

May 1–2, 2021

# Spring Lesson 10



Bible Passage: Luke 12:13–31  
(Rich Fool)

## Jesus Is Freedom

### Remember Verse

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God,  
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. John 17:3

*Children reflect on what the Holy Spirit is teaching them and respond through creative activities and games.*

### Reflect: Jesus Is Freedom

Encourage the kids to open their Bibles and read the suggested passages.

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER KIDS

- **What was the rich man most concerned about?** Luke 12:19
- **Because God takes care of the plants and animals, what do we know about how He'll take care of us?** Luke 12:27–28
- **Why did God send His Son, Jesus?** John 3:16
- **How does Jesus set us free?** Romans 8:1
- **How can we choose freedom in Christ instead of worry or fear?** Philippians 4:6–7

#### QUESTIONS FOR OLDER KIDS

- **What is the meaning of Jesus' story of the rich man?** Luke 12:20–21
- **In what ways do we try to fill our lives with things instead of God?** Romans 1:25
- **Because God takes care of the plants and animals, what do we know about how He'll take care of us?** Luke 12:27–28
- **What is the one thing we need most in life?** Romans 6:22–23
- **How can we choose freedom in Christ instead of worry or fear?** Philippians 4:6–7
- **What do you worry about?**
- **How does it make you feel to know God can set you free from worry?**

# Activity: Juggling Too Much

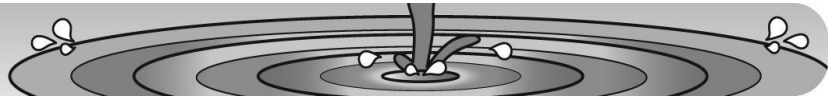
## SUPPLIES

- Foam blocks (or other soft objects)
- Styrofoam plates or a tray to hold many objects

Kids will be challenged to carry a number of foam blocks stacked on a plate and walk an obstacle course or straight line (Age appropriate). The lesson will articulate that even if it's not heavy, we still are limited as to what we can carry. God offers for us to lay our burdens – all sizes and shapes – at His feet, and He will help us.

- **What did it feel like to go through the course with the objects?**
- **What would help you to trust Jesus with your worries this week?**

**BLESS//** 5 minutes



*Children receive a blessing from their leaders and sometimes one another. A blessing may be prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.*

## RELATE

Open a Bible and read Matthew 6:26–27:

**“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”**

Bless the child by placing a hand on their shoulder, and saying, (Child's name), **the Father loves you and will always take care of you.** Finally, end with this blessing:

**May you know that Jesus is freedom. May you trust Him to give you everything you need, and may you rest in Him and be free from worry.**

## LEADER PREP

*Each week you'll find encouraging articles that help you prepare your heart to present the lesson.*

**Inspire** *Shares personal stories from fellow ministry leaders about how God has worked in their lives*

As a teenager, I believed that to be beautiful and attractive I must be thin. When I looked at magazines and television ads, I saw super-polished, super-skinny supermodels. When I looked in the mirror, I saw a girl with wide hips and fat thighs. Sometimes I cried myself to sleep because I felt so disgusted with myself.

I turned my anger toward God. “It's Your fault I'm this way; You're the One who made me!” Looking back, I see it all stemmed from an insidious lie: In order to be loved, I must be perfect. Healing began when I heard a sermon on God's grace. Paul's words penetrated my heart: “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:1). The verse felt like a key releasing me from a jail cell. The process of being freed was a gradual one, with setbacks along the way. But as I began to exchange the lie that had enslaved me for God's truth, I began to see myself as God sees me: accepted and wholly loved.

Today I testify that God has freed me from despair and self-hatred. Because of His redemption, I am armed with the truth that if I am a slave, it is to Christ alone.

*Asriel Medina, ROCKHARBOR Church*

## **Equip** *Offers perspective and context to the lesson's Bible passage*

In Luke 12, a man questions Jesus about an inheritance. As He often does, Jesus sees through the question to the real issue simmering underneath the surface: worry. Jesus offers the man freedom—freedom from worry, the freedom of a life of peace.

This peace comes from faith. It comes from trust. It comes from the confidence that God is in control. When we truly trust God—when we have faith—we become free from worry. But definitions of faith can be elusive. We have the biblical definition of faith as “confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1). Protestant leaders of the Reformation unpacked this biblical definition with the following three components. (And, being Reformers, they used a lot of Latin.)

The first component is *notitia*, which means “knowledge.” This is essentially knowledge of the facts. This is the starting place for faith—the content that faith must have for it to be faith.

Next, we have *assensus*, which means “assent” or “agreement.” This is acknowledging the facts to be true. Still, this isn't full-fledged faith. When James writes, “The demons believe and also shudder” (2:19), he clarifies that mere profession of faith without corresponding action is empty faith.

Finally, we have *fiducia*, which means “assurance,” “confidence,” or “trust.” This is actually what the Bible refers to as trust. Another way of expressing it would be “putting your weight in” something. In essence, a person doesn't believe that the chair he's sitting in is actually a chair until he puts his weight in it.

When we put our weight in God, fully trusting Him, we have true faith. Trust essentially means leaving the matter in the hands of God—and if He is sovereign, truly in control, then there's no possible reason for us to be anxious. The price tag for peace is trust. Jesus offers us freedom from a life of worry and anxiousness, because He is freedom.

## **Support** *Provides reflection and assessment through encouragement, prayer, and time in God's Word*

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 2 Corinthians 3:17

Someone once said the more things you own, the more your things own you. That seems appropriate to the rich fool in Luke 12. Worry is a difficult and stubborn master, but Jesus wants you to know that your life is more than the sum of the things you own, the degrees you hold, and the people you know.

Spiritual disciplines are God's means of grace to us; they help us develop holy habits that let us live in the freedom He desires for us. The discipline of simplicity cultivates a freedom that leads to generosity—two things lacking in the rich man in today's part of The Big God Story.

Talk with God today about how to simplify your life so that you may experience more freedom. Is there material clutter in your home? What can you give away? What are you ready to release? How might God want you to share what you've been given to bless others?