

# POSSESSIONS

### Introduction

The following parable shows us the effects of greed. Jesus calls us to share our resources with others for the sake of God's kingdom. Listen to the parable. Then, move into groups of 4 and discuss the questionnaire.

- Just for fun, if the Rich Fool in the parable (you can call him George Megabucks) lived in your community, what neighborhood would he live in and what kind of car would he drive?
- Where would Mr. Megabucks go to church? How regular would he be in attendance?
- How would you describe George?
 

<input type="checkbox"/> clever	<input type="checkbox"/> content
<input type="checkbox"/> secure	<input type="checkbox"/> materialistic
<input type="checkbox"/> a show-off	<input type="checkbox"/> screwed up
<input type="checkbox"/> immature	<input type="checkbox"/> brilliant
<input type="checkbox"/> unhappy	<input type="checkbox"/> dumb
<input type="checkbox"/> selfish	<input type="checkbox"/> lucky
- After dying, how would the local paper describe George in the obituaries?
  - ☐ a tireless worker
  - ☐ a success story
  - ☐ foolish
  - ☐ enterprising

### THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL

<sup>13</sup>Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

<sup>14</sup>Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" <sup>15</sup>Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

<sup>16</sup>And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. <sup>17</sup>He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

<sup>18</sup>"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup>And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

<sup>20</sup>"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

<sup>21</sup>"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

**Luke 12:13-21**

- If you had been a friend of the rich man in this parable, how would you have acted toward him?
  - ☐ kissed up to him so he would invite me to his parties
  - ☐ snubbed him just to show everyone I don't care about money
  - ☐ treated him like everyone else
  - ☐ witnessed to him about Christ
  - ☐ shown him how to relax and just enjoy life
- If you suddenly came into money, what would you do with it?
  - ☐ quit school or work—travel the world
  - ☐ share it with friends or family
  - ☐ buy a car or motorcycle
  - ☐ throw a huge party
  - ☐ not let anyone know
  - ☐ give it to the needy
  - ☐ keep doing the things I am doing now
  - ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_

7. What do you value most in life? (Rank your top three choices.)

- \_\_\_ my family
- \_\_\_ my friends
- \_\_\_ my assets
- \_\_\_ my good health
- \_\_\_ my work
- \_\_\_ my faith
- \_\_\_ my integrity
- \_\_\_ my memories
- \_\_\_ my time

8. If you should die today, what would the people closest to you say about you in the newspaper? Finish the sentences below with the first thing that comes to mind. If the others in your group want to help you with your answers, let them speak up.

- ☐ Last night (fill in your name) died suddenly.
- ☐ He / She will always be remembered at church for their ...
- ☐ He / She always had time for ...
- ☐ He / She felt that possessions were ...
- ☐ He / She treated people like ...
- ☐ On his / her tombstone, the following words are inscribed:

9. If you were to give a "weather report" on your life recently, what would it be?

- ☐ dark and stormy
- ☐ bright and sunny
- ☐ partly cloudy
- ☐ dreary and gray
- ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_

10. In light of the "weather" in your life, how would you like the group to pray for you this week?

