

Pantries

Scripture:

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:19-20)

Materials List:

- (1) Pantry or
- (1) Shelf
- Food/Storage items

Song: *This World is not my Home*

Lesson:

I'm always filled with an extreme variety of emotions when I return home from a large grocery shopping excursion. Oftentimes, the aftermath of such an event requires multiple trips from my car to my kitchen, unloading the many food bags I have acquired. Then I am reminded how exhausted I am after the many hours of menu planning, item list making, coupon clipping, and time spent shopping in numerous stores while navigating my children. But, I am also struck by how blessed I am to live in a country where I am free to make my own culinary decisions and I'm extremely grateful for the money to obtain them.

Often times, as I stand back and observe each recently purchased item, I also feel overwhelmed at the thought that, though tired, I now need to find a home for everything. As I place the food where it belongs, the shelves on my pantry slowly become crowded to overflowing. Though not always the case, I currently have a nice big pantry. Over the years my kitchens have contained pantries which were shallow, deep, short, tall, or even pantries that had more shelving than others. In each case, there is a satisfaction seeing my pantry full and ready to serve my family. Along with the feeling of contentment, I am also accompanied with the feeling of guilt knowing there are many in this world living on very little nourishment when I have an abundance.

While there isn't anything wrong with planning ahead and making preparation, the Bible, God's Word, deals with the idea of "storing" items. In Matthew 6:19-20 we read, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal." Our lives ought to reflect the words of this scripture. Just as we like to fill our pantries, we tend to do the same throughout each compartment of our lives. Though we may have been financially blessed with the ability to buy nice cars and an outfit for each day of the week, live in luxurious houses (if you live in the USA, chances are that your house IS luxurious!), own many forms of electronics, and stock our pantries FULL, these are not the things we should strive for. We shouldn't work to possess "more" especially when, due to unforeseen circumstances, all these things can vanish in an instant. Rather, these items should be instruments of help to get us to our real treasure!

Our electronics can actually be used to bring glory to our God and Father, our homes to show hospitality, our cars to visit the sick and bring others to worship, and the food that fills our pantries should be used for nourishment and strength to gain the ability to accomplish the will of our Lord. Next time your pantry is abundant, use it as an opportunity to remember that He has blessed you more than you deserve and a stocked pantry means you have the sustenance to aid you in your journey toward your TRUE treasure: Heaven! While you are reflecting, take the time to evaluate what occupies your pantry. Is it old or expired? Will it help enhance a recipe? Just as you would throw out aged ingredients, let's empty our spiritual pantries of anything that will not enrich our commitment to the goal.

Prayer: Ask God to help your family remember that He is are all you really need, and to long for your

Main Message:

*We must not store up our treasures on this earth,
but in heaven!*