



*Outline for Sabbath School teachers with ideas for group discussion adapted from the Teachers' Edition of the Sabbath School Lesson prepared by the General Conference SS ministry.*

**Lesson n. 1**     **30/12/2017 – 05/01/2018**

**Title:**            **The Influence of Materialism**

**Key texts:**     **Rom. 12:1-3; 1 John 2:16,17; Luke 12:15-21; 14:26-33; Deut. 8:10-14; 1 Tim. 6:10; John 15:5; Gal. 2:20.**

**Themes to Explore:**

1. Money, the fruit of honest, fair labour, which is respectful towards man and nature is a blessing; the love of money is not.
2. The riches that God grants us are for human wellbeing, growth and joy, to honour God, serve our neighbour and take care of nature.
3. Preventing avarice and developing gratitude, generosity and dependence on God are principles taught throughout the Bible, but specifically highlighted by Jesus. These are important lessons for both rich and poor.

**B. Learning Objectives**

- Know:**     Discern the difference between correct management of one's riches and the correct distance from materialism.
- Feel:**     Seek the approval of God in everything, continually growing in dependence on Him for the management of our goods.
- Do:**       Live a life consecrated to God, managing the goods that we have to God's glory and for the transformation of our characters.

**C. Other possible questions for deeper study, debate, sharing and testimony**

1. **Why is this lesson important to me? (Motivate);**
  - 1a. Why is love of riches a danger and a trap? What attitude and internal character hide behind it?
2. **What else is there still to learn from God's Word? (Explore);**
  - 2a. Read Luke 14:26-33. What did Jesus teach about the characteristics of a true disciple of the gospel?
3. **How can I practice what I've learned from God's Word? (Apply);**
  - 3a. How can we protect ourselves from the traps and seductions of materialism and the temptations to be selfish?
4. **How can I communicate and apply what I've learned from God's Word? (Create).**
  - 4a. How can we promote balanced management of money in harmony with the teachings of the Bible?