

# CITY LG – MAY 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>

**Bible Story:** If I Were a Rich Fool (The rich fool: Bigger barns) • *Luke 12:13-21*

**Bottom Line:** When you focus on stuff, you can miss what matters.

**Memory Verse:** “I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I am content whether I am well fed or hungry. I am content whether I have more than enough or not enough.” *Philippians 4:12b, NIV*

**Life App:** Contentment—deciding to be happy with what you’ve got.

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## CG: Theme

### Opener

**HOST:** “Hey, there! It is so good to see you. We are just having a great month talking about contentment, aren’t we?”

## CG: Contentment Slide

“Contentment is deciding to be happy with what you’ve got. But let’s be honest, that’s not always easy, is it? There’s a lot of stuff out there that gets our attention. When we see a commercial for brand new video game or fun new toys at the store, it seems like we just can’t help it: we WANT them. Well, that’s why I’m holding this balloon. I know you were wondering! I thought it was a good time in the month for us to play a little game. Here is how it works. In just a second, a Small Group Leader will tape one balloon on each of your sides. When I say go, you must try and take another person’s balloon and then stick it to yourself. If the balloon hits the ground, it is dead. Once you have lost your balloons, you are out and must sit where you are. The person who has the most balloons at the end of the game is the winner. Make sense?”

*Small Group Leaders help set up the game. Play the game. If time allows, you can play it again. After the game, interview the winner.*

*(To game winner)* “So, it must feel pretty good to win the game, huh? *(Pause for response.)* *(To audience)* Did you see how many balloons [winner’s name] finished with? Well done! Today we have a story that actually has to do with collecting as much as you can. It’s a good one.

## SETTING UP THE STORY

## CG: Contentment Slide

“And, just a reminder, being content means deciding to be happy with what you’ve got. Let’s hope today’s story can shed a little light on how to be more content!”

(Open Bible to Luke 12.) “The Bible has lots of stories, lots of characters, and lots of amazing truth in it. The part of the Bible that we’re going to read today is a part where Jesus tells a parable. A parable is a story that teaches a truth about God. This story—this parable—has an interesting character in it. Jesus tells us about this guy in the book of Luke, in chapter 12, to be exact. This guy was no ordinary fool. He was a rich guy, and he wasn’t exactly the wisest guy on the planet either.

Check this out...

252 Story Week 4 Video

## WRAPPING UP THE STORY

**STORYTELLER:** “Now, they added a few aspects to the parable to help you understand it a bit better—and we don’t know what happened to the man, Jed, who called out from the crowd in the first place. Jesus had a way of cutting right to the heart of a problem, and usually His parables were specific. If I were Jed, I would be wondering about the choices I’d made and wondering if I was too focused on getting and keeping more things for myself. Let’s take a look at the one thing to remember for today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

**“When you focus on stuff, you can miss what matters.** God wants you to focus on what matters most to Him, not your stuff. Jesus’ last words in that parable were, ‘That is how it will be for whoever stores things away for themselves but is not rich in the sight of God.’ (Luke 12:21, NIV) In other words, all of the stuff in the whole world doesn’t matter if you don’t love God. All of the stuff in the whole world doesn’t matter if you don’t love others like God wants you to. Look for what matters to God, and there you’ll find contentment. That’s the secret, looking for what matters to God, how HE wants you to live! It’s like our memory verse for this month says,

CG: Memory Verse

“I have learned the secret of being content no matter what happens. I am content whether I am well fed or hungry. I am content whether I have more than enough or not enough.” *Philippians 4:12b, NIV*

“Let’s pray.”

## Pray

**STORYTELLER:** “God, please help us so that stuff doesn’t get in the way of You. Please help us not to let things become more important to us than You are. Help us to focus on You—on what really matters. Thank You for Your Word—and for this parable—that teaches us things we can use to help us be better kids, better people, and more like You. We ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

*Dismiss kids to their Small Groups.*