

More Story - Time with Jesus...

from the Parables



My Name: _____

My Age: _____

Jesus, Our Very Special Teacher

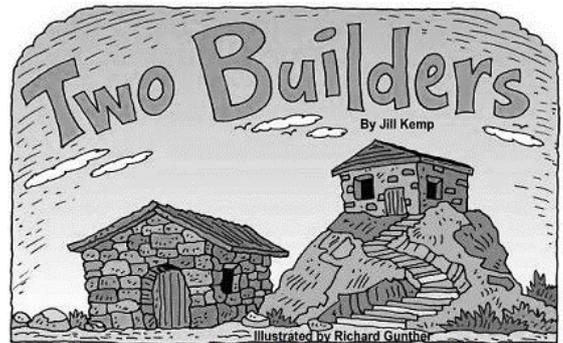
Jesus became known during his lifetime as a great teacher and he told the best stories. When he talked, people would be very quiet so that they could hear every word He said. Luke tells us that people were amazed at Jesus' teaching because He taught like someone with authority. This means Jesus knew a lot about God and that he could teach using stories that were simple and easy to understand. Jesus made the understanding of the Kingdom of God possible for everyone who believes, even little children...

LESSON 1: The Parable of the Wise & Foolish Builders

READ: Matthew 7:24–27

We should always use strong materials to build a strong house. And we must think about where we want to build a house. Some places are better to build a house than others. Jesus knew a lot about building. He said that the best place to build a strong house was on solid rock. The worst place to build a house was on soft sand. In fact, Jesus told a story about what it means to be wise or foolish by describing how a wise person would build a house on a strong rock, but a foolish person would build a house on soft sand.

Jesus was not only telling us how to build the best houses. He was also teaching us how to live our lives. He said live your life like **a wise person** would live. Don't live your life like **a foolish person** lives. Here's what He said:



- 📖 **Matthew 7:24** “So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man.”
- 📖 **Matthew: 7:26** “But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man.”

Jesus taught us that when we are taught from the Bible how God wants us to live and we obey God, we are being wise. But some people have heard what God wants them to do, but still don't obey God. Instead they may even disobey God. That's being foolish.

GAME: BEING WISE

I'm going to tell you some things we could do. If you think they're wise because they're following Jesus, give somebody “rock” (a fist bump). If you think they're foolish, say, “whoosh” with your hands up. Ready?

- ⊙ Hitting our little brother/sister
- ⊙ Obeying our parents
- ⊙ Praying for a friend
- ⊙ Cheating on a test
- ⊙ Sharing with those in need
- ⊙ Being afraid

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the wise builder build his house on? _____
2. What did the foolish builder build his house on? _____
3. To be wise means to O _ _ _ what God's W _ _ _ says.

MEMORY VERSE:

**" EVERYONE WHO HEARS MY WORDS AND OBEYS
ME IS BEING A WISE PERSON"
MATTHEW 7:24**

**PRAYER: Dear Jesus, help me to be like to wise builder and DO
what Your Word tells me to do. Amen.**

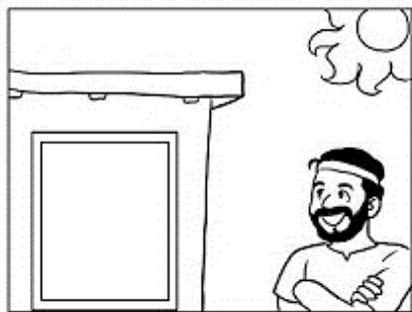
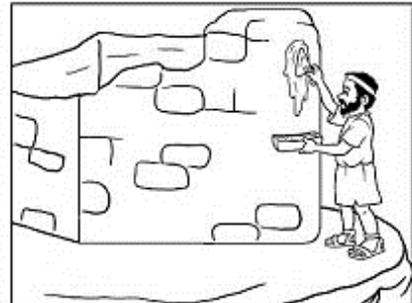
SONG: THE WISE MAN BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON THE ROCK
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu5bBDRpzPM>)

