comfortable?
- How has God helped you in ways that money never could?
- How does a person learn to be content with his or her financial situation?
- What are some ways your money can glorify God this week?

ALBUM REVIEW: Many of Good Charlotte's pop-punk songs on *The Young and the Hopeless* center on the painful effects of parental divorce. Seeking answers, they acknowledge forgiveness ("Emotionless"), hope ("Hold On"), and the emptiness of riches ("Girls & Boys"). Unfortunately, they also place supreme trust in self ("Movin' On") and romantic relationships ("Wondering"). Obviously, true peace and fulfillment only come from God. With their tight harmonies and blistering guitars, Good Charlotte says great things about adolescence and society—let's hope they'll look to God for their answers in the future.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Teach teenagers biblical principles regarding money using these resources:

Money Talks by Todd Temple (Youth Specialties)

Neither Poverty Nor Riches by Craig L.

Blomberg (InterVarsity Press)

NOTES
