



# Luke

## Jesus Taught About Possessions

Lesson #4  
August 15/16

**Lesson Objective :** We don't need to worry because God provides for our needs.

**Activity** - Indoor "Soccer" (supplies: chairs, 1 per player; soccer ball; stopwatch or timer)

Arrange chairs in a circle, facing the center. Each player will sit in a chair. Hold the sides of your chair with your hands. Put a soccer ball in front of one player. No talking during the game. With your feet only, see how long it takes for everyone in the circle to get a turn passing the ball, without letting the ball touch the ground.

**Connect the activity:**

Could you have accomplished those challenges if one player kept the ball to himself? How would you feel? How does this exercise relate to our possessions? In our lesson today, we will learn what God has to say about our possessions and what we are to do with them.

**WORSHIP** – Choose 2-3 songs to worship as a family

**Introduction:**

Do you have a prized possession? Maybe it's a favorite toy or game or article of clothing or piece of jewelry. Do you lend your favorite item to anyone? Or do you keep it all to yourself? What if you did that with everything you owned? What if you never shared anything? What if everyone did that? What would the world be like? Of course it's ok and even wise to keep to yourself something of great value to you, but it's also wise to be willing to give that item up if it becomes more important to you than your relationship with Jesus or other people. God does not want our hearts to be consumed with thoughts of our possessions or how to acquire more possessions. Instead, He wants our hearts to be focused on Him and on those around us. If we possess something that would help others in need He wants us to be willing to give. But what if we are the person in need? Does God want us to worry and fret about having enough to meet our needs? Let's find out what the Bible says about both of those issues.

**Video: "Jesus Taught About Possessions" (Video Transcript)**

Thousands of people came together to listen to Jesus' teaching. Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to share our father's inheritance with me." Jesus said, "Watch out and be on guard against all greed. True life is not found in what you own."

Then Jesus told the people a parable: "A rich man owned land that produced many crops. He didn't have anywhere to store all of his crops, so he said to himself, 'I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then, I'll have so much stored up that I can stop working and relax.' But God told the man, 'You are a fool! You will die this very night, and then what good is everything you have stored up?' " Jesus told this story as a warning for any person who stores up treasure on earth and is not generous toward God.

Then Jesus told His disciples, "Do not worry about your life or your body—what you will eat or what you will wear. Think about the birds: They do not plant or collect grain, yet God feeds them. Aren't you worth more than birds?" Jesus also said, "Think about the wildflowers. They don't work or make clothing, yet they are lovelier than a great and rich king in his fancy clothes. If that is how God takes care of grass—which grows today and is cut down tomorrow—how much more will He do for you?" Jesus told His disciples not to worry about food or drink. "Seek God's kingdom," He said, "and God will provide what you need." God is happy to give His children the kingdom.

Finally Jesus said, "Sell your possessions and give to the poor. A thief can take away treasure on earth, but treasure stored in heaven lasts forever. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

*Christ Connection: Jesus is our greatest treasure. Jesus left His place in heaven to live humbly on earth. Jesus obeyed God to set up His kingdom. We can give generously and trust God to provide everything we need.*

**Read: Luke 12**

**Debrief:**

**In what ways has God been generous toward you and your family?** *(Recognize ways God has provided for their family—physically and spiritually. Steer kids away from bragging about any possessions or wealth they may have. Point out ways God provides by giving us friends, neighbors, and teachers. Acknowledge His greatest provision, Jesus.)*

**How can we fight against greed?** *(Recognize that we can fight greed by humbly relying on God and giving generously. We can ask God for what we need and trust that He will answer and provide in the way that is best for us. We can pray for the Holy Spirit's help in seeking God's kingdom first.)*

**Share about a time you were selfish or felt tempted to act selfishly. How can generosity lead others to Jesus?** *(Invite kids to share their experiences. Point out that the world teaches that we should look out for ourselves. In Jesus' kingdom, the opposite is true. We can put others first because God meets all of our needs. When believers live generously, others may ask why and we can share how God has been generous to us by providing eternal life through Jesus.)*

**Apply the Story**

Is it wrong to own a lot of possessions? Not necessarily. God calls some people to be rich and use their wealth for God's glory. But many people believe that the most important thing about life is earning as much money as they can or owning the newest and the best things. But for believers, that is not what is most important. We can be generous with what we have, using it to help others and tell them the good news about Jesus. How can you use your possessions for God's glory? Jesus taught people not to worry because God provides for our needs. God provides for even the birds and the wildflowers. You are worth more than birds and the wildflowers. God created you in His image, and He cares about you. He will provide what we need. He has already provided for our greatest need—salvation from sin—by sending His Son.

**Momentum Moment** – Make a Care Package (supplies: notes, envelopes, markers or crayons, paper bags, small treats)

Jesus taught people not to worry because God provides for our needs. Sometimes God provides by working through other people. Let's make a care package for a family member, friend, or neighbor. Decorate the paper bags and put small treats inside the bag. Write an encouraging note with the care package, perhaps with the phrase God provides for our needs or a promise to pray for that person. Deliver or send the care package to another person this week and share God's love with that person. Sometimes a visit, a note, or a small treat from a friend can make a person feel very loved!

Putting others first is one way we can show that Jesus is our greatest treasure. Jesus left His place in heaven to live humbly on earth. Jesus obeyed God to set up His kingdom. We can give generously and trust God to provide everything we need.

**Close:** Each person prays a one sentence prayer.