ACTIVITY 1: Colour the Picture

The Foolish Man



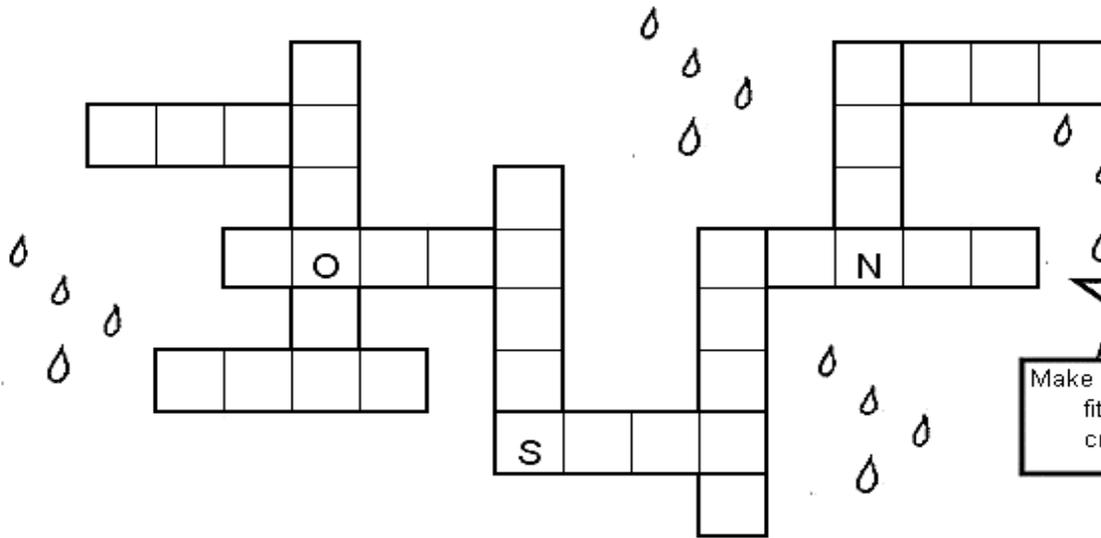
The Wise Man



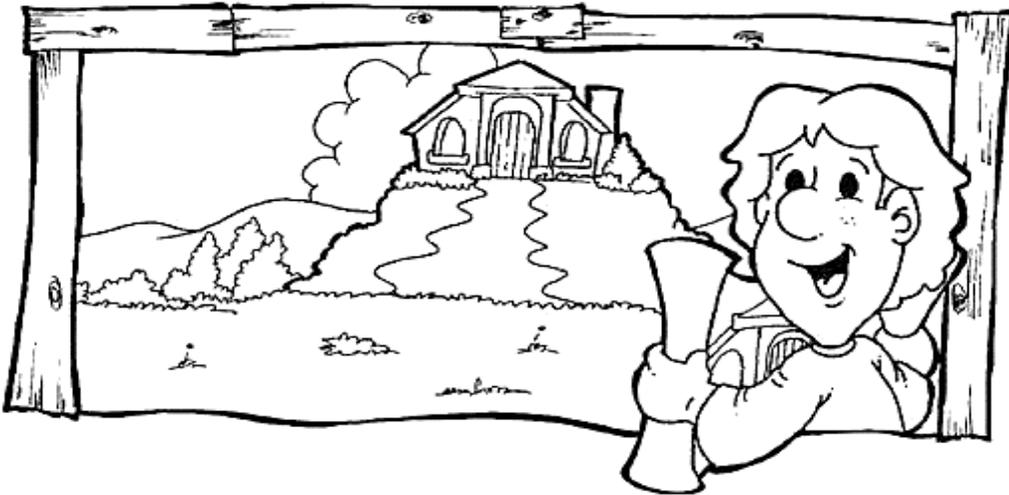
ACTIVITY 2: Make all the words fit into the Crossword Puzzle



The House on the Rock



★
Make all the words fit into this crossword



- ★
- Words
 - Wise
 - House
 - Rock
 - Rain
 - Floods
 - Winds
 - Fool
 - Sand
 - Jesus

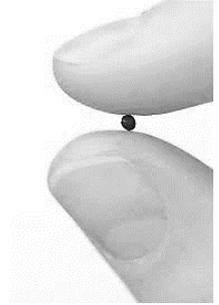


LESSON 2: The Parable of the Mustard Seed

READ: Matthew 13:31-32

One famous story Jesus told was about a tiny, tiny mustard seed. A mustard seed was the tiniest seed Jesus could find. A Mustard seed is just a little bit bigger than a grain of sand. What was Jesus going to say about this little seed?

