

Small Group Experience

LESSON 5 - "The Rich Fool"



Whatchagaddaknow?:

"I'll Love God More Than My Stuff!"



Power Verse:

"...You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money."

-Luke 16:13

Retelling The Bible Story

SUPPLY LIST:

* Bible

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, familiarize yourself with the story so that you can facilitate and guide the discussion. When small group begins, choose three volunteers who don't mind reading aloud. Open the Bible, and turn to Luke 12. Hand the open Bible to one volunteer, and ask them to read Luke 12:13-15 aloud and then pass the Bible to the next volunteer. They will read the next three verses and then hand the Bible to the third volunteer, who will read the last three verses of the story.

Say - It is so great to see you all today! My Bible is opened to Luke 12, which is where our story is found. I need three volunteers who are willing to read aloud.

-Choose volunteers-

Say - I would like my first volunteer to read Luke 12:13-15. Once you've read these three verses, please pass the Bible to the next volunteer, who will read the next three verses. Finally, our third volunteer will read the last three verses and complete our story. Here we go!

-Allow the volunteer to read three verses aloud and then pass the Bible to the next kid; continue this way until the story is complete-

Say - Thank you to all of our awesome volunteers for reading the story!

Ask - Why do you think Jesus told this parable?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - How does this story apply to you and me?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Game/Activity

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Watchagaddaknow Print Pieces (one set)
- * Scissors (for the teams to share)
- * Bean Bags (several)
- * Paper or dry erase board (to keep track of the team’s progress)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the Watchagaddaknow Print Pieces. Once activity time begins, divide the group into teams. Choose a spot several feet away to be the “tossing spot,” scramble the Watchagaddaknow pieces, and lay the pieces on the ground. Teams will take turns tossing a bean bag at the Watchagaddaknow pieces. The goal is to land the bean bag on the words of the Watchagaddaknow in the correct order. For instance, the first player should try to land their bean bag on the piece that says, “I’ll.” If the bean bag lands on the correct word, write it down for their team, collect the bean bag, and allow the next team to have a turn. If the bean bag does not land on the correct word, simply collect the bean bag and allow the next team to go. Continue on this way until a team has landed on all of the Watchagaddaknow pieces in the correct order. This will be a fun lesson concept reinforcing activity and can be played multiple rounds as time allows.

Say - Today’s Watchagaddaknow is a great reminder for everyone, so let’s spend some time reviewing it together. I need a few volunteers to cut out the words on these pages.

-Allow time for the volunteers to cut out the Watchagaddaknow pieces-

Say - I am dividing you all into teams and placing the words to the Watchagaddaknow on the ground. However, you might notice that they are not in the correct order. That’s part of the game! Your team goal is to put the Watchagaddaknow in the correct order, which sounds pretty simple, but there is a twist. You will not be using your hands; you will be using a bean bag. One at a time, team members will take turns tossing a bean bag at the words. Your goal is to land your bean bag on the Watchagaddaknow words in the correct order. If your bean bag lands on the correct word, I will write that word down for your team, and then you will collect the bean bag and pass it to the next team. If your bean bag does not land on the correct word, collect the bean bag and hand it to the next team. The first team to land the bean bag on all the Watchagaddaknow words in the correct order wins!

-Play the game; this can be played multiple rounds as time allows-

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * I’ll Love God More Than My Stuff Print Piece (one per kid)
- * Pencils, crayons, or markers

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the I’ll Love God More Than My Stuff Print Pieces. Note that there is a boy version and a girl version included. Group sharing is focused on encouraging the kids to open up and discuss the lesson concepts and relate those concepts to their lives. Help facilitate and guide the discussion time.

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Say - The parable we looked at today isn't the most comforting lesson in the Bible. It's a serious reminder to us that we must love God more than we love anything else. This might sound easy, but it can be tricky. I don't think we wake up one morning and decide, "You know what? I am going to be greedy, love my stuff most, and ruin everything God had planned for me, including eternity." No one does that! Love for stuff is something that takes root in our hearts and grows slowly over time. It is easy to lose sight of God's plan and get caught up in all of life's stuff. You see something you want, so you work to get it, and you don't consider the cost. You lose sight of God's plan and shift your focus to your plans for MORE. We are all in danger of becoming the rich fool. So how do we avoid loving stuff more than God? I'd like us to discuss that together.

Ask - What are some examples of "stuff" that gets our attention and love?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - Why do we sometimes choose "stuff" over God?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - God doesn't force us to love Him - you get to choose what to do with your love. This world fights hard for our love. Our enemy, the devil, wants us to choose the things of this world over the things of God. He wants us to throw our love away.

Ask - What are some ways we can guard against making the wrong choices with our love?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Ask - What are some ways that we can show God, and the world, that we love Him most?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

Say - I am giving each of you a page for you to design and color. Be creative and have fun! This will be something that you can take home and place in a spot where you will see it often. Hopefully, it will serve as a reminder that we must love God more than we love our stuff.

-Allow time for the kids to complete the task-

Prayer Time

Say - There cannot be anything that we love more than God. That takes work on our part and help from God! We have to check ourselves daily and make sure that we are keeping God number one. Let's pray together and ask that God would help us keep Him number one in our lives.

Pray

Closing

Say - The rich man set his sights on getting more and more stuff. His plan worked for a while. He had a lot of stuff, but in the end, it all meant nothing. He chose to love his stuff more than he loved God, and he ended up losing his soul for eternity. This teaches us a super important lesson, one that we should all pay really close attention to - we cannot let anything in our lives become more important than God. This world is not our home. The things of this world cannot compare to the things of God! Take time this week to check your love. What do you love most? Are you willing to give it up for God? Is God your greatest love, or do you need to do some love adjusting? Ask God to examine your life and heart and show you areas that need to be changed. Thanks for being here, I will see you next time!

LOVE IT

MORE GOOD

THAN

AN

STARS

