

GOD PROVIDES™

A FILM LEARNING EXPERIENCE
FROM CROWN FINANCIAL MINISTRIES®



GOD PROVIDES™ SERMON OUTLINE

RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

These sermon outlines are provided as part of your Large Group Viewing License*. In addition to showing the films in conjunction with a sermon, consider the other ways you can share the *God Provides™* message with others.

LARGE GROUP VIEWING IDEAS

- Show one or all of these films in the *God Provides™ Film Learning Experience* to your entire congregation.
- Rent a movie theater and sponsor a local movie night in your community.
- Share the films in conjunction with local mission work.
- Host a “Lunch and Learn Movie Experience” with your coworkers or employees.

LARGE GROUP LICENSE - PACKAGE FEATURES

Don't forget to use all of the materials available with your Large Group Viewing License. Go to Crown.org/GodProvides, click on “Group Licensing,” enter your unique License Code, and download the following materials:

- **Six Downloadable Trailers** for each short film.
- **Sermon Outlines** provide pastors with a message based on each short film.
- **Promotional Materials** such as posters, bulletin inserts, tickets and more are provided in digital format to promote the learning experience.
- **License Certificate** enables unlimited viewings for groups larger than 100.

For additional help or questions, please call 1-800-249-6320 or visit us online at Crown.org/GodProvides.

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BEFORE AND AFTER THIS SERMON

- 1** Before using this sermon, contact your local Crown Consultative Servant who can assist you in developing a financial ministry plan to provide ongoing guidance for your church members after the sermons are delivered in your church. Go to Crown.org and click “In My Area” to find a local servant.

- 2** While using this sermon, become familiar with the *God Provides™* Web site. It offers solid biblical insight that can help your church members. In particular, encourage your congregation to do any of the following:
 - a. Purchase a copy of the *God Provides™ Companion Guide*, and continue a personal study of each short film.
 - b. Listen or Podcast Crown’s radio programs for daily wisdom and encouragement.
 - c. Sign up for free e-communication to get monthly articles and advice on a variety of financial topics. Go to Crown.org/SignUp to register.

- 3** After using this sermon, take your church members to the next level in their journey by encouraging them to do some of the following:
 - a. **Start Some *God Provides™* Small Groups** – encourage your church members to go deeper in studying the principles in these films. Small groups can view the films as part of an effective learning experience using the available *God Provides™ Companion Guide*.
 - b. **Encourage Next Step Resources** – encourage your church members to apply the biblical principles they’ve learned in practical ways. **Next Step Resources** from Crown can help them. See the last page of this document for details.

*A large group is defined as showing a short film to more than 100 people at one time. For 100 people or fewer, a large group viewing license is not required. A *God Provides™* Companion Guide is recommended for each participant. Additional Companion Guides are sold separately.



To learn more about *God Provides™* and obtain additional teaching tools, go to Crown.org/GodProvides or call 1-800-249-6320.

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“MY HEART DECISIONS AFFECT ETERNITY”

(referencing the film, *Rich Man and Lazarus*, adapted from Luke 16:19-31)

[Note to Pastors: We prayerfully offer this resource material to you, believing that God will use it to guide and bless individuals and families within your congregation and the church body as a whole. Obviously you know your congregation’s specific needs and interests, so feel free to adapt any of this material. This sermon addresses just a facet of the complete *God Provides™ Film Learning Experience*.]

Ice Breaker and Introduction of Suggested Film Clip

While teaching His disciples, Jesus said, “No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money” (Luke 16:12-13).

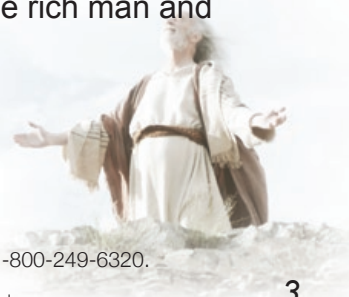
Some Pharisees—Jewish religious leaders—heard Him say this. They loved money and sneered at Jesus, who told them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God knows your hearts. What is highly valued among men is detestable in God’s sight.”