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God was like the little mustard seed. A farmer can plant this tiny seed in his field. A few weeks later he would see a plant growing. A few months later that plant would grow to one of the biggest plants in his garden. In actual fact, it would grow to be the size of a small tree! If four or five children could stand on top of each other, that's how big a mustard tree can grow! That is 3-4 metres tall.



God's Kingdom is that. **(1) It is growing around the world as people become God's children.** In the beginning it seems very, very small. It doesn't look like it can get very big. When Jesus started telling others about God, there were less than 100 people who joined God's Kingdom. But today there are more than 1,000,000,000 people in God's Kingdom right now. That is more than 1 billion people. Plus, there are 1,000,000,000's of others who were part of God's Kingdom who died and are now in heaven. God's Kingdom started small, just like a mustard seed with just a few people. Now it is like a huge tree with billions of people who belong to God's Kingdom.

Another way we see that how God's Kingdom is like a mustard seed is how **(2) the Kingdom of God grows in us.** When we hear God's Word, read the Bible, serve Jesus and His church, it's like a tiny seed is planted within us. That seed starts to grow and grow. God helps us make small changes at first, and we only know a little about God. But over time, we obey God in many, many ways, and we get to know a lot about God. Maybe someday as you grow and grow, you could become a Children's Ministry Leader. You will be like that big mustard tree. You know something else? Mustard trees produce thousands of new mustard seeds. You could be like that mustard tree. When you grow, you can teach many other children how to understand God's word and how to become children of God too. That will be like planting new little seeds of God's Kingdom in other people's lives.

Don't look for
big things, just
do small things
with great love.
-Mother Teresa

QUESTIONS:

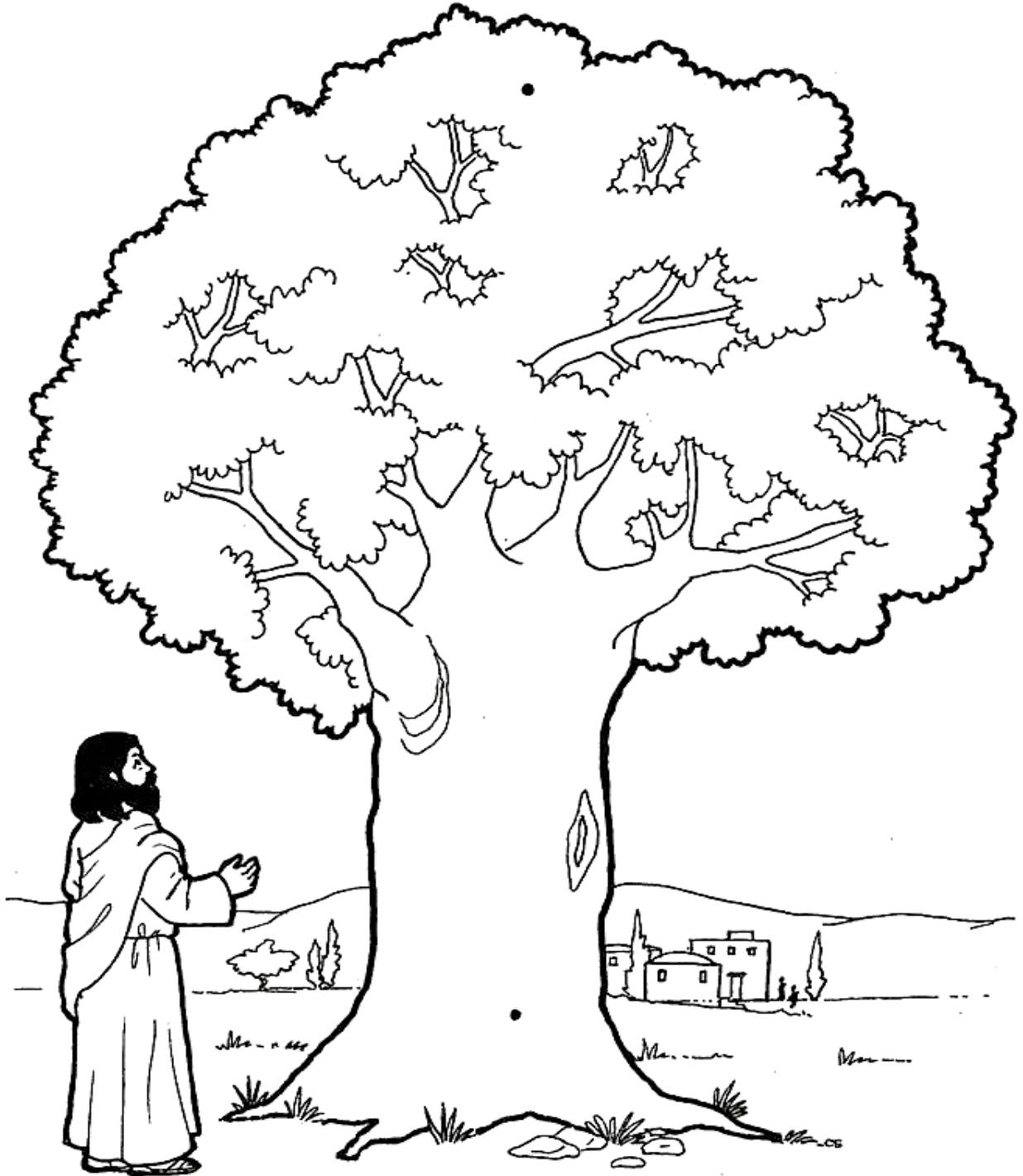
1. What type of seed did the farmer plant? _____
2. How big can a mustard plant grow? _____
3. Write down 2 ways in which the Kingdom of God is growing:
 1. _____
 2. _____

