



Values: What are they, and why do they matter? A Readers' Theatre in 4 Voices

[Matthew 6:19-21](#); [Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7](#); [Ruth 1:15-18](#); [Luke 19:1-10](#)

Teacher: Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal.

Narrator: The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground.

Voice 1: The Lord appeared to Abraham

Voice 2: The Lord appeared!

Voice 1: Abraham bowed down.

Voice 2: He bowed down to the ground.

Teacher: Store up treasures in heaven.

Narrator: Naomi said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' But Ruth said, 'Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you!

Voice 2: Return after your sister-in-law.

Voice 1: Return!

Voice 2: Do not press me to leave you.

Voice 1: Do not press me.

Teacher: Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal.

Narrator: Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way.

Voice 1: Zacchaeus was a tax-collector

Voice 2: And rich!

Teacher: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Narrator: Abraham said, 'My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.'

Voice 1: So they said,

Voice 2: 'Do as you have said.'

Voice 1: And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said,

Voice 2: 'Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.'

Narrator: Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

Teacher: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Narrator: Ruth also said to Naomi, "Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God."

Voice 2: Where you go

Voice 1: I will go

Voice 2: Where you lodge,

Voice 1: I will lodge.

Voice 2: Your people

Voice 1: Shall be my people,

Voice 2: And your God

Voice 1: My God.

Teacher: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Narrator: When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.'

Voice 2: Come down, Zacchaeus!

Voice 1: I must stay at your house

Voice 2: Today!

Voice 1: Today!

Teacher: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Narrator: They said to Abraham, 'Where is your wife Sarah?' And he said, 'There, in the tent.' Then one said, 'I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.' And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

Voice 2: So Sarah laughed to herself

Voice 1: Sarah laughed!

Voice 2: She laughed, saying,



Voice 1: ‘After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?’

Voice 2: The Lord said to Abraham,

Voice 1: “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.”

Voice 2: But Sarah denied, saying,

Voice 1: ‘I did not laugh’; for she was afraid.

Voice 2: The Lord said,

Voice 1: ‘Oh yes, you did laugh.’

Voice 2: You laughed!

Teacher: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Narrator: Ruth also said to Naomi, “Where you die, I will die—there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

Voice 2: Where you die -

Voice 1: I will die!

Teacher: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Narrator: So Zacchaeus hurried down and was happy to welcome Jesus. All who saw it began to grumble and said, ‘Jesus has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.’

Voice 2: A sinner!

Voice 1: A sinner!

Teacher: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Narrator: Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, ‘Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.’

Voice 1: I will pay back!

Voice 2: Pay back!

Teacher: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Narrator: The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him.

Voice 2: Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.

Voice 1: And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.



Voice 2: Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Teacher: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Narrator: Now Sarah said, 'God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.' And she said, 'Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.'

Voice 2: Laughter!

Voice 1: I have born a son!

Teacher: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Narrator: When Naomi saw that Ruth was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Teacher: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Narrator: Then Jesus said to Zacchaeus, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

Voice 1: Today!

Voice 2: Jesus seeks!

Voice 1: Today!

Voice 2: Jesus saves!

Voice 1: Today!

Teacher: Where your treasure is,

Voice 2: Today!

Teacher: there your heart will be also

All: Today!

