

Lesson Plan for Lesson 30

Respecting Material Goods

Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 30, “Respecting Material Goods,” in the handbook.
- Make copies of the handout “Living in a Material World” (Document #: TX003419), one for each participant.
- Have a Bible available.

Pray It! (5 minutes)

Tell the participants that class is going to begin with a prayer by Saint Ignatius of Loyola. Lead the following prayer:

- Grant, O Lord, that my heart may neither desire nor seek anything but what is necessary for the fulfillment of thy holy will. May health or sickness, riches or poverty, honors or contempt, humiliations, leave my soul in that state of perfect detachment to which I desire to attain for thy greater honor and thy greater glory.
- **All:** Amen.

Study It! (35 to 45 minutes, depending on your class length)

A. Respect for the Goods of Others

1. **Direct** the participants to form groups of three or four. **Tell** each group to create a list of advertisements they’ve seen in the last week. Then **ask** them to identify examples of ads that present luxury items as necessities for a happy life. **Invite** a representative from each group to share the group’s findings.
2. **Direct** the young people to read the chapter introduction and the sections “Respect for the Goods of Others” and “The Earth’s Goods Are for All,” on pages 331–334 in the handbook. The content covers points 1 through 5 on the handout “Lesson 30 Summary” Document #: TX003418).
3. **(Optional) Direct** the young people to the Reflect questions on pages 334 and 335 in the handbook, and lead a discussion on them.

B. Social Doctrine of the Church

1. **Distribute** the handout “Living in a Material World” (Document #: TX003419) to each participant. **Invite** the young people to take a few minutes to fill it out individually. Then **poll** the entire class to determine which items the majority of the participants considered necessities. Do this through a show of hands. Invite a short discussion on these questions:



- How important are material possessions to our true happiness?
 - Why is it that missionaries note that the people in poor countries often seem happier than the people in wealthy countries?
2. **Direct** the participants to read the sections “Social Doctrine of the Church” and “Vocation and Work,” on pages 335–338 in the handbook. The content covers points 6 and 7 on the handout “Lesson 30 Summary.”
 3. **(Optional) Invite** questions and observations on the content. You might also invite discussion on the Reflect questions on page 336 in the handbook.

C. Proper Use of Wealth

Direct the participants to read the section “Proper Use of Wealth,” on pages 338–340 in the handbook. The content covers points 8 and 9 on the handout “Lesson 30 Summary.”

Note: If you are running short on time, you may wish to just briefly summarize this section of the handbook.

Live It! (15 to 20 minutes)

1. **Direct** the participants to form three groups. **Explain** that they will be presenting common arguments on the morality of downloading music from the Internet without paying the record company for the music.
Explain the task as follows:
 - Group 1 will argue that such downloading is not stealing and that downloading music without paying for it is not wrong.
 - Group 2 will argue that such downloading is stealing but is justifiable and morally acceptable.
 - Group 3 will argue that such downloading is stealing and morally unacceptable.
 - Each group will have 2 minutes to present its argument. The other groups will not respond or interrupt while a group is presenting.
 - After all three groups have made their presentations, each group will have 1 minute to respond to the presentations of the others.
 - Remember that this activity is not a debate but a presentation of arguments.
2. **Invite** the groups to present their arguments. **Ask** all the groups to keep track of what the other groups are saying so they can respond later. When all three groups have presented their arguments, **ask** the first two groups the following question:
 - Did group 3 (the one that represents the Church’s view) do an adequate job of presenting its position? If yes, how so? If no, what other thoughts would you add?
3. **Share** the following comments in your own words:
 - Anytime we take something that doesn’t belong to us without the permission of the rightful owner, it is stealing, and it is a sin.
 - Stealing ideas or information from others may be more abstract, but it is still wrong. Examples are cheating, plagiarism (copying someone else’s words or ideas without permission or giving proper credit), and pirating music, videos, and software.



- Regardless of the kind of theft, those who take from others damage the harmony of society.
- Stealing requires confession, and reparation (making amends) or restitution (returning what you have stolen).

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Following any announcements, **direct** the participants to the Pray It! “Prayer to Know Jesus in Those in Need,” on page 337 in the handbook. **Ask** a volunteer to first read Matthew 25:31–46. After the reading, **lead** the participants in praying together the prayer in the sidebar.