MEMORY VERSE:

**"A MUSTARD SEED IS THE SMALLEST OF ALL SEEDS, BUT
WHEN IT GROWS UP, IT IS THE BIGGEST OF ALL PLANTS."
MATTHEW 13:32 GNB**

**PRAYER: Dear Jesus, help me to grow God's Kingdom by doing little things
for You that will one day make a BIG difference in people's lives.
In Jesus' Name, Amen.**

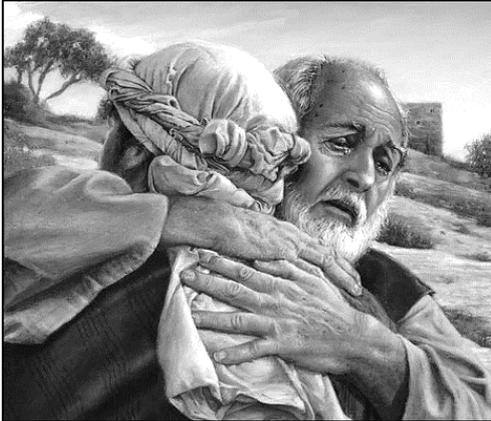
ACTIVITY: Colour the Picture and draw some birds in the tree.



LESSON 3: The Parable of the Lost Son

READ: Luke 15:11-32

This parable is a well-known parable. It tells us about a young man who made a very wrong decision. He thought he could live life on his own away from his family. He tried to do this, but it was a big mistake – he got himself into trouble. When he realised what he had done was wrong, he went back to his father. He expected his father to be very angry with him and to be unkind. But to his surprise his father was very happy that he was safe and was back home. In fact he was so happy that he threw a party.



This is another special story that Jesus told to help us understand what God is like. We all make mistakes and sin against God. We can even try to live without God in our lives. But often we see that we have made a big mistake. But like the son in this story, if we ask God to forgive us and accept us back, God will be more than happy to do that. When we try to live apart from God we often get ourselves into trouble. God knows that. That's why He is always willing to take us back when we ask him to forgive us and treat us like his sons and daughters once again.

Always remember where your "home" is and who your "Father" is! That's right, Father God.

