

PARABLES PART 2

Lesson 3: The Rich Fool

This includes:

1. Leader Preparation
2. Lesson Guide

1. LEADER PREPARATION

LESSON OVERVIEW

Generosity is not something that comes naturally to many people. But when we experience another person's generosity toward us, we have the opportunity to learn how to become more generous ourselves. God has set the standard for generosity through his incredible love for us, and he calls us to be generous toward others, too. In this lesson your students will see what God's plan is for the things he has blessed us with.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. WHAT: Sharing the blessings God has given us is essential for those who have been transformed by God.
2. WHY: As teenagers experience generosity, they have the opportunity to learn to be generous with all that God has given to them.
3. HOW: Your students will be challenged to examine the value they place on their material possessions and to consider how they can develop a more God-centered perspective of being generous.

PRIMARY SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:13-21

SECONDARY SCRIPTURES

Proverbs 28:27; Matthew 6:24; 1 John 3:11-17

TEACHING PREP

The short overview below is designed to help you prepare for your lesson. While you may not want to convey this information word-for-word with your teenagers, you'll definitely want to refer to it as you lead.

Read Luke 12:13-21.



As you read through Luke 12:13-21, it sounds a lot like the world that most of us live in. We desire to save as much money as we can so that when we are no longer able to work, we can live comfortably. It is easy to see that the man is self-centered; just count the number of times he says “I” or “my.” His deep concern for himself reveals that this is not a normal amount of self-concern, but a ridiculous amount of self-centeredness.

Jesus sandwiches this parable between two warnings in Luke 12 about worrying. When we rely on God to provide for us, there is no room for worry, nor is there a need. Luxuries are no longer the desires of our heart, and we know that God meets our needs. It may not always be in the way we expect or how we would have done it, but God provides.

THE BEFORE & AFTER [OPTIONAL]

Text Message Questions

We've provided a couple of different text message questions to send out to your students prior to your meeting. Feel free to use one or both of the questions below. As with the rest of the curriculum, edit these questions to fit the needs of your ministry.

- How generous of a person are you? And why is God such a big fan of generosity? See you tonight for some great conversation!
- Too much money? Is there such thing? Let's unpack this tonight as a group!

Parent Email

We've provided you with an email below that you can send to your parents following the lesson. Our hope is to encourage parents to continue the conversation at home. Feel free to edit and customize the email to fit your ministry needs.

Dear parents,

This week we finished our series on several important parables that Jesus told during his ministry here on Earth. We closed out the series with the parable of the rich fool found in Luke 12.



During this lesson, we challenged students to see that our lives are not measured by the amount of stuff we have, but what we do with the blessings God has given us. We talked about how God desires for us to be generous with all that he has given us. We also looked at why it is dangerous to trust in possessions instead of God.

Throughout the week look for opportunities to reinforce this lesson by asking these kinds of questions:

- When have you benefited from another person's generosity? What did you learn from that experience?
- What are some ways God has blessed our family?
- How do you think our family could be more generous?

Have an awesome week!



PARABLES PART 2

Lesson 3: The Rich Fool

2. LESSON GUIDE

GETTING THINGS STARTED [OPTIONAL]

Preview the following video for Lecrae’s song “Don’t Waste Your Life” for your group: youtube.com/watch?v=7RWEllqh5JO. You will need an Internet connection and a computer or tablet to display the video for your participants. Or simply play “Don’t Waste Your Life” from Lecrae’s album *Rebel*. Consider giving students paper and pens or pencils for taking notes or writing their reactions to the words of the song.

Welcome your students and invite them into your meeting area. Open in prayer, distribute paper and pens or pencils (if you brought those supplies), and then show the video clip or play the song. Then ASK:

- *What words or ideas from this song stick out to you the most? Why?*
- *How is it possible for you to waste your life?*
- *Do you think people choose to waste their life, or does it just happen because they don’t intentionally live for a purpose? Explain your response.*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Too often we get caught up in the clothes we wear, the car we drive, or some other possession. We forget that all of those things are blessings from God, but that they don’t indicate our value or worth. God has blessed each of us in various ways, but he wants us to be generous with all these blessings—and to realize that they are not the most important things in life.*

TEACHING POINTS

The goal of the Teaching Points is to help students capture the essence of each lesson with more discussion and less lecture-style teaching. The main points we have chosen are (1) Life is about more than what you own, (2) Being blessed does not give you the right to be a spectator, and (3) Earthly wealth without a rich relationship with God is foolish.