Jesus then told the story, which the Pharisees no doubt overheard, about a rich man who dressed in expensive purple cloth and fine linen, and a sick beggar named Lazarus who begged near the rich man’s gate. This story is found in Luke 16:19-31.

The film clip we’ll see now is adapted from this story and begins near the rich man’s house. While you watch, reflect on why God gives us the resources we have, such as money and possessions. Think about what our responsibility is, to God and other people, to use what he has given us in ways that reflect an eternal perspective.

After the film clip, I’ll fill you in on “the rest of the story”—what happened to the rich man and Lazarus.

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Play Film Clip of *Rich Man and Lazarus* (approx. 4 mins. 44 secs. long)

- Start: (approximately 1 min. 49 secs. into the film), when Lazarus is being carried on a stretcher.
- End: After the rich man and Lazarus die, the camera peers into the darkness of the rich man's tomb (end approx. 6 mins. 33 secs. into the film).

Key Message

Introduction

Each of us will die sometime—maybe soon, maybe many years from now. And what we just saw about the rich man and Lazarus should encourage us and serve as a warning.

The Bible says there is a heaven (Paradise)—and a separate and eternal hell, a terrible place of torment.

We become followers of Jesus by faith, not by the good works we do (Ephesians 2:8-9). Once we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, though, we have certain responsibilities. God tells everyone who follows Him to reach out in Jesus' name to poor and needy people.

Let's go back to Jesus' story and learn what happened to Lazarus and the rich man.

The Bible tells us that Lazarus found himself in heaven next to Abraham—the ancient Hebrew patriarch who founded the Israelites—God's chosen people.

Imagine what heaven was like for Lazarus! Quite a change from lying in a stretcher with sores covering his body! He was in heaven for eternity, where there is no death and pain! (See Revelation 21:4.)

The rich man, however, went to hell where he suffered and pleaded for mercy – but it was too late. While on earth, the rich man pursued earthly wealth and its benefits. But he did not care about God and what the Scriptures said about helping people like Lazarus.

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1 God gives us *earthly resources*—including time, money, and possessions—in order to meet our needs and the *needs of other people*.

God is our Provider. Everything we have ultimately comes from Him. If we are faithful to Him—demonstrating our love for Him through obedience—He promises to provide for our needs. And He challenges us to use our resources to benefit people in need.

Jesus condemned the rich man for his **use of wealth**, not for having wealth. Instead of helping hurting people like Lazarus (who received bad things in life), the rich man (who received good things in life) spent his life serving his selfish desires.

Contrary to what our culture wants us to believe, the financial goal of Christians should never be focused on having easy, comfortable lives. In a way, as followers of Christ, we are called to be like “God’s hands and feet” among needy people, wisely sharing our resources—in our neighborhoods, in nursing homes and retirement centers, in homeless shelters, with families struggling to survive financially, with people who cannot afford proper medical care. . . .

Related Scriptures

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.
—1 John 3:17-20

Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. —James 2:15-17

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.
—Romans 15:1-2

*“The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”
“What should we do then?” the crowd asked.*



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John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." —Luke 3:9-11

*There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.
—Deuteronomy 15:11*

*"Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom
or the strong man boast of his strength
or the rich man boast of his riches,
but let him who boasts boast about this:
that he understands and knows me,
that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness,
justice and righteousness on earth,
for in these I delight." —Jeremiah 9:23-24*

Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today. —Deuteronomy 8:18

*He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD,
and he will reward him for what he has done. —Proverbs 19:17*

2 **It's important to pray and ask God to make us aware and sensitive to needy, hurting people.**

Although it is both challenging and rewarding to lovingly help needy, hurting people, did you know that Jesus said (Matthew 25:34-40) that when we do this, we are actually doing it to Him!

Jesus touched people's lives with His love and truth. He healed them. Gave them food. Taught them the Scriptures. Held little children. Touched lepers.

How different our lives, and the lives of other people around us, might be if we ask God every day to enable us to demonstrate love to people in need. To encourage them. To share with them. To listen to them. To help them to overcome difficulties. To live out the love and truth of Jesus wherever we are.

God promises to give us the wisdom and power we need to do this—one person . . . one family . . . one neighborhood . . . at a time.