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the youngest son ask his father to give him? _____
2. What did the youngest son do when he left home? _____

3. After the son spent his all his money, what work did he have to do?

4. When the youngest son was feeding the pigs, what did he want to eat?
_____ food!
5. Did the father forgive his son when he came back home? _____



MEMORY VERSE:

"THIS SON OF MINE WAS DEAD, BUT NOW HE IS ALIVE; HE WAS LOST, BUT NOW HE HAS BEEN FOUND" - LUKE 15:24 CEV

SONG SUGGESTION: Yes! Jesus Loves Me

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A MODERN-DAY STORY:

A son once left home against his parents will and went to live in California. He asked his father for some money and left his home. He had a good time but started buying a lot of unnecessary things. Soon he was out of money and all his friends left him. Things became very bad for him and he didn't know what to do. He didn't even have enough money for food each day. Eventually he wrote a letter to his parents. This is what it said:

"Dear Mom and Dad, I'm sorry for what I've done. I don't have any excuse. There's no reason for you to love me or welcome me back home. But I'm at the bottom of the barrel, and if it's okay, I would like to come home. I am hoping that you'll take me back. I have been given a ticket for a train, a ticket to get me back home. The train comes past our farm just south of the city. It comes around the bend and right past our farmhouse. If you want me to come home, please put a white towel on the clothesline, out in the back yard near the tracks. If a towel is there, I will know that you want me to come back home. If there is no towel there, I'll know that I shouldn't come back home."

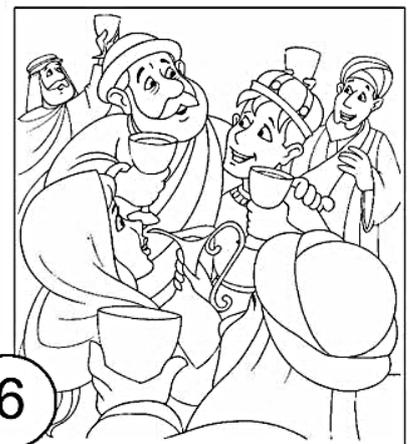
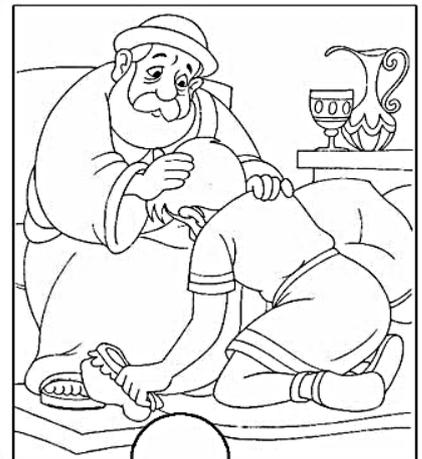
The young man sent the letter, got on the train, and started out on his trip home. As he came closer to his destination, he became more and more nervous inside and was walking up and down the center passageway of the train. As the train came closer and closer to his farmhouse, he couldn't bear it anymore. He said to the man sitting next to him, "Sir, around this next corner, around this bend, there is going to be a farm house on the left. A white house with an old red barn behind it. It's got an old fence. There will be a clothesline in the back yard. Would you do me a favour and look and see if there is a white towel hanging on the clothesline? I know it sounds strange, but I can't bear to look." The train came closer and closer and it started to go around the bend, and the young man's heart was racing as fast as it could. The man said, "Well, it looks to me like ... um, yes, look, open your eyes!" When the young man opened his eyes, he looked out the window to see that the whole clothesline was covered with white towels. The barn roof was covered with white sheets, the trees were all covered with white sheets, the old fence was covered with white sheets. There were white towels and sheets everywhere. And in that moment, the young man knew that his parents wanted to welcome him back home.



PRAYER:

**Dear Heavenly Father,
thank you that you love me and will always forgive me
no matter what I do. Amen.**

ACTIVITY: Number the pictures in the correct order, then colour picture



LESSON 4: The Parable of the Sheep & the Goats

READ: Matthew 25:31-46

In today's story Jesus is teaching about His second coming. That is, when He will come back to earth to take us to be with him in heaven. In the story he is telling us to get ready to meet him. He said everyone will want to go to heaven with him, but not everyone will be allowed in. The reason is that some people are doing what he told them to do, and others are not. Jesus will only take those people who obey him with him to heaven.

