Explore it

The rich fool



Bible verses:

Luke 12:13-21

Jesus warns against selfishness



Aim:

To better understand the reason for Jesus' parables, and think about our priorities



Today's fruit:

Self-control



In our parable today we meet a man who is rich beyond his wildest dreams.

Instead of sharing his wealth, he builds bigger barns to keep it safe and make sure nobody else gets their hands on it. Through this parable, Jesus teaches us the importance of placing God at the centre of our lives rather than focusing on our possessions.

We show the fruit of self-control when we choose to put God above everything else.

Each child will need:

- Seven wooden sticks, pens and a ziplock bag
- Pens/pencils and paper
- Explore It ideas handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: Self-control
- A flipchart and pens (optional)



Ask the children to imagine that they have just been given one million pounds. Give them time to draw or write down what they would do with the money.

As they share their ideas, guide the discussion to point out where they have spent the money on things for themselves and where they have shared it with others. Discuss with the children



whether they think rich people should share their money with others. What examples do they know of rich people helping those in need? If they were rich, would they share their money? If so, why?



Say:

In today's parable, a rich fool places his trust in the things he owns. Our memory verse reminds us where we need to place our trust. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

'Depend on the Lord.

Trust him, and he will take care of you.'
(Psalm 37:5 *ICB*)

Song

'You, You, You' (Sky VBS group publishing) by Lifetree Kids (2:21)



Say:

Today we discover another of Jesus' amazing parables. Jesus spent time with many different people, teaching them how to put God at the centre of their lives. This parable reminds us to put God first and stop spending time on things that won't last forever. Let's watch the clip to hear Jesus' story.

Video

The Parable of the Wealthy Man by Saddleback Kids (2:17)

Say:

The two brothers were arguing over money. Jesus said the following to them: 'Be careful and guard against all kinds of greed. A man's life is not measured by the many things he owns.' (Luke 12:15 ICB)

Ask:

- What do you think Jesus meant when he said this?
- What kind of things do people want to own today to show how wealthy they are?
- What is Jesus trying to teach us about focusing on him rather than on the things we own?



Say:

To help the people understand what he was trying to say, Jesus told them a parable.

Read:

'Then Jesus used this story: "There was a rich man who had some land, which grew a good crop of food. The rich man thought to himself, 'What will I do? I have no place to keep all my crops.' Then he said, 'I know what I will do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones! I will put all my grain and other goods together in my new barns. Then I can say to myself, I have enough good things stored to last for many years. Rest, eat, drink, and enjoy life!'"'

(Luke 12:16-19 ICB)

Ask:

- The man had so many crops he couldn't fit them into his barn. What did he decide to do?
- What do you think of his choice to build bigger barns? What could he have done instead?
- What might have happened if he had shared the food with others?

Say:

Unfortunately, the man decided to keep all his crops to himself. God was not impressed with his choice.

Read:

'But God said to that man, "Foolish man! Tonight you will die. So who will get those things you have prepared for yourself?"

'This is how it will be for anyone who stores things up only for himself and is not rich toward God.'

(Luke 12:20-21 ICB)

Ask:

 How do you think the man felt when he realised that he would not benefit from all the things he had stored away for himself?

Say:

The man in the story was not a real person. Jesus used the story to teach people what is important in life. The point Jesus is making is that our relationship with God should be prioritised over everything else. The way that we care for and share with others demonstrates that God is the centre of everything that we do.

Ask:

- How does it make us feel when we care and share?
- How do you think God feels when he sees us looking out for others?



Say:

Sometimes it can be difficult to put our selfish needs aside and focus on others.

Display the Self-control sign.

Ask:

What does it mean when we show self-control?

Sau:

Sometimes it means not doing something that we want to do, or thinking more carefully before we act. This can feel like a difficult thing to do, but God can help us, and we can have the fruit of self-control. But rather than sharing his abundant crops with others, the rich man selfishly kept them all for himself.

Ask:

How could the rich man have shown self-control?

Say:

The rich man is described as keeping everything for himself and building new barns to store all his crops. There is no mention of him sharing with anyone. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be the body of Christ, living in a way that reflects God's love for us. Our focus should not be on what we own, but on how we can share God's love with others.



Today's Action It activity is based around the following clip.

Video

Un-selfish Sticks Craft for 'a Fool and his Money' (Sunday school lesson) by Sermon4Kids (0:56)

Discuss

Discuss as a group the many unselfish activities they could do. If you think it would help your group, then list them on a flipchart. Examples include: making breakfast, tidying my bedroom, clearing the table, dusting the living room ...

Ask the children to choose seven unselfish acts and write one on each lollipop stick. They can then place them in their zip-lock bag, take them home and complete one unselfish act each day. Encourage the group to report back in the next session how they got on.



Pray it

Our prayer time will encourage the children to ask God to help them show self-control. Ask the children to look through the unselfish sticks in their bag. Discuss which one they will find the most challenging and why.

Encourage each member of the group to say a short prayer asking God to help them complete the unselfish act during the week. An example prayer is provided below.

Dear God.

I want to show others how much I love you by (insert unselfish act). Grow the Spirit of self-control in me so that I can place you at the centre of my life. Amen.

Key dates (optional)

The Salvation Army is holding many residential camps this summer. Pray that children attending will be encouraged to spend time with God and put him first.

66 Explore it

Remember to send home the Explore It ideas for children and families.



Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)



Explore it

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

The rich fool



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Today's fruit: Self-control

> Children & Youth



Act

In this week's session, you created a bag full of unselfish acts to choose from. Every day, pick out a stick and complete the unselfish act. Remember to tell your group's leader how it went at your next session.



Share

Watch the clip with someone at home and discuss what it means for you and your family. How does the story of the rich fool challenge you to focus on others rather than yourself?

It's easy to be greedy (Luke 12:13-21) by Our Daily Bread Ministries



Song for the week

'You, You, You' (Sky VBS group publishing) by Lifetree Kids



Memory verse

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