





The Gospel According to St. Luke

Middle school Ministry



Introduction

The 4 Gospels comparison				
	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
To whom it was written	Jews	Romans	Greeks	Christians
Subject	The Messiah the king	The Messiah the conqueror of Satan	Christ the lover of mankind	Christ the Incarnate Word
Main message of Jesus	Fulfills the Law	Performs wonders	Saves mankind	Dwells among us
Gospel content	Focuses on prophecies	Focuses on deeds	Focused on history	Focused on theology
Symbol	The human face	The lion	The Ox	The Eagle

Symbols of the Four Gospels			
			
Matthew Winged Man	Mark Winged Lion	Luke Winged Ox	John Eagle

1- Servant's preparation:

- 1) Explanation of the gospel of St Luke chapters 1-12 and an introduction for Bishop Yousef
<https://www.suscpts.org/diocese/bishop/bible-study/holy-gospel-according-to-st-luke/>
- 2) A link for Fr. Doud Lamei 's bible study in Arabic
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHedjI0_e2nk5yEwV9kLxOBn-oJwCt5OK
- 3) The reference book for Fr. Tadros Malaty → see separate attachment
- 4) Upper room app → Sermons → Bible study → Luke , you will find sermons for each chapter, links provided at the beginning of each lesson below.
- 4) Two illustrative videos that could be used by servants to prepare or to show at the beginning of each unit.
 - Part 1 [chapter 1-9]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dClxzo0
 - Part 2 [10-24]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z_KhwNdd8

2- Book introduction:



A- Who is St. Luke?

- ❖ The word “Luke” is probably an abbreviation of the Latin word “Lucanus” or “Lucuis”, which means ‘the carrier of the light’ or ‘the enlightened’.
- ❖ He is the only one among the writers for the Testament who was not a Jew, but a Gentile
- ❖ St. Luke was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle and became his companion on his numerous journeys.
- ❖ He met St. Paul on his second missionary journey in Troas and accompanied him to Philippi. Then, he joined him again on his third journey heading to Jerusalem. It appears that he may have stayed in Palestine during the two years’ imprisonment of St. Paul in Caesarea. They also travelled to preach in Rome together (Acts 28:30).
- ❖ He was not one of the disciples, nor one of the apostles.
- ❖ It came by oral tradition that he had painted the first picture of the Virgin Mary.
- ❖ He departed in Bithynia at an old age. Some say that he was martyred during the reign of Nero at age 84.

B- Characteristics:

- ❖ He wrote this Gospel and the Book of Acts to an Alexandrian nobleman named **Theophilus** (Luke 1:3), calling him “most excellent”, which is a special title for one who holds an important position within the Roman Empire. Some say that Theophilus is one of these three:
 1. He might be someone whose name the apostles did not want to mention, instead, calling him Theophilus which means ‘he who loves God’ in order not to reveal his identity and cause him harm.
 2. Or someone who truly bore this name. The apostle wrote him the Gospel of truth (the Gospel of St. Luke) to understand the Church and its mission (the Acts), in order to attract him to the faith rather than resist the Church.
 3. Luke was a doctor and a servant; he may have treated his own master before setting him free. In order to show his gratitude and give the most precious thing he could offer; he wrote him the gospel of our Lord Jesus and the history of the first Church
- ❖ St Luke did not meet Jesus in person but believed later when he met St Paul. In order to record accurate details about the whole story of Jesus, he interviewed eyewitnesses like St Mary and the disciples and may be main characters he wrote about like the Samaritan and Zacchaeus to be able to collect accurate and reliable understanding of all things and document them for all generations in a perfectly historical way.
- ❖ Picture a scientist going about some great work. He or she is searching for the cure for some horrible disease or making some marvelous new discovery. First the scientist digs for facts, looking deeply, studying carefully, investigating every clue, relentlessly hunting for any and every fact that will make the discovery deeper, richer, and more accurate.

- ❖ Similarly, in this study, we are going to look at Jesus through the eyes of those who actually witnessed Him, and then told their story. That is what a witness is: a person who sees or experiences something, then tells others what he or she has seen.