In this story Jesus told us some very special ways that we need to obey him. He told us to care of other believers when they are in need or if they are poor. For example, He told us to take care of people who are hungry and feed them. He told us to give those who are thirsty something to drink. He told us to get clothes for those who don't have clothes, and to visit people when they are visit people who are put into prison because they were telling people about him. Jesus said every time we do this, it's like doing it for him. He called the people who obey him 'sheep'. He called the people who don't obey him 'goats'.

Today even in churches the sheep (those who obey Jesus by helping others) and the goats (people who only care for themselves) are all mixed. But when Jesus comes he will separate the sheep and the goats and he will only take his sheep with him to heaven. So if we want to get ready to go to heaven we need to obey Jesus by helping our brothers and sisters who are poor or who are in need.

QUESTIONS:

1. **What do you think it will be like when Jesus comes again?** _____

2. **Who are the sheep in today's story? (vs.33-36)** _____
3. **Who are the goats? (vs. 33, 41-43)** _____
4. **Name 2 things that the children of God did to help others (vs. 35-36)**
 - a) _____
 - b) _____
5. **What will our reward be if we serve others? (vs. 34)** _____

MEMORY VERSE:

"THE KING WILL ANSWER, "WHENEVER YOU DID IT FOR ANY OF MY PEOPLE, NO MATTER HOW UNIMPORTANT THEY SEEMED, IT'S LIKE YOU DID IT FOR ME" - MATTHEW 25:40

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, help me look out for people who are poor and to help them just like You asked us to. Amen.



SONG SUGGESTION: I just wanna be a sheep

Read the story:

"I have many memories of when I was young boy. Having dinner on Sundays was one of them. Just as we children waited anxiously at the table, with the smell of roast beef filling the room, Mother would say to me, 'Tommy, before we eat, take this plate I've prepared down the street to Old Bob and hurry back.' I would run down to Bob's house and then wait anxiously as his aged feet brought him eventually to the door. Then I would hand him the plate of food. He would present to me the clean plate from the previous Sunday and offer me a dime as pay for my services. My answer was always the same: 'I can't accept the money. My mother would give me a hiding.' He would ... then say, 'My boy, you have a wonderful mother. Tell her thank you.' ... I remember, too, that Sunday dinner always seemed to taste a bit better after I had returned from my helping to feed Old Bob". (by Thomas S. Monson, "The Long Line of the Lonely," Ensign, Feb. 1992, p. 4).

ACTIVITY: Colour the Picture



LESSON 5: The Parable of the Rich Fool

READ: Luke 12:16–21 & vs. 34

Jesus told people a story about a man who was rich but foolish. He had a lot of money and was making more and more all the time. But he was so busy making money that he forgot to take time to obey God. So, when he was about to die God told him that he was a fool because he had forgot to take care of thing that was worth more than all the money in the world – his soul.

The man started out enjoying things his money could but, but as he got richer, he got more and more **greedy**. Instead of sharing his money and helping other people, he kept saving it all for himself. This can happen to any of us. We think we are clever or successful when we earn a lot of money or drive nice cars or wear expensive clothing or have the latest cell phones. But it takes a lot of time and hard work to get rich, and sometimes we have no time left over to spend with God. People sometimes work so hard that they don't have time to go to church or even read their Bible at home.



Later in the chapter in Luke 12:34 Jesus said another thing about money. This time he said that **we should not worry** about where we will get the money we need to buy the food and clothing we need. God loves us and will always take care of us. He said instead of always worrying about those things we should always make enough time to love God.

MEMORY VERSE #1:

“BE CAREFUL TO GUARD YOURSELVES FROM EVERY KIND OF GREED. LIFE IS NOT ABOUT HAVING A LOT OF MATERIAL POSSESSIONS.” LUKE 12:15

MEMORY VERSE #2:

“FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS, THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO”. LUKE 12:34

PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, help me to not be greedy and want more things than I need. Also help me not to worry about the things I need. I know that you love me and will always take good care of me. Amen.

SONG SUGGESTION: My Number One – Hillsongs Kids

GAME: Store the Rice (or beans, marbles)

This is a relay game you can play as a family. Make 2 teams. It is a race to pick up the rice from a large box/bowl across the room. The catch is that one team can use a cup, and the other can only use a spoon. Which team picked up more? After measuring, have teams swap so that the losers become the winners!