Remember: All throughout these lessons, it’s up to you to choose (1) how many questions you use, and (2) the wording of the main points—keep ours, or change the wording to make it clearer for your audience.



LEADER
TIP



LEADER
TIP





Read Luke 12:13-21 together as a group. Consider dividing verses among your students so everyone has a chance to read.

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Let's spend a few minutes exploring this passage for some truth about possessions and our relationship with God.*

1. Life is about more than what you own

ASK:

- *Why is greed a negative characteristic? What are some of the consequences of unstoppable greed?*
- *In what ways have you measured another person's life or worth or value by how much stuff he or she owns?*
- *Is it possible to have a lot of possessions but not be greedy? Why or why not?*
- *What are some examples of how we can measure a person's life without paying attention to anything that has a price tag?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Most of us want nice stuff. There's nothing wrong with having nice things, but it is the value we put on the items that matters. When we desire things more than our relationship with God, we are in dangerous territory. We run the risk of using our energy in the wrong ways and placing the wrong things at the center of our lives.*

2. Being blessed does not give you the right to be a spectator

ASK:

- *What are some specific ways God has blessed you?*
- *You may not have a lot of resources or possessions, but what are some specific ways you can help people in need?*
- *What are some excuses you have used for not being generous?*
- *When have you benefited from another person's generosity? What did you learn from that experience?*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *Most of us have been blessed with abundance, and we don't have to worry about where we will sleep at night, where we will get our next meal, or how other basic needs will be met.*



A dangerous side effect is that we often forget that not everyone is as blessed as we are. But being generous with what God has given us is the cure for the disease of selfishness. Generosity becomes easier and easier as we continually practice it. As we become generous, we can walk away from the foolish beliefs we once held about the ways God has blessed us.

3. Earthly wealth without a rich relationship with God is foolish

ASK:

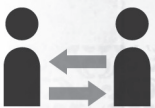
- *Look at verse 21. What is a “rich relationship with God”? What evidence will you see in your life if you have that kind of relationship with God?*
- *What are some examples of how you might desire objects or money more than God?*
- *Why is it foolish and dangerous to put your trust in stuff instead of God? Let’s see how many reasons we can come up with as a group.*

SAY SOMETHING LIKE: *When we begin to see the stuff that God has blessed us with as gifts we can share with others, we are able to fully understand his blessings. And at the end of the day, the greatest form of riches is a deep relationship with God, a relationship that defines us and is the foundation of everything we seek and do in life.*

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION [OPTIONAL]

ASK:

- Read Proverbs 28:27. How does this verse speak to you? How can it affect your perspective on giving to others?
- Read Matthew 6:24. Why must you choose? Why can’t you serve both God and money?
- Read 1 John 3:11-17. What would it be like to live the life revealed in these verses?
- What kinds of sacrifices might you make if this passage described your life?



PAIR SHARE



APPLICATION

Ask students to form groups of two or three for these questions.

ASK:

- *What are some specific ways you can guard yourself against greed?*
- *We often think that having fun or being entertained requires pricey electronics or expensive tickets, but that idea is a lie. What are some activities that you can do with several people that are completely free?*
- *Where in your life have you been greedy with things that God would want you to use and share and give generously?*

Bring everyone back together, and ask for volunteers to share answers to the previous questions, as time permits.

SUMMARY

End your lesson here. Provide your teenagers with a quick summary or take-home challenge based on (1) the content of this lesson, (2) the dialogue that took place during the lesson, (3) your understanding of the issues and struggles your teenagers are facing, and (4) the big picture of your youth ministry and what your leadership team wants accomplished with the teaching and discussion time.



LEADER
TIP

FOR KEEPS [MEMORY VERSE]

Encourage and/or challenge your teenagers to memorize the verse below.



LEADER
TIP

“Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God” (Luke 12:21).