C- The Time for his writing

- There is no sure tradition regarding the time of this writing or its site. St. Irianus thinks it was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul.
- Since the gospel was written before the book of Acts, and the book of Acts was written before the martyrdom of St. Paul the apostle, therefore many believe that it was written between the **year 63 and 67 AD.**

D- Its Aim:

- ❖ ***This Gospel was recorded for the Greeks***, who are known for their own philosophy and literature, which is why it was written in a refined and poetic style.
- ❖ ***He offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child. St. Luke presented Christ to the Gentile world as a Mean to find their inner happiness and joy. He began the Gospel with joy with announcing [the birth of Jesus] and concluded it with joy [Jesus rose from the dead]; something the Greek legends and philosophies lacked.
- ❖ Jesus Christ came as a Friend to support us; praying in many places: (3:21; 6:12; 9:18, 29; 22:39-46), and teaching about praying (Our salvation is not philosophy).



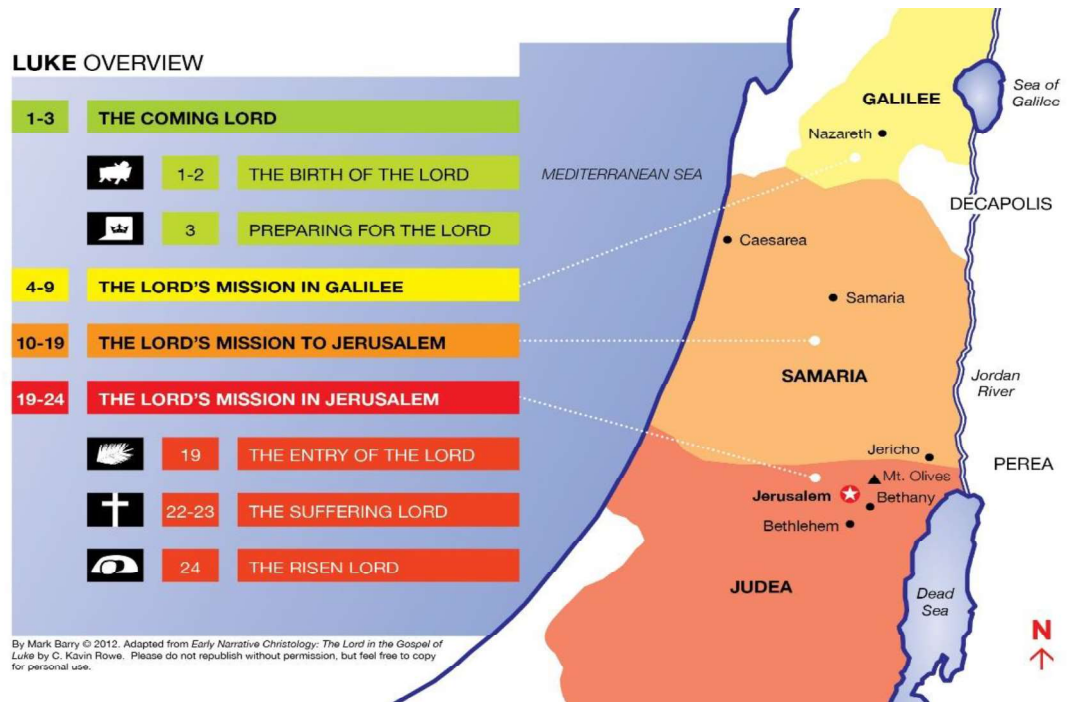
E- Why do we symbolize this gospel as an OX?

The ox associated with the Gospel of Luke fits well since it speaks to the great sacrifice of Jesus, and the ox was an important animal for sacrifice as required in the Torah.

3- Book outline

Its sections:

1. Unit 1: Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us, **chapters 1-4**
2. Unit 2: Our Friend feels our suffering, **chapters 5-18**
3. Unit 3: Our faithful Friend, **chapters 19-23**
4. Unit 4: Our Friend, the Risen from the dead, **chapter 24**



Unit 1: [3 lessons]

Our Friend became like us and was tempted like us chapters 1-4

St Luke presents the Son of God as a Friend, One that we can befriend not fear.

1. Introduction (**Chapter 1** v 1-4).
2. The promise of the Baptist to Zachariah and Elizabeth (v.5-25).
3. Meeting Elizabeth (v.26-38).
4. The birth of John (v.57-80).
5. The birth of Christ (**Chapter 2**)
6. The shepherds meet Him (v.8-20).
7. The circumcision of Jesus (v.21).
8. His entrance to the temple (v.22-40).
9. Jesus challenging the Jewish elders (v.41-52).
10. His baptism (**Chapter 3**) and the genealogy of Christ (v.23-37).
11. Jesus was tempted before beginning His ministry at Galilee (**Chapter 4**)

Chapter 1

Servant's preparation:

A sermon from Upper room app bible study about chapter 1

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+nkahjqy>

Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please mention this book overview.

