

## JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT POSSESSIONS | Luke 12

**Memory Verse:** <sup>25</sup>“All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

**JOHN 14:25-26**

**Big Picture Question:** What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?

**Bottom Line:** I always trust God to take care of me.

**Christ Connection:** *Jesus is our greatest treasure. Jesus left His place in heaven to live humbly on earth. Jesus obeyed God to set up His kingdom. We can give generously and trust God to provide everything we need.*

### 10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Throw Throw Burrito

**What You Need:** Game box, foam balls or bean bags (2 per group)

**What You Do:**

- Follow directions in the game box.

**What You Say** ” That was so much fun. You guys are really good at playing games together. In our stories coming up we are going to talk about things Jesus did well. He was a good teacher, shepherd, and miracle worker. Let's get our stuff cleaned up and get ready to watch our video today.”

### 10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

### 15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

#### SERIES THEME

In this series, we are looking at the teachings of Jesus and the difference that they make in our lives.

#### TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

I always trust God to take care of me.

#### CONTEXT

A very large crowd- thousands of people (luke 12:1)- had gathered around Jesus as He taught His disciples. The people recognized Him as rabbi (teacher), so it was not unusual that someone called out, asking Jesus to settle a financial dispute. But Jesus knew that the man was motivated by greed, and He told a story.

In Jesus' parable, a rich man had so many drops that he decided to tear down his bars and build bigger ones. That way, he could store everything he had and take it easy. But the man was foolish and short-sighted. He didn't consider he could die that very night. The saying is true: “you can't take it with you.” Rather than storing treasures for ourselves, we should live to glorify God and live generously, using what we have on earth to make an eternal impact.

Jesus also addressed worry with His disciples. Jesus' followers should not be anxious about their basic needs. God takes care of the birds and the flowers. People are God's most valuable and beloved creatures; we can trust Him to provide for us!

Jesus contrasted the way the unsaved Gentiles lived with how believers should live. Unbelievers seek wealth and possessions as if that was the main goal in life. They act like God does not care about their needs. But our focus should not be on ourselves, our wealth and our possessions; we should focus on God's kingdom. We do

not need to worry. God will provide. He is glad to give us what we need!

God gives us good gifts on earth. We can steward these gifts for His glory. Earthly treasures will not last forever. When Jesus is our greatest treasure, we can live generously and trust God to provide what we need.

## TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- God can use everything that we have.
- God gives us good gifts on earth so that we can help other people.
- When we give to God, we trust that He can take care of us.
- When we give to help others, we show that God can use us.
- **Bottom Line:** I always trust God to take care of me.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

*Jesus is our greatest treasure. Jesus left His place in heaven to live humbly on earth. Jesus obeyed God to set up His kingdom. We can give generously and trust God to provide everything we need.*

## PRAYER AND TIME OF COMMITMENT

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

### 25 Minutes **SMALL GROUPS**: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

#### Discussion Questions:

- **What happened to the rich man who stored up his possessions?** (*He didn't get to use them because he died, Luke 12:20*)
- **What did Jesus say about the birds?** (*They don't plant or harvest food, but God feeds them; Luke 12:24*)
- **What treasure did Jesus tell people to seek?** (*the kingdom of God; heavenly treasure; Luke 12:31-33*)
- **What does "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" mean?** *Guide kids to see that when we value something a lot, we think about it. Whatever we treasure most, we will spend our time and energy trying to get or protect. Help them see that greed distracts us from loving God and obeying His commands to be generous.*
- **What do you think treasure in heaven will be like?** *Talk to the kids about what they think. Encourage them to be honest. Gently guide them away from the traditional ideas of gold, silver, or jewels. Help them see that heavenly treasure has more to do with enjoying God's perfection and living in a perfect, restored world.*
- **How can we avoid greed and selfishness?** *Help kids understand that to overcome greed we must understand Jesus' generosity displayed on the cross. As we better understand the extravagant generosity of Christ, our love for Him will move us to show generosity as Jesus did.*

#### Activity: Beans relay

**What You Need** dry beans (at least 4 bags of beans-1 bag per team), bowls (1 per team- 4 teams), measuring cups( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup or smaller- 1 per team- 4 teams), paper lunch bags (1 per team- 4 teams)

#### What You Do:

- Form 4 teams of kids. If you have a small group (less than 12 kids)- break into 2 teams.

- For each team, fill a bowl with dry beans.
- Instruct players on each team to stand in a line.
- Give the first player the bowl of beans and a measuring cup.
- Set up a paper lunch bag across the room.
- Explain that when you say go, the first player will scoop a cup of beans, run to the bag and dump in the beans, and run back to her team.
- Then the next player will do the same.
- The first team to transfer all its beans or fill the bag wins.

**What You Say** “Every year, the United States produces 2 million acres of dry beans. That is a lot of beans. Remember our story today. The farmer had too much grain. What would you do if you had too many beans? Let’s look at our discussion questions now to consider ways we might look at how to use our possessions to honor God and bring Him glory.

**Activity: Memory Verse Activity**

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster, minute to win it games (choose one)

**What You Do:**

- Set up the minute to win it game of your choice today.
- Use the masking tape to mark a tossing line.
- Ask kids to line up behind the taped line.
- As kids come up to the line, they have 1 minute to say the memory verse, if they get it mostly correct they can take a turn trying the minute to win it game.
- The next person in line gets a turn next.
- If you want to keep score ask kids to keep track of how many balls made it in the cups or were shot.

**What You Say** ” Jesus spoke our memory verse to His disciples before He went to the cross. Jesus wanted them to know what to expect. Jesus knew that they would have trouble remembering all the wonderful things He taught about God and God’s kingdom. That’s why Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help us. He lives within us when we believe in Jesus for life, and He helps us understand and remember God’s truth.”

**Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Say:**

“God, thank You for caring about us. We know that we do not deserve Your love. Thank You for loving us anyway. Help us trust You and live generously with all the blessings You have given us. Amen.

**5 Minutes HOME:** PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Question: **What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all Scripture is about Him.** Encourage families to pick up the Family Study Guide online or on the slat wall.