

Alley SG - December 9-10, 2017

Bible Truth: The Money Pit (The Parable of the Rich Man) • Luke 12:13-21

Bottom Line: Don't miss your chance to give.

Key Question: Why is it important to give to others?

Memory Verse: "Command the rich to do what is good. Tell them to be rich in doing good things. They must give freely. They must be willing to share." *1 Timothy 6:18, NIV*

CONNECT TIME: BOW-dacious Battle! (To be played at service start)

What You Need: Gift bows; 1 for every two kids

What You Do:

- **Let students choose** a partner and stand facing each other about 3 feet apart.
- **Place** a bow on the floor in between partners at an equal distance from each of them.
- **Explain** that you will call out an action for them to follow such as grab your head, grab your ears, grab your toes, and so forth.
 - When you say, "grab the bow," the partner who gets the bow first is the winner of that round.
 - As you call out the actions, begin slowly then get faster.
 - After each round, let winners form new partners and play again until there is one final champion.
- **Repeat** as time allows.

Wrap Up and Say:

"In today's story, we'll hear about man who missed his chance to do something he should have done. It wasn't a chance to grab a bow. It was something far more important."

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Toilet paper (2 rolls per group)

What You Do:

- **Pass** the toilet paper around and let each student choose a length to pull off, within reason.
- Next, **ask** them to count the sections.
- **Tell** them that each section is worth \$100 dollars.
- **Let** them tally up how "rich" they are and then take turns sharing what they would do with their "money."
- **Ask:**
 - Define what you think it means to be wealthy.
 - Do you think it's possible for someone to be too rich? If yes, when would that be true? If no, why not?

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, foil (2 boxes per group), a couple rolls of tape (per group)

What You Do:

- **Assign** the following verses to pairs of students: *(If you have fewer than 10 students, modify the sections so that teams cover more verses.)*
 - Team 1 – Luke 12:13-15
 - Team 2 – Luke 12:16-17
 - Team 3 – Luke 12:18
 - Team 4 – Luke 12:19
 - Team 5 – Luke 12:20-21
- **Instruct** teams to review their portion of the passage by reading the verses with their partner.
- Next, **give** each group a section of aluminum foil (around 2 feet long) and a **set** the tape where everyone can access it.
- **Tell** the kids that they will have five minutes to create a scene that depicts their part of the parable.
 - They can scrunch, shape, and sculpt pieces of foil into objects and figures to create a freestanding scene, or they can create a mural by etching a picture into a length of foil.
 - If you have more foil available, let students know they can ask for more if they need it.
 - Warn kids to be careful not to squeeze the foil too hard, as they could get a “paper” cut.
- When they’re finished, **bring** everyone together and **let** students share their scenes and the specific part of the parable it portrays.
- **Look** at the parable more closely.
 - **Ask** them to count the number of times the words “I” and “my” are used in their portion of the parable. [Total number: “I” (6) and “my” (5)]
 - **Remind** the students that many of the parables or stories Jesus told had a “shock and shake” factor to them.
 - Jesus challenged people to think differently and they weren’t always comfortable with that.
 - **Ask:**
 - What are some things that may have shocked or surprised the people who heard this parable?
 - Define a “fool” based on this parable.
- **If time allows**, finish up by letting the students take turns sharing one big truth that shocked, shook, or stood out to them.

3. Discussion Questions

- In the Parable of the Rich Man, Jesus said, “Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has.” (*Luke 12:15 NIV*)
 - How do we “watch out” when it comes to money and possessions?
- If life isn’t “made up of how much a person has,” what is it made up of?
- Is it wrong to have a lot of stuff? Why or why not?
- Why is it important to give to others?
- What are some reasons why we might miss our chance to give?
- Name some dangers that come with having a lot of money, possessions, or success.
- Name some benefits that come with being generous—not just at Christmas but all the time.

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- **Tell** the students that after Jesus told the parable, He went on to teach more about money and the things we treasure.
- **Invite** someone to read aloud the verses that follow today’s Bible story: Luke 12:33-34.
- **Ask:**
 - How can you know if your treasure is in heaven or on earth?
 - How can a person your age follow this verse?

5. “God Time” Take Home Sheets

What You Need: “God Time” Sheets (one per child), pens (one per child)

NOTE: The God Time sheets are intended to be a closing time activity each week in The Alley. Children will begin working on their sheets, as well as be encouraged to bring their sheets back the following week for **\$3 in Alley Cash**. Children cannot turn in their sheets the same week. The goal is to keep the lesson on their minds and in front of them throughout the following week.