

Alley SG - October 13-14, 2018

Bible Story: Just Can't Get Enough (Don't Be Controlled by Money) • *Hebrews 13:5*

Bottom Line: Stuff can't keep you happy.

Key Question: Why do you still want stuff if it can't keep you happy?

Memory Verse: "Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'" *Luke 12:15 (NIV)*

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Play** a game of "Would You Rather – More or Less" by asking students to choose whether they would rather have more or less of the two items from the list below.
 - For example, "Would you rather have more candy and less gum, or would you rather have less candy and more gum?"
 - After you've gone through the list below, let students suggest other items people want more or less of.
 - Books and bacon
 - Pillows and pizza
 - Snow and swimming pools
 - Friends and money
 - Coffee and orange juice
 - Vacations and video games
 - Broccoli and carrots
 - Time and talents
 - Dogs and cats
 - Cool clothes and cool electronic stuff
- **Discuss** their answers.
 - What's something you've "obsessed" over until you finally got it? Do you still have it? Explain.
 - What did you buy or receive as a gift within the last year that you no longer have or care about?
 - Are there any good reasons for wanting more and more?

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bibles, "Verses About Money" Activity Page (1 per student)

What You Do:

- **Guide** students in finding Bible verses on the topic of money or riches by providing one or more of the following resources:
 - Using the "Verses About Money" Activity Page, allow students time to look up the verses.
- **Allow** students to work individually or in groups of two or three.
- After they have looked up and read three to five verses, **ask them to choose** one that is most meaningful to them.
- **Gather** everyone together and let students share their favorite verses and why they chose them.
- **Ask:**
 - If we "know" (at least in our head) that stuff can't make us happy, why do we still want it and why are those feelings so strong sometimes?
 - What should you do in that moment when all you can think about is how much you want something? What would contentment look like in that moment?
 - Is it wrong to want cool stuff? If not, why? If so, when is it wrong?
 - In what way does contentment or discontentment reflect your view of God?

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- What are some things that keep us from being content?
- Does someone else make us feel discontent or is it our own doing?
- How can we use what we know about God to help us learn to be content?
- Do you think it's easier to be content if your family is rich or poor? Why?
- Since nothing you spend money on lasts forever, what are better things to focus on having?
- How can you keep from being *that kid* who has to have what everyone else has?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, "Foolish Rich Guy" Activity Page (1 set of cards per 2 students)

What You Do:

- **Ask** students to form teams of two or three.
- **Give** each team a Bible and a set of shuffled cards from "Foolish Rich Guy" Activity Page.
- **Invite** teams to look up Luke 12:15-21 and take turns reading the verses within their groups.
- After each verse, **have the reader choose** one of the "Foolish Rich Guy" cards that he/she thinks shows the verse he/she read.
- **Continue** reading and lining up the cards on the floor/table in the order of the story.
- When finished, **invite teams to retell** the parable in their own words using the cards as prompts.
- If you choose, **make** this activity a race between teams!
- **Discuss** the parable.
 - What would you say was the rich man's biggest mistake? Where did he start to go wrong?
 - Why did God call him a fool?
 - If Jesus was going to use this parable as an example of a WISE Rich Guy, how might the story need to change in order for that to happen?
 - What can we do to not get caught up in having more and more and end up being just another Foolish Rich Guy?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: Bible

What You Do:

- **Remind** students of the warning Jesus gave at the beginning of the Parable of the Foolish Rich Man. Read Luke 12:15 aloud.
- **Give** the group a few minutes to talk to God about any struggles they have in wanting more and more stuff. What's one thing they typically want more and more of?
- **Encourage** them to ask for God's help to be content no matter what they have or don't have.

What You Say:

"Dear Jesus, we need Your help to be content. We tend to think more about what we don't have instead of what we do have. Give us a grateful attitudes for all You've given us. Rather than focusing on stuff, help us to see what matters most: our relationships with You and with one another. In Your name we pray. Amen."

HAND OUT "GOD TIME" SHEETS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH