

For the Family

Read together Luke 12:13-21.

Explain that this is a story that Jesus told about a man who had more than he needed. But instead of sharing with others, he decided to keep it all to himself. He had so much that he had to tear down his barns and build bigger ones. God called this man a fool, because he kept everything and didn't share with others. God gives to us so we can take care of ourselves, but also so we can share with others, especially those in need.

Talk together about how Thanksgiving and Christmas are times when we can help others by sharing from what God has given to us. Our church offers several opportunities. As a family, select one or more of them and share or serve together.

Operation Christmas Child: You can pick up an instruction sheet at the kiosk in the lobby. Bring the shoeboxes back no later than **November 15**. Our goal is 1500 boxes, to be delivered to children in third world countries around the world. This is a great project to do as a family.

Holiday Meals and Christmas Giving Tree: We put together holiday baskets for ECC families in need. You can bless these families by providing a Thanksgiving meal or gift card. You can also donate by writing a check and designating "ECC Thanksgiving Meals."
Contact: Mark Post or Christine Case at 208-286-0879.

City Light and River of Life: Boise Rescue Mission serves over 1000 meals a day in winter at a cost of \$2.05 per person. Our goal is \$4100 = 2000 meals.
Go to www.boiserm.org to contribute.

Select together one or more of these projects, and work together as a family to share with others.

Pray together that you will always be thankful for what you have, and that you will look for opportunities to share with others in need.



The Journey of Discipleship
Luke 9-19

The Parable of Modern Man *Luke 12:13-34*

Our Story So Far – Luke 9:51-12:12

- Jesus sets his face to go to Jerusalem and fulfill his mission.
- He sends messengers into Samaria, who are rejected.
- He sends out 72 missionaries, who return with stories of their authority over demons. Jesus commends them, and tells them he saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.
- He tells the parable of The Good Samaritan, showing that loving your neighbor means helping those who are in need.
- Mary sits at Jesus' feet like a disciple, showing that loving God includes listening to him.
- Jesus gives his disciples a model prayer, and teaches the importance of being persistent in prayer.
- After driving out a demon from a mute man, Jesus challenges those who doubt his power or want to see more signs.
- Jesus confronts some Pharisees and lawyers, calling them out for hypocrisy and burdening people with legalism.

Last Week: Jesus warns his disciples against hypocrisy, telling them it is more important to fear God than to fear people. He encourages them to acknowledge him before others, and promises that he will acknowledge them before the angels. He tells them that when they are brought before authorities because of their faith, the Holy Spirit will help them to have courage and to know what to say.

This Week's Story: Luke 12:13-34

Read Luke 12:13-34 and discuss the following questions:

Greed 13-21

Jesus said, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (vs. 15)

Why does Jesus warn his disciples against covetousness?

Why could that be a problem for his disciples?

If life does not consist in the abundance of our possessions, what does it consist of?

Re-read the parable (vss. 16-20), emphasizing the first person pronouns. How many do you count?

What is this man's dilemma?

Who does he talk to for advice?

What is his solution?

What does all this tell you about this man's philosophy of life?

Why does God call him a "fool"?

What parts of our fallen nature cause us to seek an "abundance of possessions"?

How can we overcome that?

How can you be rich toward God?

Worry

Jesus said, "Do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about the body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing." (vss. 22-23)

Why does Jesus warn against anxiety?

Why could that be a problem for his disciples?

What do the illustrations in vss. 24-28 teach us about worry?

Verse 24 – The Ravens

Verse 25-26 – Time

Verse 27 – The lilies

Verse 28 – The grass of the field

Seeking God's Kingdom 29-34

What does he tell his disciples *not* to seek? 29

What reasons does he give? 30-32

What does he tell his disciples to seek instead? 31

How is seeking the kingdom an antidote for worry and greed?

According to Jesus, what are we doing when we sell our possessions and give to the needy? 33

Jesus concludes, "For where your treasure is there will your heart be also." (vs. 34)

What do you think Jesus is teaching with this saying?

If someone who didn't know you followed you around for a few weeks, what would they conclude about what you treasure?

What would that reveal about your heart?

How would seeking the kingdom change your heart?

How do you respond to Jesus' statement "for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom"? (vs. 32)

Next Steps:

- I will guard my heart against a covetous attitude.
- I will resist the temptation to focus exclusively on myself.
- To combat worry in my life, I will put God first in everything and trust him in all areas of my life.
- I will invest in (focus on) God's kingdom this week by

Memory Verse – Luke 12:15

And he said to them,

"Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."