

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

We need to remember that all good things come from God, and we need to give to others rather than be greedy.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn why they should not be greedy.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 12:13-21. Parable of the rich fool.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Do not set foot on the path of the wicked or walk in the way of evildoers. " - Proverbs 4:14 (NIV)

Practice saying the memory verse, then see who can say it backwards.

SUMMARY:

In Hungry Hungry Hippo, the guy who ends up with the most marbles wins. In real life, it doesn't work that way. Greed and gluttony get in the way of our relationship with God, and when we are greedy, we do not share with others like God intended. We need to remember that everything we have comes from God. We need to keep God first and think of others so that we can bless others with the blessings we have been given.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to remember that all good gifts from you. Help us to not be greedy with what you've given us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

EASY AT HOME OBJECT LESSON

ITEM NEEDED:

Extra Large drink cup, preferably from a fast food chain

Do any of you have cups like this around your house? How many of your parents like to “up size” their combos when you go to a fast food joint?

Upsizing fast food meals became popular back in the 1990’s. McDonalds called it super-sizing your meal. When you super-sized your meal, you got a large fry and large drink instead of medium for only a few cents more. It seemed like a good value!

But there were people who saw super-sizing for what it was - gluttony and greed. People were over-indulging in fast food. They didn’t need those extra fries and that extra bit of soft drink or the calories they provided. A filmmaker even made a movie called “Super Size Me” to expose the dangers of eating such large meals.

McDonalds no longer super-sizes their combos. Not that you can’t still get a large Coke and fry, but now it’s just a large meal. Super-sizing is a bad word. We don’t want to hear it or think about it. But the sad truth is, we still do it!

God doesn’t want us to be greedy. God wants us to be thankful and content with what we have, and not to want more. Greed is a form of idolatry where we put possessions and things ahead of God, and God has told us explicitly to have no other gods before him.

What’s more, when we do have a super-size amount of something, God doesn’t want us keeping it to ourselves. He wants us to share with those who do not have as much.

God gave us a beautiful world full of blessings for us to enjoy, but we need to save our worship for the creator, not the created, and share those blessings with others. We don’t need to super size what we have. We need to take what we have and learn to give it away.



FAMILY GAME TIME

HUNGRY HUNGRY KIDS

ITEMS NEEDED:

Bag of M&Ms (or skittles, or similar candy)
8 Plastic cups
Table and chairs

INSTRUCTIONS:

Place all of the candy in the center of the table. Choose 2-4 contestants and have them sit at the table. Give each contestant 2 cups. When you say go the kids must use 1 cup to gather as much candy as they can into the other cup, but contestants cannot use their hands. They must have 1 cup in each hand at all times. Whoever has the most candy when all the candy is off the table wins.

VARIATION:

Popcorn or another non-candy snack can be substituted for the M&Ms.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

God doesn't want us to be greedy like hungry hippos. He wants us to remember that all things come from Him.

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

We need to remember that all good things come from God, and we need to give to others rather than be greedy.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn why they should not be greedy.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 12:13-21. Parable of the rich fool.

INTRO

I want all of you to do something for me. Take your hands and ball them together. Interlock your fingers and make one big ball with your two hands.

Do you see how big your hands are? That's about how big your stomach is. Which leads to a very interesting question: why would we ever eat more food at a meal than can fit in our stomach? If this is all the room we have, then there's no reason to eat two or three plates full of food, but how many of you have eaten so much at a meal that you thought your stomach would blow up?

Eating more food than your stomach can hold doesn't make you healthier. In fact, it can make you unhealthy if you do it a lot. It doesn't give you extra nutrients or extra energy. It doesn't make up for lost time if you skipped a meal or didn't get enough at the last meal. But go to a buffet and watch how people stuff and stuff and stuff their bodies with more food than they need - like a big pack of hungry hungry hippos!

I'm sorry, I shouldn't have said that. It's not fair to the real hungry hungry hippos. Hungry hungry hippos are fun plastic playthings that are part of one of the greatest kids games ever invented, relentlessly devouring marble after marble for hours of fun the whole family can enjoy.