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Related Stories from the Bible

Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." —Luke 10:30-37

3 As Christians, we are to use our *resources*—including our time, money, and possessions—in eternal ways that guide *people to Jesus Christ*.

It is not wrong to be rich or poor. Poor people have coexisted with rich people since humankind's earliest days. However, in the Bible—God's Word for us today—God says that earthly wealth is temporary. Rather than living as if this life is all there is, we are to please God—to live in obedience to His truth in the Bible. That includes demonstrating His love so freely and with such joy that people around us are drawn to know the God we serve. When people see our love expressed in sincere, practical ways to help meet their needs, they can't help but notice—and may be drawn to God, who is love.

Whatever your background, whatever your God-given gifts may be, wherever you are—you influence people by the way you live. Think about the people whose lives you touch: friends, family members, coworkers, neighbors, and many others. What impact are you having? Do you reflect the love of Jesus?

When you leave this earth, you will leave a legacy of relationships—people who remember what you claimed to believe, who were influenced by you just as you influenced them.

What kind of legacy do you want to leave?

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Related Scriptures

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 moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. —Matthew 6:19-21

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. —Matthew 28:19-20

Related Story from the Bible

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'

"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.'

"They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'

"He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'" —Matthew 25:31-45

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Pastoral Challenge

If people studied your calendar and use of money during the past year, what would they discover about

- Your priorities?
- Your view of possessions?
- Your commitment to reach out to people in need?
- Your desire to share the truth and love of Jesus with people who do not yet know Him personally?
- What needs to change?

Wrap Up and Close

[We recommend bringing in a short, modern-day illustration to close. For example:

- Story of Steve Schmidt (founder and director of Love Packages – <http://www.lovepackages.org/founder/htm>)

Or, someone in the congregation might share a short, illustrative testimony—live or via video.]

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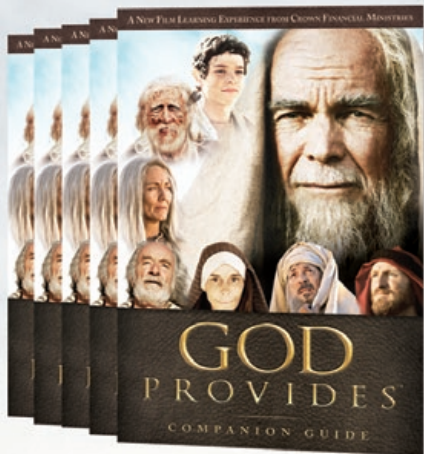
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Take *God Provides*[™] to the Next Level!

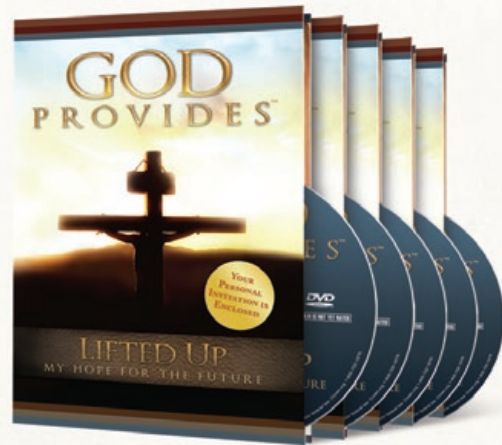


God Provides[™] Companion Guide

When using *God Provides*[™] in a group setting, a Companion Guide is recommended for each person. Purchase additional Companion Guides at your local Christian retailer or contact Crown.

Lifted Up - A Personal Invitation

Share the ultimate act of God's provision for all people—His gift of salvation and new life. This evangelistic packet features the short film *Lifted Up*, along with a special video invitation to Jesus Christ. Contact Crown for bulk purchase options.



Online Companion



/ Connect with Others

Join *God Provides*[™] Facebook group and read about people's experiences on the *God Provides*[™] blog.

/ Additional Exploration

God Provides[™] is just a step in your journey. Learn more about free practical tools that can help you.

/ Facilitator Tools

Are you facilitating *God Provides*[™] in your family or church? Obtain free additional information and tips to enhance your experience.

/ Next Steps

Find a Christian retailer in your local area that offers the *God Provides*[™] Learning Experience resources, or purchase them direct from Crown.

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