

# The TREASURE Test





ENGAGE  
ESTABLISH  
EQUIP

# The TREASURE Test



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# Why test my TREASURE?

In a few short weeks we'll start a new decade together. For many, 2020 will mean new hopes, new resolutions and a lot of new possibilities. Depending on what our biggest hopes are, we'll fill up our calendars, coffee mugs and credit cards to make those things become a reality.

The problem is that we're constantly tempted to invest in things that won't last. We chase things that make us happy for a time or that seem important for making us comfortable while we're here on earth.

In Matthew 6, Jesus challenges His disciples to think differently about these investments. He says we've got to think about where our treasure is if we want to get things right in the time we're here. For us, that's a short window between January 1, 2020 and whenever our time on earth is up.

For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also.

*Matthew 6:21*

This is why we're kicking off a six-week journey to test our treasure. Together as a church, we're preparing our hearts for a decade that has the potential of producing more treasure than we could imagine – treasure that will last forever.



# How do I do the TREASURE TEST?



For most of us, the weeks leading up to 2020 will feel short and filled to the brim. Because of this, we've designed THE TREASURE TEST to take only 15 minutes per week over the next six weeks.

But how should you go about working through the test? Here are some considerations:

### **Who should I test with?**

Doing THE TREASURE TEST is a personal thing. Every heart holds different treasures close and some questions are hard to ask and answer honestly. For this reason, it's recommended that the test be done individually. That said, sharing responses with close family members or in small groups is definitely encouraged. THE TREASURE TEST is also suitable for school-age children. As parents, once you've worked through your answers, help your children test their treasure too.

### **When should I do it?**

Pick the day of the week that is typically least busy for you and then set a calendar reminder on that day for the next six weeks. Choose a time of day that is free from distractions so that you'll have space to reflect on what you're learning through the Scriptures and questions that are being asked. If you have a regular Bible study time already in place, add THE TREASURE TEST as something above and beyond your regular study routine. You'll be glad you did.



# Test 1

WHO DO I LOVE AND  
TREASURE MOST?

## READ

*Deuteronomy 6:4-9*



## LEARN

1. How is the extent of the love we should have for God described in verse 5? Summarize what you see in your own words.
2. How do you think following the instructions in verses 6-9 would help in making verse 5 a reality?
3. Why does God command these things? Check Deuteronomy 6:24 for the answer.



## TEST

4. Make a personal list of the various “loves” in your life that tend to take God’s place on any given day.
  
5. Now scan verse 7 again and consider the conversations that take place in your home as you rise, walk around, sit down, and lie down. To what degree do the “loves” you listed above shape your focus?
  
6. If you loved God with all that you are, which moments of daily downtime would be used to read and talk about His Word in your home?



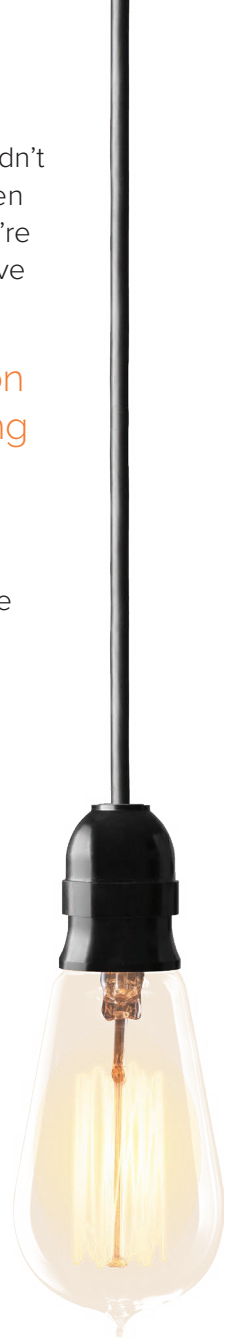
## APPLY

If God’s command to love Him with all our hearts is “for our good always” (verse 24), what is stopping us from doing what is actually in our best interest? Read verses 8-9 again. God seems to point to our human tendency for easy distraction – especially the easy

distractions of our hands, eyes and feet. To think they didn't yet have smartphones to distract hands and eyes when this was written! God knows that we lose focus when we're not intentional about loving Him with all that we are, above all else.

When we treasure God, our focus stays on Him. We become intentional about fighting distraction.

7. What are some creative, practical ways you can stay focused on God's Word and on treasuring Him above all other "loves" in 2020?
8. To make sure you are able to love God with all that you are, can you see any self-focused, distracting practices that need to go?



Week 2



# Test 2

WHAT IS MY SOURCE  
OF REAL TREASURE?

