

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 13**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger 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:** Bring a couple of trash bags stuffed with wadded up newspapers and tied up so you cannot see what is inside. You will also need paper and crayons for the children.

**Beginning:** Tell the children we are going to pretend that these trash bags are stuffed with all kinds of toys we wish we had. Ask them to tell you what toys they have at their houses and we can pretend those toys are in the bag. Does anyone have any dolls? Any trucks? Any computer games? What other toys do they have at their houses? Tell them we have a story about a person who had lots of stuff but wasn't happy with what he had and kept wanting more.

**Praying:** Thank you, God, that we have homes to live in and toys to play with, but keep us keep you in our mind and do what you ask us to do. Amen.

**The Story:** A person came up to Jesus. This person was not at all happy and was whining to Jesus. (In a whining voice) "Jesus, make my brother give me half of all his stuff! I want half of his." Jesus just looked at that person for a minute, hoping the person would notice what a selfish thing that was to ask. Then Jesus said, "Be careful! Greed is not a good thing. Greed makes you want stuff you do not need, stuff that does not belong to you. There are much more important things in life than just getting lots of stuff. What is important is that we are rich in our connection with God."

**Activity:** Tell the children we are going to go on a pretend trip. Let the children help you set up an obstacle course (a table to crawl under, a row of chairs to walk between, whatever you have at hand to make an obstacle course). Then, in single file go through your obstacle course. Now, ask for a volunteer to go through the obstacle course carrying both of the bags full of pretend stuff. If other children want to try it, make sure each child who wants to do so gets a chance to attempt the obstacle course hauling the bags of stuff.

Once people get to try the task, invite them to reflect with you. I wonder what it was like to do the obstacle course without the bags full of our stuff? (allow time for response) I wonder what it was like to do the obstacle course with the bags full of our stuff? (allow time for response) I wonder why the experiences are so different?

**Activity:** If time permits, give the children paper and crayons and invite them to draw a picture of what they learned today.

**Getting Closure:** Invite the children into a circle. Tell them, “We had a great lesson today about not wanting too much and needing to stay connected with God. I wonder if there are prayers you would like to offer to God today?” Allow time for response and write down their prayers so you can include them in the closing.

**Closing Prayer:** God, thank you for all you have given us and all those special people in our lives. Thank you for being with us. Today we especially pray for \_\_\_\_\_ (insert the prayers from the children or have them do it themselves). Help us to keep our minds on you. Amen.

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