- ✓ Who is St. Luke? He was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle later after resurrection.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Greek after collecting testimonies from eyewitnesses to accurately record all details of Jesus's life.
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? ***St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child.

Main points in the Chapter:

1. An introduction to the book 1-4
2. The good news to Zacharias of John's birth 5-17
3. Zacharias' dumbness 18-25
4. The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38
5. Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45
6. The Virgin's hymn of Praise 46-56
7. John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66
8. Zacharias the priest's Prophecy 67-80

Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows

The gospel of St. Luke started with a short introduction that mentioned how, why and to whom was the book written. We explained that in the previous introduction.

John the Baptist's birth: 1-25

- Because St. Luke was a man of science, being a physician, he clearly defined the date of the event of John's birth
- Even though that time, there was corruption and there were no prophecies for 3 centuries, God saw Zacharias and Elizabeth, noticed their righteousness, and honored them to get John the forerunner before the Christ.

- In this conversation that occurred between the archangel Gabriel and Zacharias the priest inside the Altar, we notice that Zacharias did not believe the angel's words, in spite of seeing the angel and listening to the angelic voice in a tangible way which made him blameworthy of it, particularly because the holy history mentions living examples of elderly people who begot children whereas their wives was barren, such as Sarah, Abraham's wife for not having children.
- In (Luke 1: 17) "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah". The Scholar Oreganus comments on this statement saying, "He did not say in the soul of Elijah, but rather 'in the spirit of Elijah and his power'. The spirit that dwelt in Elijah also dwelt in John, and the power in Elijah was also in John.
- The archangel declared himself that he is Gabriel, he came carrying the divine promise and the good news, but he also had to discipline Zacchaeus with dumbness as God commanded.

The Annunciation of the Divine Incarnation 26-38

- God chose a virgin who is betrothed to a man [engaged but for the Jews, it is like married without physical union]. God's choice was perfect because Jesus had to come from a virgin but if she were seen pregnant without being married, people would stone her thinking she was a sinner.
- The Holy Spirit came on her to sanctify her womb and start her conception, this happened the minute she agreed to accepting the assignment of being the mother of God. Her obedience opposes Eve's disobedience. She was more obedient than Zacchaeus who questioned the angel.

Mary's Encounter with Elizabeth 39-45.

- The virgin St. Mary has now carried in herself He who carries the burdens of the world, and He who provides for everything, she did not worry about what is hers, but rather in the receiving spirit, she hastened to the hills to the city of Judah, so as to serve Elizabeth.

The Virgin's Hymn of Praise 46-56

- When Elizabeth's tongue was released in blessings to the Virgin because she has believed the promises and has carried the Word of God in her womb; likewise did the Virgin's tongue began do praise God.

John's Birth and the Circumcision 57-66

- John's birth became a preaching sermon, though it had begun mysteriously, but the Lord has become a companion to him so as to support him; for God took John to the wilderness while young, and there He took care of him and raised him, so that he appears to Israel at the appropriate due time.

Goal we learn: [Submit to God's will]

In this chapter, we have many points to learn from, but we will focus on St Mary and her submissive response to the angel. **"Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word."** Luke 1:38

Chapter 12

Servant's preparation:

A sermon from upper room app about Luke 12

<https://subsplash.com/upperroommedia/lb/mi/+byukkvj>

Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please mention this book overview.

- ✓ Who is St. Luke? He was a doctor, a painter, and a Gentile from Antioch. He accepted Christianity at the hands of St. Paul the apostle later after resurrection.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Greek after collecting testimonies from eyewitnesses to accurately record all details of Jesus's life.
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? ***St Luke offered Jesus to the Greeks as a Lover of mankind***, who cares for the educated and uneducated, the philosopher and the unwise, the rich and the poor, the Jew and the Gentile, the man, the woman and the child.

Remember:

Last lesson we focused on “Inside out” idea where we should not show what is not done with a pure heart. God warns us that our light might be darkness if we try to gain people's attention through acting as if we are holy like the priest and Levite in the story of the Samaritan and like the Pharisees who abide with every bit of law like washing hands but skip the most important commandments of Loving God and loving people.

