

Lesson Plans that Work
Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 13
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21

Even on a sultry summer day, the wind of the Spirit hovers — almost imperceptibly. Our lives rarely accommodate a slower pace for the summer. Yet, we are invited to notice, again, the priorities that drive us. We are invited to stop, however briefly, the manic activity and consider options Jesus offers us.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

Of course, we have needs, and so do our families. Suddenly it dawns on us. The name of our frantic acquisition is greed. Has greed begun owning us? How much is enough? How might we move to becoming more rich toward God?

Theme: Our life is not just about the abundance of possessions

Before Class: You will need copies of the Bible or copies of the script found below. If you have them, bring child appropriate magazines, paper, glue, and scissors.

Beginning: Ask the children how they would define the word greed. (If they are not familiar with the word offer an example such as: I have lots of shoes in my closet, but I wish I had a pair of shoes just like the ones you are wearing.)

Opening Prayer: Thank you, God, for helping us see what greed looks like so we can keep it from taking over. Amen.

The Story: Luke 12: 13-21 Invite readers to read the scripture for today.

Questions:

Note: It was the custom for the first-born son to inherit the entire family fortune, it would not be divided between all the children.

- What is the person in the crowd asking Jesus to do? (Get in the middle of a family disagreement.)
- What does Jesus say to the request — in your own words? (Basically that Jesus has not come to meddle in peoples' quarrels.)
- What does Jesus warn the person to be "on guard against?" (Greed.)
- I wonder what the man in the parable might have done to be "rich toward God?"

Option: Invite the children to tell the parable Jesus told (verses 16-21) in their own words, substituting examples from our own time. (Most of us do not have barns full of grain. What other kinds of stuff might the person in the story be accumulating? CD collections, DVD's, baseball cards, etc.) You can do this as a whole group or divide them up into groups.

Option: If you have time, you can invite the children to look through magazines and see what they find in advertisements. What messages do they receive? I wonder what is the purpose of the advertisements.

Getting Closure: Tell the children that the stories we have for the next two weeks have to do with making choices. The ads we see on television, find on our computers, and read in our magazines and newspapers are mostly trying to get us to buy more stuff. Discuss how to look at these ads and make our own choices. Do any of them offer information we find useful? (Maybe an automobile that uses less gas and so could be more economical to own.) Which ads simply lure us to get more stuff? Are there any ads that tell us the message we found in the parable?

Closing Prayer: Help us make good decisions about all the things available to us. Help us to remember what is important and to share what we have been given with those around us. Amen.

Luke 12:13-21

Narrator: Someone in the crowd said to Jesus,

Person: ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.’

Narrator: But Jesus said to him,

Jesus: ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’

Narrator: And he said to them,

Jesus: ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’

Narrator: Then he told them a parable:

Jesus: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. ¹⁷And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?”¹⁸Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” ²⁰But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” ²¹So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

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