## READ

*2 Corinthians 8:9*



## LEARN

1. Draw a simple diagram to show the direction in which riches and poverty are flowing in this verse.
2. In what ways did Jesus “become poor” for us? See Philippians 2:6-8 for help with your answer.
3. Jesus did this so we “might become rich”. But what kind of “rich” is He referring to? Check 1 Peter 1:3-5 for a clue.



## TEST

4. Based on how you're living day-to-day, would it be fair for someone to conclude that earthly riches seem quite motivating and appealing to you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Does thinking about the relatively short length of time you have on earth change how you value earthly riches?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How does your view of your current finances change when you focus on what truly makes you rich?



## APPLY

Now read this week's verse again but in the full context of 2 Corinthians 8:1-15. As you read the passage, take notice of how many times the word "grace" appears.

Paul is making an important appeal, encouraging us to give generously. We are to "see to it" that we "excel" in this act of "grace". The diagram that you drew showing the flow of riches and poverty in verse 9 hinges on grace. Paul argues that the grace of Jesus was behind His willingness to give up splendor



in heaven to make us spiritually rich. This becomes our powerful motivator to give up our material riches for others as well.

Scan the passage one last time. Notice that these people were “begging” to give to gospel ministry (verse 4-5). Despite their poverty, they seemed to treasure the idea of giving.

The more we're transformed by the grace of Jesus, the more we treasure giving generously.

7. In order to “excel” at grace-filled, generous giving, what personal budget shifts would be necessary for you or for your family?

8. Imagine what might be possible if every person in our church treasured participating in these ongoing acts of grace. How would gospel growth be impacted in Ottawa alone? Dream big and jot down a few possibilities.





# Test 3

WHOSE OPINION  
DO I TREASURE?

## READ

*Romans 1:16*



## LEARN

1. What reason does Paul use to explain why he's not ashamed of the gospel? Write it out here.
2. Draw a balance scale and write "the salvation of people" on one side and "the approval of people" on the other. On which side of the scale does Paul place his treasure? What does this tell you about whose opinion matters most to him?
3. Read Isaiah 51:12-13. In your own words, how does God contrast the fear of man to the fear of God?



## TEST

4. Jot down a few reasons that might tempt you (and maybe even Paul!) to be ashamed of the gospel.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Looking back over the past decade, which way would you say your personal scale has been tipping? See question 2.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. List some areas in your life where you tend to crave the approval of people rather than God.



## APPLY

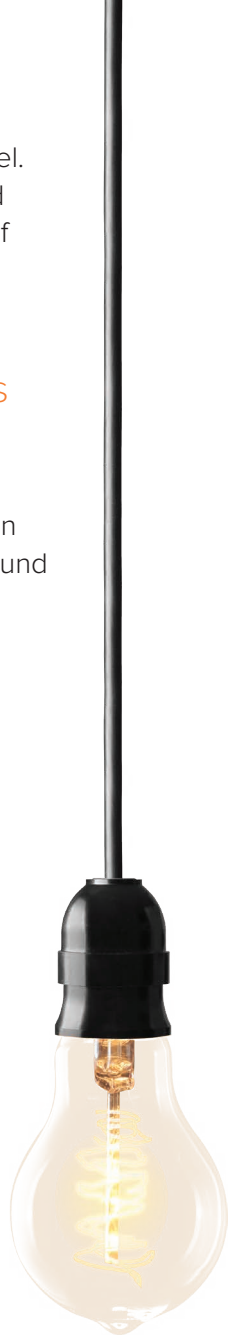
Now go back to Romans 1 and read verses 13-15. In his letter to the Romans, Paul wants them to understand how “eager” he is to share the gospel there. In verse 13 he states his reason: “in order that I may reap some harvest among you”. His great treasure seems to be seeing souls saved and transformed by the gospel.

As a church, our mission is all about making disciples of Jesus Christ. Together we want to **engage** people with the gospel, **establish**

believers in the gospel and **equip** servants of the gospel. Today we are only scratching the surface of what would be possible if every one of us truly treasured the kind of harvest Paul is saying he longs for.

The gospel is the power of God for the salvation of real people. Fearing people is not in their best interest.

7. What feelings and fears might you need to let go of in 2020 so that you can effectively **engage** people around you with the gospel?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. If you treasured seeing people transformed the way Paul describes, what place in your 2020 calendar would you set aside to serve in ministries that **establish** believers in the gospel and **equip** servants of the gospel?





# Test 4

WHAT EXPERIENCES  
DO I TREASURE?

## READ

*Hebrews 11:23-28*



## LEARN

1. Imagine for a moment living your life as a prominent prince in Egypt. Write down what you might enjoy most about being in those shoes.
2. According to verse 25 what choice did Moses face? Write down his two possible alternatives.
3. How did Moses go about weighing these two options (verse 26)? What was he “looking to” as he decided which path to take?



## TEST

4. When you make big life decisions, do you typically look for the option that gives you fleeting, immediate pleasure, or the option that requires faith for a lasting, future reward?
  
5. How might your answer to question 4 change if that lasting, future reward comes at a high cost - including mistreatment and harsh criticism?
  
6. In fixing your eyes on the future, which “fleeting pleasure of sin” is the hardest for you to leave behind?



## APPLY

It's easier to opt for delayed gratification when there isn't sacrifice or suffering involved in the waiting process. Verse 27 tells us that Moses “endured” through his waiting process by “seeing Him who is invisible”. With this lens of clarity, he was able to leave his palace to serve the people of God.

None of us knows what the next decade holds for Christians in Canada. As we enter 2020, can we say in full earnestness that we



would choose (and even treasure) experiences that include “the reproach of Christ” over experiences that promise instant pleasure? Is our faith in “Him who is invisible” the kind of faith that endures challenging service and hardship?

When we treasure what God has in store for us, we see great wealth in sacrifice – and even in suffering.

7. As you look to His promises for all that is to come, what are you willing to leave behind in order to sacrificially serve in the work of the gospel?
  
8. Throughout this week, consider how high of a cost you’d be willing pay in the decade to come. If you’re not sure, pray for a lens that sees Him who is invisible.





# Test 5

WHERE IS MY  
TREASURE INVESTED?

## READ

*Matthew 6:19-21*



## LEARN

1. Circle below what we can “lay up” that will most likely end up destroyed or stolen. Now, underline what we can “lay up” that is guaranteed to last.

### Treasures on Earth

### Treasures in Heaven

2. According to verse 21, why is it important **where** we choose to put our treasure? As you think about your heart **following** your treasure, does anything about this equation surprise you?
3. Skip down to verse 24 of the same passage. According to Jesus, is it possible to successfully divide our hearts between the two kinds of treasure “options” in question 1?



## TEST

4. Looking back over the last few years, make a list of the kinds of possessions that have accumulated most in your life.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. If your current spending habits continued unchecked in the new decade, where will your treasure (and therefore your heart) inevitably be located?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. When you consider redirecting money from earth-based investments toward heaven, list some fears that crop up in your mind.



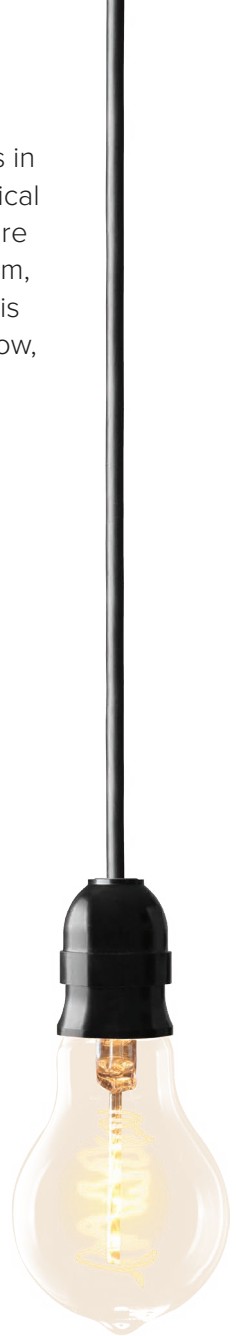
## APPLY

Now jump down a little further in Matthew 6 and read verses 25-34. Jesus seems to anticipate that our first objection to shifting the location of our treasure will be our worry over earthly security. For most of us, fear of losing our comfort will be at the root of our investment dilemma.

For others of us though, the idea of collecting treasures in heaven seems just a bit too abstract. It seems most logical for us to invest in what we can see and touch in the here and now. If we don't have a clear picture of the long term, we'd sooner just ignore it all together. We'll explore this particular challenge together more in week 6, but for now, we can be sure of this:

Our treasure has no future when we let fear and short-sightedness drive our investment decisions.

7. Imagine shifting your treasure significantly toward gospel work over a full decade. How would it feel to one day meet the many people in heaven whose eternities were impacted because of your decision?
  
8. Motivated by this kind of unimaginable joy, write down some practical ways you could invest significantly heavenly treasure as you give to the things that matter most to God.





# Test 6

HOW SURE AM I OF  
TREASURE TO COME?