Main points in the Chapter 12:

- 1- Beware of Hypocrisy 1-3
- 2- Jesus Teaches the Fear of God 4-7
- 3- Confess Christ Before Men 8-12
- 4- The Parable of the Rich Fool 13-21
- 5- Do Not Worry 22-34
- 6- The Faithful Servant and the Evil Servant 35-48
- 7- Christ Brings Division 49-53
- 8- Discern the Time 54-56
- 9- Make Peace with Your Adversary 57-59

Lesson overview:

Please go over main events of the chapter briefly as follows:

Fear God and Confess Christ Before Men

Chapter 12 opens with an interesting section of unrelated, short teachings (12:1-12). In rapid order Jesus tells His listeners:

- Be wary of the Pharisees (v.1).
- Everything hidden will at some point be made known (vv. 2-3).
- Be afraid not of death but of hell (vv. 4-5).
- God values us individually (vv. 6-7).
- Those who recognize the Christ will be rewarded; those who don't will be punished (vv. 8-9).
- Those who deny the work of the Holy Spirit are beyond redemption (v. 10).
- The Holy Spirit inspires those required to speak in Jesus' behalf (vv. 11-12).

Most of these are self-explanatory. Verse 10, however, may trouble some of your youths. (Indeed, this verse has troubled many experts.) But the idea seems to be that since it is the Holy Spirit that is the working agent of God in the hearts of humans, once a person shuts himself off from the Holy Spirit, he shuts himself off from the very possibility of redemption. (This is similar to the soil of the pathway in the parable told in Luke 8. When a person's heart becomes hard, it is virtually impossible for the word of God to take root.) You can assure any youth who is worried about this that the fact that he is worried is sufficient proof that the Holy Spirit is still working in his heart.

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Following this group of teachings, Jesus relates the parable of the rich fool (12:13-21). In this parable, a man who has accumulated great wealth says to himself, "Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry" (v. 19). This man commits two errors. First, he looks out only for himself. His greed and selfishness are obvious. The second error is that he assumes he has many years of prosperity left. But no person should rest too comfortably in that assurance. Death comes to us all, and never at our convenience! The rich fool had made plans for living, which is certainly a good idea. But he did so without also making plans for dying. Nothing in the Bible says that planning for the future is wrong.

Indeed, wisdom dictates wise planning, including savings accounts, insurance, etc. But when these plans supersede our plans for eternity, then we are in error. The important thing to remember is where the real value lies. Earthly things are valuable only for a time. Eternal things are valuable forever.

Do Not Worry

The next section, 12:22-34, is one of the most beautiful in Luke's Gospel. Jesus tells His disciples not to worry about material things because God will take care of them. Their attention should be rather on seeking the kingdom of God. This passage is particularly important following the parable of the rich fool. Earthly values are temporary and of no use in eternity. Eternal values are all that ultimately count.

The Faithful Servant and the Evil Servant 35-48

In verses 35-48 Jesus takes up the theme of watchfulness. He uses several analogies or short parables to illustrate the importance of constant vigilance. In the first parable He stresses the wisdom of the servants who are prepared for their master's arrival, regardless of the hour. In the second, He uses a bit of humor

to point out that if a homeowner knew what time a thief was going to arrive, he would be prepared. Then Jesus likened the arrival of the Son of Man to that of a thief. The third parable is another one about a master and his servants. The attitude of the servant in verse 45 reminds us of the attitude of many concerning their own death. Instead of doing what they know they should be doing, they put it off as long as possible, believing death is still in the distant future.

Christ Brings Division

We see such words in 12:49-59. First Jesus warns the crowd that following Him would cause division, not peace. Although these words are harsh, they have proven to be true. Radical discipleship indeed calls upon a person to place mission above family.

Next Jesus chastises the crowd for being unable to understand whom they have in their midst (vv. 54-56). Evidently many in the crowd were treating Him as an ordinary traveling rabbi. One of the roles of the rabbi was to serve as an arbitrator in disputes. We saw Jesus being called upon to serve in this capacity in 12:13. This apparently happened again, occasioning the words in verses 57-59. Jesus is growing impatient with their petty demands while He is trying to teach them about the kingdom of heaven

Goal we learn: [Be ready for the thief, why? And How?]

In this lesson,

1. Realize that the uncertainty of life requires constant spiritual readiness.
2. Desire to be ready for eternity at all times.
3. Examine their own lives to determine their readiness.

Perspective

Youths think they will live forever! That is why some of them drive crazy, drink alcohol and engage in dangerous activities. Even "good" kids who don't do any of these things rarely think of their own mortality.

We read in the newspapers every day about people who are killed in accidents or diseases. Youths are not immune to death. Most youths, as with most adults, want to be ready for death when it happens. But death seems like such a distant future event that plans never get made or executed.

