

**April 28 | Sunday**

Lessons for a Better Life: Use it or Lose it

Read [Luke 19:11-26](#)



**29 | Mon – Investing** | Read [Luke 19:11-26](#)

In this story that Jesus told, do you think his main point was advice on investing your money? Or is he communicating a bigger principle? Some people *are* blessed with wealth or business success. Others are gifted musicians, speakers, or in the creative arts. Could it be that Jesus was encouraging us to use what we have, regardless of the size, and invest it in the kingdom of God? Do you believe your contributions are too small or unimportant and it keeps you from doing what you can? Don't let that stop you. God does amazing things with small gifts.

**30 | Tue – Saving for a Rainy Day?** | Read [Luke 12:13:21](#) / [Matthew 6:19-21](#)

Some people never worry about the future while others work hard to be prepared for what unexpected things may happen. Read the story of this successful farmer. He seemed to be doing everything right and was prospering. How did his preparedness turn into sin? What made this man's actions so detrimental? How can you avoid making the same mistake?

**01 | Wed – Dead faith** | Read [James 2:14-26](#)

How healthy is your faith? It is like a muscle and needs to be exercised or it can fade away. A crisis *will* come but you can be prepared if you are already living out your beliefs. How do you know if you are? List what you believe...who is God and what is He like, who is Jesus, what difference does the cross make, what does it look like to follow Jesus every day. Now compare that to your to-do lists, calendar plans, bank statement. Is there any correlation?

**02 | Thu – Your prayer muscle** | Read [Ephesians 6:18](#) / [Philippians 4:4-7](#)

Prayer is what brings us into God's presence. When we don't use this wonderful gift, it can cause us to lose the sense of God's nearness. Some folks pray when they get in trouble or need help to navigate difficult circumstances. Others pray when they need something they can't get for themselves. While God loves it when we ask for help (and we should), it is the quiet times you sit with God talking, listening, being with Him. Those are the times you will experience what a wonderful person God is. Have you found this to be true for you?

**03 | Fri – Your brain and God's word** | Read [Isaiah 55:8-11](#)

God's thoughts are beyond us but there are some He has shared through the people He used to write them down in scripture. Consistently reading, thinking about and applying what you learn will change the way you think and the way you look at life. What have you read recently in scripture that has challenged you? What action did you take as a result?

**04 | Sat – Wise choices** | Read [Proverbs 2:1-22](#)

Exercising wisdom and discernment can greatly improve the outcomes of your actions. It starts with gaining knowledge, closely followed by an understanding of what you have learned. But it is in action where wisdom is revealed. When you are faced with a decision, big or small, ask yourself...*in light of my past experiences, my present circumstances and my future hopes and dreams, what is the wise choice?* It takes time to make this a habit but when you do, there will be less regret and more satisfaction. What is your next [wise] choice?