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the rich man want to do because the ground produced a good crop? (vs. 18) _____
 2. What did God say to him? (vs. 20) _____
 3. How can we be "rich towards God"? (vs. 21) _____
-

ACTIVITY 1:

Draw a picture to retell the parable of the rich fool.

Imagine you are a rich man. What would you do if your land produced many crops?

This parable teaches me..

How would you describe the rich man's character?

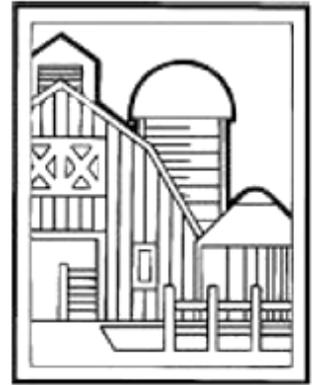


ACTIVITY 2: WORD SEARCH

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Then he said, "Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own."
Luke 12:15 (NLT)

Based on Luke 12:13-21



C T G O O D T G R O U N D Z A
O Y Y Z R D R I N K I Z Z P L
T D N A G H I W U X A E O R I
W O U T A F I E L Y G P I L F
W G G N T M Y S J D I R S E E
F F R E E A T E U S V N D A Y
V F I K U K L J B S R I D E S
Q O C M E R R Y D A V E I G T
V O H S Z D T W B I E S N Z Q
H L R T J A O U D R T I Q H R
P G F F S R I N G O H C C E C
G L R K C T K R H T P T G U B
T I C A W H O D Q O A G Q F A
G I X Y I X O R R W I V M M H
L K T T J N X C E B R S Q V W

JUDGE	CROWD	THINGS	BARN	GUARD
STORE	EAT	BIGGER	LIFE	GREED
RICH	FOOL	DIVIDE	GROUND	DRINK
GOOD	CROP	WATCH	GRAIN	MERRY

LESSON 6: The Parable of the Pharisee & the Tax Collector

READ: Luke 18: 9–14

Jesus told this parable to some people who thought they were better than others and who looked down on everyone else." Luke 18:9

Have you ever met someone who thinks they are better than everyone else? They like to brag about themselves. They think they are better looking than other people. They think they are more clever than other people. They think they are faster or stronger or more popular than other people. I bet you have!

In Jesus' day, people often went to the temple to pray two times a day, once in the morning and once in the evening. People could go as a group or on their own to pray alone to God. Jesus told the parable of two men who went to pray at the temple during one of the prayer times. One person was a Pharisee. He was a religious leader. He was so proud of what a good person he was that in his prayers, he just told God all the good things he had done and how he was better than other people. He prayed out loud so that people could be impressed by him.

The other person who went to pray was a tax collector. Tax collectors were not liked by many people because sometimes they stole from people by cheating them. But this tax collector was humble and just asked God to have mercy on him because he realised that what he did was a sin. He even called himself a sinner.



When the Pharisee saw the tax collector, he was even more proud. He even thanked God that he was not as wicked as the tax collector. Soon his time of prayer turned into a time of bragging. Little did he know that God was busy listening to the tax collector and forgiving his sins. Meanwhile he was so busy bragging that he forgot to ask God to forgive him, so he left the temple without being forgiven.

Jesus was teaching us that we must also not compare ourselves to other people, and we must definitely not think we are better than anyone else. Everyone of us sins. When we pray, we should be humble and confess our sins. Then God will also forgive us. A time of prayer is a time to ask God to forgive us. It's not a time to brag or look down on other people.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is bragging? _____

2. What does it mean to be humble? _____

3. Which man's prayer pleased God? _____

4. How does Jesus want you to pray? (Mt. 6:6) _____

MEMORY VERSE:

**"HE WHO HUMBLE THEMSELVES WILL BE EXALTED."
LUKE 18:14**

PRAYER:

Dear Lord, help me to not compare myself to other people and think I am better than them. Help me to look at my own faults as I pray to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

STORY-TIME: THE BEST ROBOT



XT-27 wasn't just any robot. His identification plate read "XT-27: The best, most modern robot". He was, indeed, the most up-to-date robot currently available, a product difficult to beat. Of course, this made him feel very proud. So much so, **that when he saw other robots in the street**, he would look at them with a certain air of superiority; he reserved his enthusiastic greetings for other XT-27s.