This lesson will attempt to remind your youths that a state of constant preparedness is required of all who would spend eternity in the presence of Christ.

Lesson delivery idea

In this chapter Jesus is trying to shift our focus from earthly matters to heavenly matters

He resembled His second coming to a thief who never tells when he would sneak in, that is why we need to always be ready for the end of life which could be sooner than the last day. Jesus has a list of WHY? And a list of HOW? To be ready.

Jesus listed few reasons WHY we should be always ready:

1. We don't know when we will meet our Lord [Parable of the faithful servant]
2. We should look for the signs of the end of the world same way we forecast weather. Confess the Lord's name on earth so that He confesses your name in heaven.
3. Worry does not make things any better, for we cannot add to our stature one cubic. So why do we live in worry, and lose all our inward peace, and our relationship with God with any earned profit? The Lord does not wish deprivation for its own sake, but He wishes to grant what is way greater (Luke 12: 31) "Instead, strive for His kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well." In other words, let our hearts be vacant of any temporal things, and thus the Lord enters, and establishes His kingdom without depriving us even of what we have left behind.
4. The rich fool thought his life is ahead of him and planned for it, forgetting to plan for his eternal life which actually started sooner than he thought.
5. God knows your earthly needs and would take care of them same way He takes care of birds and flowers which have little value. God is not being hard towards us, and that He is in fact the Lover of mankind. For our sake he is concerned about His insensible creation. He heeds the fowls of the air, and clothes the lilies of the field in wondrous beauty, so would He not be rather more concerned about man for whose sake He has created the birds and the lilies?

There is a story of a lady who gave an envelope of money to a priest asking him to deliver it to a certain address when he goes to the city. On his way, the taxi broke and had to wait on the street till it is fixed, the priest leaned against a window and heard a lady praying to God that she just spent her last penny on feeding her kids and she knows He will take care of that problem. The priest looked at the address on the envelope and it matches the house he was next to. He realized that God had sent this money to this mom at the right time.

Jesus also listed few tips on HOW to be ready:

1. Avoid hypocrisy [what you hide on earth will be announced on judgement day]
2. Make peace with your adversary here on earth instead of having to deal with him in heaven [confess your sins on earth so they are taken off your records on judgment day]
3. Don't be afraid of those who kill or harm the body but be afraid of those who can deviate from your path to heaven
4. Sell your earthly treasure to earn a heavenly one that would never be destroyed. +Someone may ask 'On what basis are we to sell our possession? Is it because these matters are harmful in their nature? Or is it because they represent a tribulation to our souls? We answer this question, firstly; if all that is in the world, is evil in its essence then this would not be counted as God's creation; for all of God's creation is good (1Tim.4: 4). Secondly, our Lord's commandment teaches us to wipe out the evil in us, and not to offer it to others, saying 'Give alms'. **St. Basilious the great**

Activities to Introduce the Lesson

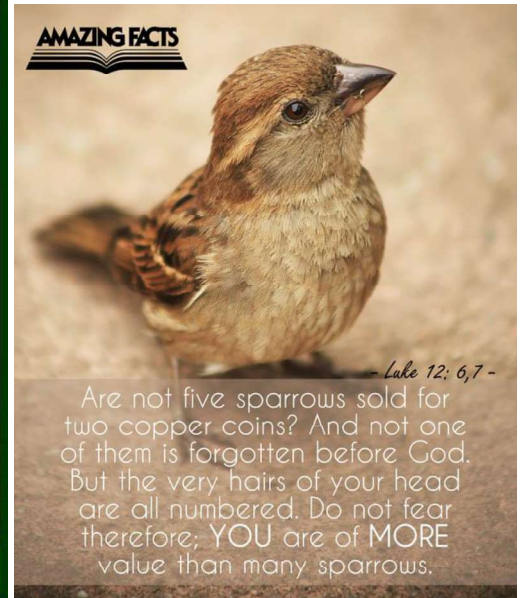
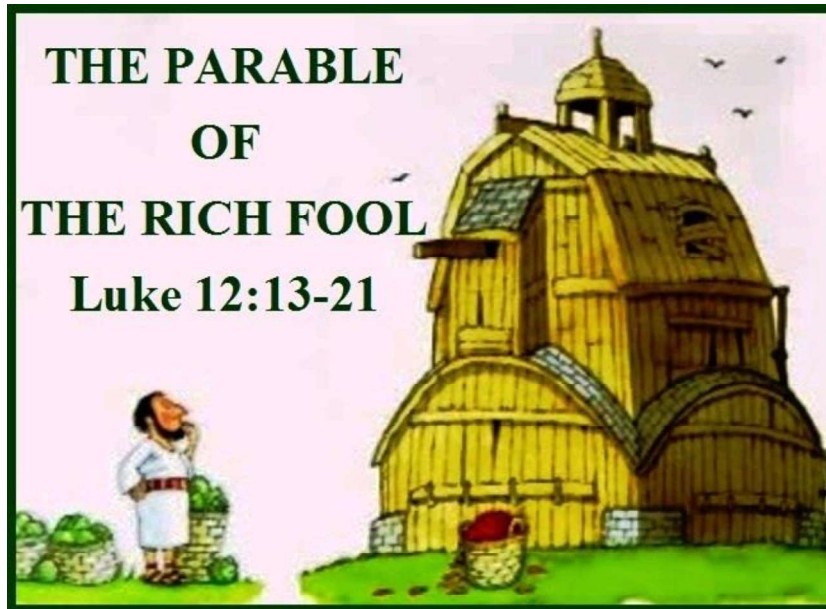
Students are often bombarded with messages that proclaim the glory of “stuff.” It is easy to see others with fine clothes, cars, and toys, and want what they have. Even as adults we struggle with prioritizing worship and what we put first in our lives. Today’s lesson seeks to remind students that God should always be number one, and if we don’t place Him in that priority spot, negative things can happen. We never know what God has for our lives, and we can’t cling to “stuff” for our happiness.

