

## Sunday Teacher's Lesson for Children

# Life of Christ

## The Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-21

Younger Verse	How can a young person keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word. Psalm 119:9
Older Verse	How can a young person keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word. Psalm 119:9

Welcome Time	Have you ever really, really wanted something? Let's see what Jesus says when someone asks Him a question.
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Bible Story	<i>Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do <b>NOT</b> read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.</i>
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In the last few lessons, Jesus has been talking to a crowd of people about many things. He taught the people how to pray and shared other important lessons too. The more Jesus talked, the larger the crowd that gathered around Him.

Suddenly, a man interrupted Jesus. The man asked Jesus to tell his brother to split his money and land. Instead, Jesus looks at the man and tells him to be careful of greed. Jesus tells him that the "stuff" he has is not what is important.

Then, Jesus tells a story called a parable to help the man and the crowd understand what is important.

Once, there was a rich man who had many fields that produced good crops. Each day his barn kept getting more full. The man began to think to himself about what he could do because soon he would not have a place to store his crops.

Then, he had an idea! I know what I'll do, he said. I will tear down my barns and build BIGGER barns to store my grain and goods. Then, I can rest and enjoy the rest of my life. I won't ever have anything else to worry about.

The man did not think about God or even pray to see what God might want him to do. That was too bad, because that night he died.

Jesus told that story to show how greedy the man was. He only thought of himself. Then, in the end when he died, all the stuff that he had did not matter at

Lesson Goals	Explain what it means to be greedy Share what it means to be rich towards God by giving, not getting
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all. He could not take any of his “stuff” with him.

Jesus probably looked at the man who interrupted him and explained that a person should be rich toward God, not greedy and hoard everything for himself. He was trying to help the man see that when he asked Jesus to make his brother split some money, he was being greedy.

This is a lesson for us too. It is easy to be greedy. That means we want and want more stuff. Instead of caring about people or God, we only think of ourselves. Jesus tells us that we should love God and care for others. We should give and help others instead of collecting stuff for ourselves.

Jesus showed us the best example of what it means to give to help others. Jesus gave His own life to help us get to Heaven. Jesus died on a cross to pay the price for all the wrong things WE have done. He took our punishment and died for us! Then, 3 days later, Jesus came back to life! If we believe in Jesus and ask Him to forgive us for all the wrong things we have done, Jesus will forgive us and make us clean on the inside. Jesus promises to stay with us always and take us to Heaven one day. If you want to know how you can have Jesus in your life, talk to us about it anytime.

**Learning Activities**

Help the kids see the importance of giving and not getting.

**Memory Verse  
Activities**

We saw in today’s lesson how greed can cause lots of problems. Our memory verse today helps us see that we can stay pure by living God’s way instead of our way.

**Prayer Time**

Ask God to help us be willing to give instead of always trying to get more stuff.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Share snacks together and watch for moments to teach about giving, instead of “getting.”

Planning for August 15th  
Don’t Worry  
Luke 12:22-34

Preschool Lesson  
For  
The Rich Fool

Jesus told a story to help the people know how important it is to share and not keep everything to ourselves.

Once, there was a rich man who had lots of land. He grew many kinds of crops. When it was time, lots of grain and vegetables were harvested. He was very proud. He wanted to keep the crops for himself. He began to store the crops in barns.

Suddenly, he realized that soon there would not be enough room for all the crops. The man thought and thought of a plan. Then, he had an idea! He decided to tear down his barns and build BIGGER barns to hold all the grain and vegetables.

God told the man that he had made a big mistake. That night the man died leaving all his “stuff” to someone else.

Jesus helped his friends see that they should always share and give to others instead of keeping things to themselves.

Sing this song to the tune of “BINGO.”

There was a man who had a barn  
But kept stuff for himself.  
GREED, GREED, GREED, that is what he did.

Jesus said that we should give  
And love each other.  
SHARE, SHARE, SHARE, we should share with others.

## Hands-on Activities For The Rich Fool

Greed is a hard concept to understand. It may be easier to share several examples to help them see what it means to be greedy. Here are two stories:

Once upon a time, there was a dog who found a big, meaty bone. He was so excited to get back to his doghouse to chew on the bone. As he was carrying in back, he saw a puddle of water. As he gazed into the puddle, he saw his reflection AND a big, meaty bone. It looked so delicious and much bigger than the bone he had in his mouth. The poor dog did not realize it was just a reflection of the bone he had. The more he looked at the bone, the more he wanted it. Suddenly, he dropped the bone he had to get the one he saw. To his surprise, the bone fell into the water and it was gone forever. The dog was greedy and lost everything because he wanted more.

Long ago, trappers had an easy way to catch a monkey. They would attach a chain to a jar. Then, they would fill the jar with delicious fruit that monkeys like to eat. A monkey would come and reach their hand into the jar. They would grab the fruit. However, when they grabbed the fruit, their fist would be too big to get it out of the jar! Believe it or not, the monkey would NOT drop the fruit. It would stay there and struggle. The monkey's greed for fruit would allow him to be captured by the trappers.

Make a treasure map for the kids to find "treasure." Where "X" marks the spot, put a Bible verse about giving or sharing.

Many people are weighed down with greed. They want more and more. Bring little weights and show how they add up to lots of struggle. When the weights (of sin) are removed, we are free and able to help others.