



DECEMBER THEME

THE BIG GIVE

Think Outside the Box

BIBLE STORY

Luke 12:13-21

The Money Pit | Parable of the Rich Man

BOTTOM LINE

Don't miss your chance to give

MEMORY VERSE

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share"

1 Timothy 6:18, NIV

LIFE APP

Generosity | Making someone's day by giving something away

BASIC TRUTH

I should treat others the way I want to be treated...and with Jesus' help, I can!

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **GENEROSITY** and God's character, as shown through God's big story.

Key Question: Why is it important to give to others? Kids have been told since they were very young that they should share and give to others. As they grow into adolescence, it's important for them to understand why that's true. We'll give kids a chance to answer that question for themselves, and discover that generosity changes your entire perspective on the world God made. Life isn't about me. It's about what God is doing through me to show God's love to the world.

In **Luke 12:13-21**, we find Jesus sharing a parable about a rich young man. This rich man experienced such a harvest that he ended up with more than he needed. Instead of seeing how he could use the extra to help others, he stores it up for himself. He loses his life and doesn't get to enjoy it anyway.

Bottom Line: Don't miss your chance to give. When it comes to what we have, we need to think about others and focus on relationships more than getting more stuff. Being generous is difficult when we're consumed with wanting more. We want kids and their families to understand that when we focus on others, we're more likely to see the needs around us and be generous in how we help meet those needs.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to show kids where they have opportunities to be generous. Pray that kids would recognize these opportunities and act on them before they miss their chance.

•• JUST FOR FUN

Made to Connect | *An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

What You Need: Butcher paper, markers

What You Do:

- Spread out the sheet of butcher paper and give each person a marker.
- Ask:
 - What are some crazy, unusual, creative, odd, random, even messy (*but not inappropriate*) items you can come up with that could be used to wrap a gift?
- Tell kids to write them on the butcher paper and see how many they can come up with. (*Examples: a sock, aluminum foil, lint, frosting*)
- As they write, ask them what they would do if they ever received a gift wrapped in



one of the ways they've mentioned.

- If you have extra time:
 - Name gifts you've given or received that fall into the following categories:
 - ...Weirdest
 - ...Biggest
 - ...Smallest
 - ...Most pieces
 - ...Funniest
 - ...Most quickly returned after Christmas

•• GET YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: "Rhyme Time" activity pages, pens

What You Do:

- Hand out a "Rhyme Time" activity page to each kid.
- Explain to kids that these are short little poems with a rhyming word missing. They will try to guess what the missing word is and fill it in.
- Give kids a few minutes to try to fill in the missing words.
- Encourage them to try on their own and not to tell others the answers when they figure it out.
- As kids finish, ask them to try to write their own poem about giving.
- Let kids share their poems with the group.

What You Say: "These poems are a little silly, but they are still good reminders that we have many chances every day to give generously. [Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we are going to hear/we heard about a man who had a chance to give but didn't."

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children's Ministry Worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• TAKE A SNAPSHOT [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Dice

What You Do:

- Pass the dice around the circle three times.
- Kids should remember what number they roll each time.
- After three rolls, tell kids to add up their point total. Tell them that each point is worth \$100 dollars.
- Let them tally up how "rich" they are and then take turns sharing what they would do with their "money."



- Ask:
 - Define what you think it means to be wealthy.
 - Do you think it's possible for someone to be too rich? If yes, when would that be true? If no, why not?

•• **BIBLE STORY EXTENSION** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Bibles, copy paper, markers

What You Do:

- Assign the following verses to pairs of kids: *(If you have fewer than 10 kids, modify the sections so that teams cover more verses.)*
 - Team 1 – Luke 12:13-15
 - Team 2 – Luke 12:16-17
 - Team 3 – Luke 12:18
 - Team 4 – Luke 12:19
 - Team 5 – Luke 12:20-21
- Instruct teams to review their portion of the passage by reading the verses with their partner.
- Next, give each team a piece of copy paper. Set out markers where everybody can reach them.
- Tell the kids that they will have five minutes to create a scene that depicts their part of the parable.
- When they're finished, bring everyone together and let teams share their scenes and the specific part of the parable it portrays.
- Look at the parable more closely.
 - Ask them to count the number of times the words "I" and "my" are used in their portion of the parable. *[Total number: "I" (6) and "my" (5)]*
 - Remind your group that many of the parables or stories Jesus told had a "shock and shake" factor to them.
 - Jesus challenged people to think differently and they weren't always comfortable with that.
- Ask:
 - What are some things that may have shocked or surprised the people who heard this parable?
 - Define a "fool" based on this parable.
- If time allows, finish up by letting the students take turns sharing one big truth that shocked, shook, or stood out to them.

•• **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask some of the following questions...
 - In the Parable of the Rich Man, Jesus said, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has" *(Luke 12:15 NIV)*. How do we "watch out" when it comes to money and possessions?
 - If life isn't "made up of how much a person has," what is it made up of?
 - Is it wrong to have a lot of stuff? Why or why not?
 - Why is it important to give to others?
 - What are some reasons why we might miss our chance to give?
 - Name some dangers that come with having a lot of money, possessions, or success.
 - Name some benefits that come with being generous—not just at Christmas but all the time.

•• **VERSES TO TAKE WITH YOU** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]



Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Tell your group that after Jesus told the parable, He went on to teach more about money and the things we treasure.
- Invite someone to read aloud the verses that follow today's Bible story: Luke 12:33-34.
- Form teams of three or more and challenge the teams to put Luke 12:34 to the tune of "Jingle Bells" (or another Christmas song of their choice) then sing their songs for one another.
- When students have sung their songs, Ask:
 - How can you know if your treasure is in heaven or on earth?
 - How can a person your age follow this verse?
 - Do you know anyone who follows this verse well? What do they do to live it out?
 - Have you ever missed a chance to give? (Encourage a couple students to share stories if they feel comfortable.)

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: Ornament Cards, pens, markers, tape

What You Do:

- Wednesday groups: Follow up with the kids who hung ornaments last week. Allow them to share how God helped them to be generous.
- Sunday groups: Encourage acts of generosity during the month of December by creating a "Giving Wall" in your group's meeting space. Each week, kids will add an ornament that focuses on one way they will demonstrate generosity in the coming week.

Pro Tip: There is great value in having preteens share with one another about the things they see God doing in and around them. The story of a peer who is following Jesus will go a long way in challenging and encouraging other students to do the same.

- Ask your group if they've ever made a "Wish List" of things they wanted for Christmas. If so, let them share some of the gifts they've asked for and received.
- Give everyone a pen and one of the Ornament Cards.
- Tell them to imagine that God has a "Wish List" of ways God would like them to show generosity this week.
 - What might be on God's list?
 - Let them write it on one side of their ornament then put their names on the back.
- Use markers to color the ornament if desired.
- Before adding the ornaments to the wall, come together for prayer.
 - If you think your students would be comfortable enough doing this, pair them up and let them pray for each other to not miss their chance to give this week.
 - (Wednesday groups) Add ornaments to or (Sunday groups) put ornaments on the "Giving Wall."
- Send kids off with the following prayer...

Dear Jesus, we want generosity to be more than just something we talked about today. We don't want to miss our chances to give the way the rich man did in the parable you told. We need your help to put others ahead of ourselves—especially at Christmas when it's easy to get wrapped up in getting instead of giving. We want to be true givers like you are. We love you. In your name. Amen.

What You Do: Give each child a **GodTime** card. Sunday Leaders: Pass out **Parent Cue** cards as adults arrive to pick up.