Some activities are better for older or younger students. Depending on your audience, timing, and available resources, the suggestions here can be switched around or easily adjusted:

- a) “How much can you hold?” challenge...provide children with paper sacks (the flimsier the better!) and spread small items and/or candy on the floor. Encourage them to see how much they can stuff into the bags, but there’s a catch: they cannot support the bag underneath but must hold with one hand. If the bag rips, they don’t get a new one to start over.
 - b) “Will it fit?” Have students split into teams. Provide each team with a small or medium box. Have them relay race across the room to pick up items and stuff them into the boxes. See which team can hold the most items in their boxes. Is it hard to fit more items in the box?
 - c) Store the grain: Also relay style, let two groups relay race to pick up rice (or cereal or beans) from a large box across the room. The catch is that one team can use a cup, and the other can only use a spoon (or smaller cup). Which team picked up more? After measuring, have teams swap so that the losers become the winners!
- ❖ Ask students to describe their most valuable things. What do they have that they love the most? If they had to leave home and only take a few things, what would they want? Explain that in the story of rich fool, we are looking at someone who was concerned about things and wanted to make sure he got all of the stuff he thought was coming to him. It started with a real question that someone brought to Jesus:
 - ❖ Someone was trying to get Jesus to settle an argument. They were wanting to make sure they got a share of money and felt angry that they weren’t receiving it. This person asked Jesus to force the money on him. But Jesus gave an interesting answer. He wanted to make sure people did not prioritize material things and told a story about the rich fool.
 - ❖ Have you ever moved? It seems like when we have to pack up everything we own, we often find things that we had forgotten about, or things that we don’t really even need. Some people manage to acquire so many things that they need to get bigger houses or get boxes or storage units to put their things into. In this story, the man had so many things that he had to build a bigger barn. He thought he could relax and enjoy life, but before the day was done his life was over!
 - ❖ We can’t take anything with us when we die. None of our material things will last forever. Jesus knew this and wanted to remind His listeners of how important it was. Our lives cannot rely on our stuff, but on the maker of all things, on God. Jesus reminded His people that God handles everything we need.

We might not always have every little thing we think we want, but we will have what we NEED. God promises this!

- ❖ How can we build up treasures in Heaven? For one thing, we recognize that this world is not our home. There isn't a problem with having nice things. It's only an issue when we make those things the most important part of our lives. We want to recall all that God has blessed us with. We want to put Him first and foremost. We need to place priority on God and His people. And we can use our money to further that, too. We need a certain amount of money, but it's all mobile and flexible. It will pass away. Heaven and the Kingdom of God will last forever!



Take home Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for your amazing gifts and provision in our lives. Thank you for providing for our needs every day in our lives without us asking for them. Please help us place you first and foremost in our priorities and to always be ready when the time comes that we meet our Lord. Guide us to know why and how to be ready for the day we meet you and give an account of our lives. At that moment, no riches would benefit us, no certificates would qualify us, no excuses we can make if we were not ready.

Memory Verse:

³¹ But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. ³² "Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom