

# You can't take it with you

## Biblical Material: Proverbs 11.4

'Wealth will do you no good when you die!'

### You will need:

- A suitcase.
- Paper, and a thick felt-tipped pen.
- Sweets made by Cadbury and Rowntree.
- Sellotape and scissors. (optional)

### Introduction

When we arrive in the world, we arrive with nothing. Babies do not arrive with a suitcase full of things they might need. If babies could choose what they could bring into the world, what do you think they might bring? Open the suitcase and write the pupil's suggestions on pieces of paper and ask them to come up and place them in the suitcase or tape them inside the open lid. If no one suggests money, add it yourself.

### Core Material

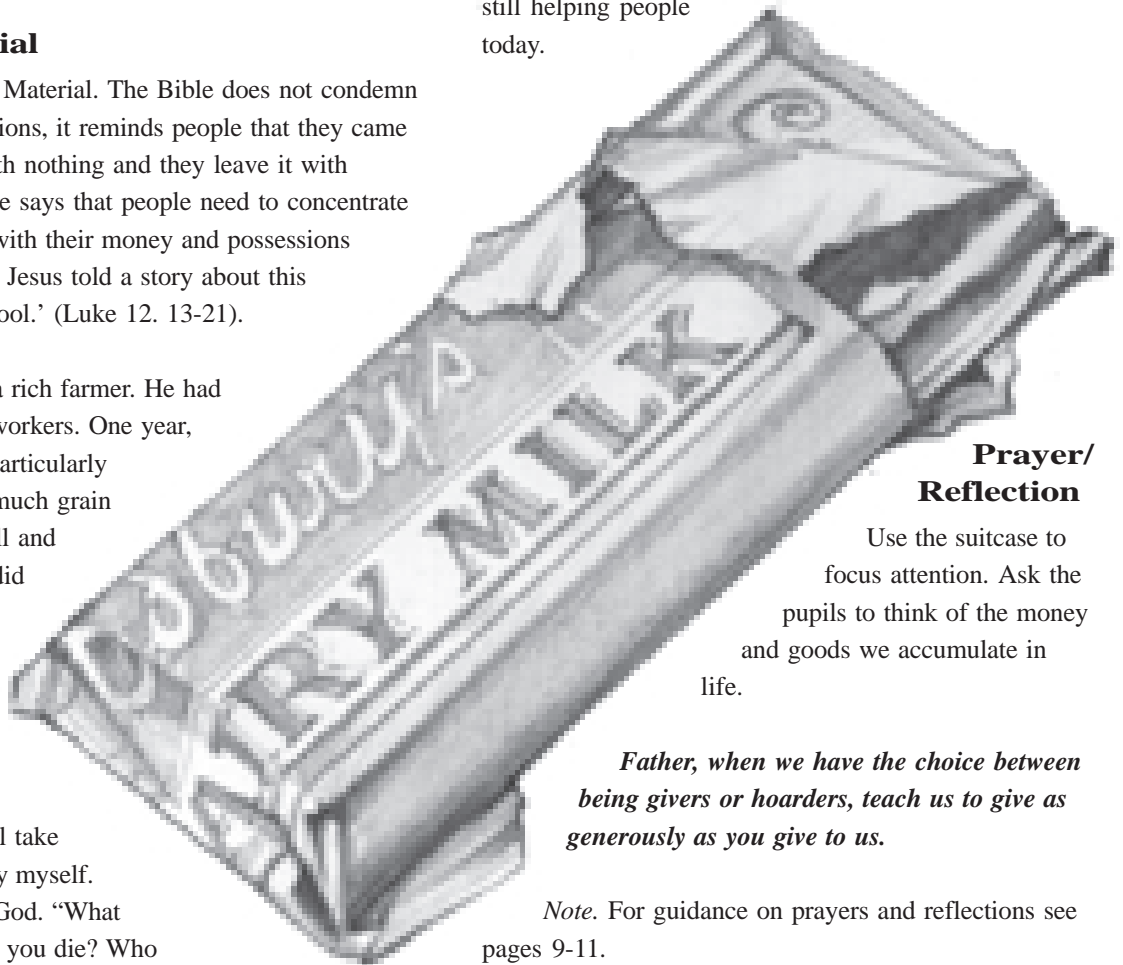
Read the Biblical Material. The Bible does not condemn money or possessions, it reminds people that they came into the world with nothing and they leave it with nothing. The Bible says that people need to concentrate on what they do with their money and possessions during their lives. Jesus told a story about this called 'The rich fool.' (Luke 12. 13-21).

'Once there was a rich farmer. He had many fields and workers. One year, the harvest was particularly good: he had so much grain his barns were full and overflowing. He did not share the extra grain. Instead he said, "I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones. I will take life easy and enjoy myself. "You fool!" said God. "What will happen when you die? Who will enjoy all this wealth you have kept

for yourself?" That night the man died: he never did enjoy his wealth.

'He was a rich man in other people's eyes,' said Jesus, 'but poor in God's sight.'

Money is important: it can change people's lives. Show the sweets. The Rowntree and Cadbury families were both Christians. Both families made money in their business, but they did not keep it all for themselves, they used their money to help others. They built good homes for their workers, and decent factories. They built clinics and schools. They took to heart the saying, 'You can't take it with you,' and tried to do good with their money in their life time. Money that they did not spend was left in trusts to do good after their death. The money made by the Rowntree and Cadbury families is still helping people today.



### Prayer/ Reflection

Use the suitcase to focus attention. Ask the pupils to think of the money and goods we accumulate in life.

*Father, when we have the choice between being givers or hoarders, teach us to give as generously as you give to us.*

*Note.* For guidance on prayers and reflections see pages 9-11.