## READ

*Hebrews 11:8-16*



## LEARN

1. How much clarity do you think Abraham had about where he was going as he set out on his journey? Write down every clue you see in verse 8.
2. Make a list of anything you can find in verses 8-16 that tells you about Abraham and Sarah's mindset.
3. Jump ahead and read Hebrews 13:14. In what way is our journey similar to Abraham's?



## TEST

4. Now go back to Hebrews 11:1 and write down the definition you see for what “faith” means. How **sure** would you say you are of “things not seen”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Quickly scan Hebrews 11 and note how often the words “by faith” are used. Could the words “by faith” be accurately used to describe your track record when making big life decisions?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. When you think about where your true “home” is, what comes to mind: your temporary current address or your permanent address in that unseen “city that is to come”?



## APPLY

Abraham believed that the coming homeland was worth far more than his current one. Even though he set out not knowing where he was going, by faith he believed the promises God had made to him. His faith proved itself in the form of unwavering obedience.

Like Abraham, we can hold lightly to our temporary homes, living lives focused on God’s glory and what is to come. Every time we

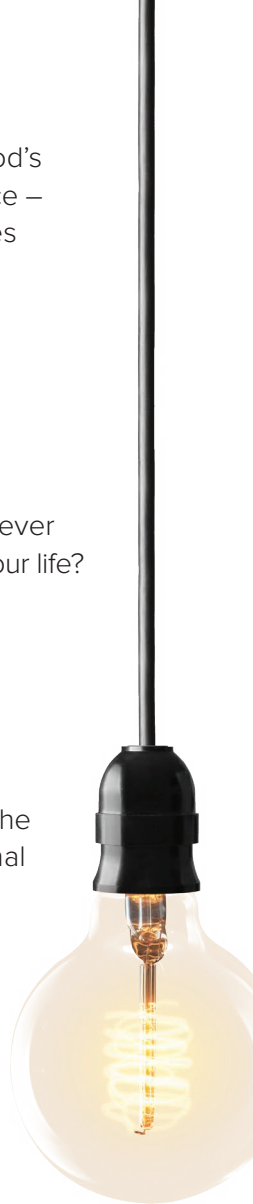


choose to invest our time, our money, and our gifts in God's kingdom rather than our own, we take a step of obedience – believing God's promises for what is ahead. It all comes down to faith.

When we have faith in what is unseen and eternal, we prioritize it over what is seen and temporary.

7. If you were to keep living like this world was your forever home, what might you regret most at the very end of your life?
  
8. With all that you've learned and considered in taking The Treasure Test, spend some time writing out a personal "By faith..." statement:

*Called to a greater eternal investment in 2020,  
by faith, I choose to take the following steps:*





What will I  
TREASURE  
in 2020?

Before we can ever start investing in heaven, there is a debt that needs to be paid. Where once our sin removed the possibility of heaven, God sent Jesus to pay our debt by dying a horrific death on a cross - in our place.

When we realize what Jesus did on that cross, and we personally receive His gift, it changes everything. And if we make that decision to hand over our lives to the only One who can save us - we spend the rest of our time on this side of heaven figuring out what that “handing over” looks like in practice.

Instead of making choices that serve our personal agendas, we make choices that will bring God glory. We learn to treasure people over possessions. We learn to treasure holiness over happiness. We learn to treasure God’s kingdom over our own kingdom. We learn God’s path to joy over the world’s path to joy.

Will we treasure this learning process?

Guided by the Holy Spirit, this process takes time. We must put off our old ways and put on new ways - actively shifting our minds, hearts, hands and resources toward heaven.



Where will I  
INVEST IN  
2020?

At the Met, we're here to glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ, together **engaging** people with the gospel, **establishing** believers in the gospel and **equipping** servants of the gospel, in our nation's capital and the nations of the world.

Making disciples of Jesus Christ means treasuring people. We treasure their souls and we treasure the reward of seeing them grow and, in turn, making disciples of their own. We long for the city that is to come where we will understand the far-reaching impact of investing in disciple-making over any other investment option we have before us.

In January 2020 we will start a sermon series that explores what it means to **Treasure Christ Together**. As we prepare our hearts for what we will learn, let's reconsider what it would look like to fully invest in God's church.



Heavenly Father, may each of us in our Met church family fully experience the joy of treasuring people enough to invest all that we are, in making disciples of your Son. Through the gospel, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we together lay up more treasure for your glory than we could ask or imagine – treasure that will last forever.



*And the things of earth will  
grow strangely dim in the light  
of His glory and grace...*