People who overeat, on the other hand, are what health experts would call over-indulging. We could also call it gluttony, or even greed. It's an unhealthy behavior that's destructive to us and to others, whether our obsession is food, money, or possessions. When we are greedy or gluttonous, we put our desire for something - whether it's food, money, or whatever - ahead of our need for God. And when we put something ahead of God, that always causes problems!

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

Jesus tells a story about a greedy man that I'd like us to look at today. It's a good warning that the "game" we play called greed is not a game we can win.

READ Luke 12:13-21

MAIN POINT

Jesus tells the story of a man who thought he had everything. He had enough to last him a lifetime - maybe several lifetimes. But he would never get to enjoy it because that night, he would die, and none of that harvest would go with him.

Jesus tells this story in response to a man who seemed to have a legitimate request. His father had died, and his brother was being greedy with the inheritance. But Jesus refused to get in the middle of the dispute. Instead, he took the opportunity to warn all who were present about the dangers of greed.

There's nothing wrong with enjoying the things of this world. The Bible tells us that God made the world for our enjoyment, and it's okay if we enjoy the blessings he gives us. But when we care more about the blessings, the blessings can become our god. We put our faith in things that do not last.

The things of this world are blessings, but they are only temporary, like the false gods worshipped by the Israelites in the Old Testament. They cannot save us from death, and when we die, those things will stay behind here on Earth.

Jesus wants us to place our trust in Him. When we die, our bodies will remain here on Earth with all the stuff we thought was so important. If we believe in Jesus, our souls will go on to be with him. You won't get the same promise from money or fame!

DRIVE IT HOME

There's another big reason why God hates greed. When the rich fool in the parable sees all the food he has, he thinks only of himself. HE has enough food to last a long time. HE can relax and take it easy. HE can build bigger barns and store all the food for who? HIMSELF!

One of the reasons God gives us blessings in abundance is so we can share them with those who do not have as much! Greed keeps us from sharing. Greedy people lock their possessions away where no one can enjoy them.

God wants those who have wealth to share what they have - not because they have to, but because they want to as a way of showing thanks for what God gave them. The early church in Acts was a great example of this kind of giving.

READ Acts 2:42-47

FAMILY BIBLE LESSON

It seems so ideal, so perfect, doesn't it? Yet it's harder than ever to become a giving, caring church because the world we live in is driven by greed. Turn on the TV and you'll see a steady stream of commercials designed to make you want stuff you don't need. The people who make all those things are constantly inventing new stuff so that every year or so, you have to buy newer stuff to stay cool. And if you don't have the money to replace all that new stuff, there are credit card companies willing to lend you a plastic card so you can buy all that cool stuff and get some debt to go with it!

The only way we can overcome this obsession for more stuff is to keep our eyes on Jesus. We need to hear the lesson in the parable of the rich man, and remember that our stuff is just stuff. We need share with others what God gives us so that those who are in need can have those needs met. Most importantly, we need to place our trust in Jesus, who is eternal, and not put trust in things that are only temporary. Instead of Hungry Hungry Humans, Jesus will make us Happy Happy Humans.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Help us to remember that all good gifts come from you. Help us to not be greedy with what you've given us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

ICEBREAKER

Can you spell hippopotamus?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Luke 12:13-21

What “problem” did this man have?

What solution to his problem did the man come up with?

Why does Jesus say this man was a fool?

Where do all the good things in our lives come from?

What good can come from learning to give and share our wealth with others?

Is there something in your life you’ve been hoarding?

How can you share it with others in a way that would please God?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

Thank you for the many blessings you have given us. Forgive us for treasuring things more than we treasure you. Teach us to be grateful and to share the blessings we have with others.

In Jesus’ name,

Amen



LESSON REVIEW GAME

True or False.

The rich man had more food in his harvest than he needed.

TRUE

The rich man was wise to keep all the grain for himself.

FALSE

God called the rich man a fool because he was greedy.

TRUE

All good things come to us from God.

TRUE

God wants us to share what we have with others.

TRUE



CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have kids draw a picture of them sharing something with a friend or family member.