

PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



AUGUST 30, 2026

JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT POSSESSIONS

LUKE 12

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus taught people to seek God's kingdom because knowing God is the greatest treasure. When people trust in Jesus, they are welcomed into God's kingdom and can trust that God will provide for all their needs.

LEADER DEVO

In our modern consumer-driven culture, Luke 12's parable of the rich fool provides a relevant warning against the danger of greed, as well as a timely cure for the anxiety that ails us when we seek first our own kingdom rather than God's.

In this chapter, we read about Jesus being interrupted from His teaching to break up a civil squabble between two brothers fighting over their inheritance. Jesus asked why they would want Him to serve as the judge between them and issued a serious warning, not just to the greedy brother, but to everyone in the crowd: "Be on guard against all greed, because one's life is not in the abundance of his possessions." The man who called out for Jesus' help was probably not expecting a rebuke from Jesus in the form of a parable.

Jesus went on to teach them what it looks like to put God's kingdom above their own, to seek His will for their lives rather than accumulating more money and possessions that won't stand the test of time. He taught them what it means to treasure God above the things of this world and to receive the gift of everlasting life that will not perish.

Trusting in God's power above your own ability to provide for yourself doesn't come naturally to us. Though the kids hearing this story may not be as familiar with this reality as you are, reflect on what it means to trust in and treasure God above all else, to believe that we are worth more to our Creator than the beautiful sights we witness in nature. It takes faith to read these words of Scripture and to believe them with confidence and hope. Pray for a childlike faith to reign in your heart as you share this story with boys and girls this week.

Lead the kids in your class to see how worthy God is of our trust, obedience, and worship. Pray that God would soften their hearts and provide them with the peace that comes from knowing their lives are secure—both now and forever, when they trust in His Son's words of life.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until large group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:12-13



**BIBLE
BUCKS**

NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

AUG 30

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: VERSE ABBREVIATIONS

On an index card, write out the first letter of each word in the verse you want to memorize. For example, Jeremiah 29:12-13 will look like:

T Y W C U M A C A P T M A I W H Y Y W S M A F M W Y S M W A Y H

LESSON

As Jesus was teaching a crowd of people, someone said to Him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide his inheritance money with me.”

Jesus replied, “Friend, who made Me a judge over you?” Then He said to the crowd, “Be on guard against greed! Owning many possessions will not make you happy or content.”

Then Jesus told them a parable: “There was a rich man who had a great farm that produced a lot of crops. The rich man thought to himself, ‘What will I do with all these crops? I don’t have enough room to store them. I know—I’ll tear down my barns and build even bigger ones. Then I’ll store so much away that I can rest for many years and just enjoy life.’

“But God came to the rich man and said, ‘You fool! This is the night that your life will end. And all those things you saved and worked so hard for, who will get to enjoy them?’

Jesus said, “This is how it will be if you store up treasure for yourself and are not rich toward God.”

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Don’t worry about your life. Don’t worry about what you will eat or what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. The ravens don’t store up food, but God feeds them. Aren’t you worth more than birds? Can you add one moment to your life by worrying? And if you can’t do that, why worry about everything else?”

Jesus also told the people to think about the wildflowers and how they don’t work to make their beautiful colors and petals. He reminded them how God cares for His creation, especially people who are much more important than flowers.

Then Jesus said: “Seek first the kingdom of God, and the things you need will be added to you. Don’t be afraid. Your Father delights to give you the kingdom. Sell the things you own and give to the poor. Store up your treasure in heaven instead, where no one can steal it and nothing can destroy it. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus taught people to seek God’s kingdom because knowing God is the greatest treasure. When people trust in Jesus, they are welcomed into God’s kingdom and can trust that God will provide for all their needs.

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

1) Read Luke 12:13-21 as a group. What truth is Jesus teaching through this parable (story)? Remember, parables are earthly stories that teach a heavenly meaning. What is the heavenly meaning for this parable?

2) Why does Jesus say that we do not need to be anxious about our lives?

3) Do you have any examples from your life where you've seen God provide for your needs? Have you seen or heard of Him providing the needs for others?

4) Read Luke 12:34. What does it mean that "where your treasure is, there will your heart be also"?

Talk about how the things we truly care about will show in our actions. What we do and prioritize shows our true desire.

If time allows, consider talking about how things of this world that are not inherently bad can become bad for us when we prioritize them over God. Give examples like money, work, friends, etc.

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, large group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!