"All robots should be like us XT-27s", he thought to himself. He was convinced that no new robot would be able to improve on the XT-27 model, **and that the world would be a much better place if all robots were like himself.**

One day, he was walking along in Bionic City, when a big yellow door suddenly appeared, **about an inch in front of his piezoelectric optical sensors (that's eyes to you and me**, but XT-27 liked to use highly technical sounding words for everything).

He had no idea where the door had come from, but thanks to being an XT-27, **his quick reactions allowed him to avoid walking straight into it.** Intrigued, he pulled it open and went through the doorway. The door led to a fantastic city. All the city's inhabitants were XT-27s, and everything he saw there was mind-blowing!

Excited at having found his perfect city, **he set to exploring the whole place**, stopping from time to time to talk to people, telling them what a great thing it was to be an XT-27. Finally, **he moved into his moulded fibreglass bubble (a house)**, on the outskirts of the city. The days passed, but he suddenly realised that there was something about that city that he didn't like. As all the robots were XT-27s, it meant that no one had any reason to feel better or more up-to-date than anyone else, and, in fact, nobody did. No one looked down on others, and, if truth be told, **he found that with the passing of time not even he felt special any more.**

On top of that, things became very boring. Everyone could do things equally well, which made it impossible for anyone to stand out from the crowd. **Whenever he did anything which he thought brilliant**, it turned out that the other robots had done exactly the same thing and at the same time.

So, XT-27 started to miss those varied little robots in his previous world. **Each one had had its good and bad points**, but that made them different and fun. He realised that he would much prefer to meet a clumsy-but-fun TP-4, **and spend a while chatting with it**, than see yet another XT-27.

So, he started searching for that big yellow door. **It took him several days to find it**, but finally he did. Just like before, it was standing in the middle of a normal street. **He put his hand on the door and looked behind him**, as if saying farewell to the city that had at first seemed so perfect. Then, he gave the door a joyful push...

When he woke up, the XT-27 was on the ground, **and some people were helping him to his feet**. He looked around, and there was no yellow door at all. Instead there was an enormous shiny yellow robot. The **XT-27 had bumped into it so violently that the jolt had made his circuits malfunction**. The XT-27, surprised at not having managed to avoid the collision, looked carefully at that formidable-looking robot. He had never seen one like it. **It seemed perfect in every way**. It was taller and more powerful than any other, and its identification plate read: "XT-28, the best, most modern robot". So they had done it. **The seemingly impossible had happened**. The XT-27s were no longer the best robots of all. Even so, our friend didn't feel the slightest sadness. Seconds earlier, **when dreaming about the perfect city**, he had learnt that he was very happy to be different, and that it was great to have hundreds of different robots; each one with its very own good and bad points.

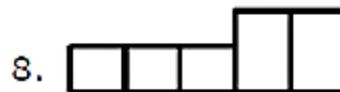
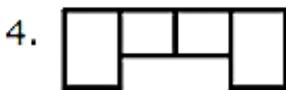
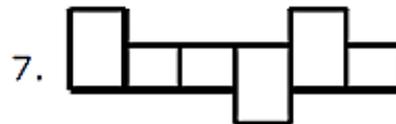
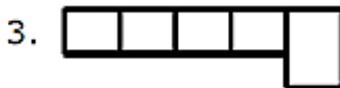
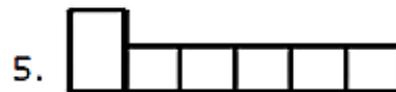
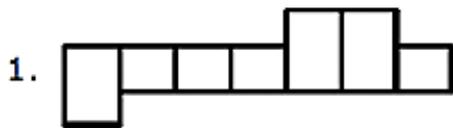
ACTIVITY:

The Pharisee & The Tax Collector



For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. Luke 18:14b (NIV)

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



humble	parable	heaven	exalt
pray	mercy	temple	sinner

LESSON 7: The Parable of the Widow Who never Gave Up

READ: Luke 18: 1-8

Once there was a little boy who wanted more than anything to play in the band at school. The boy went home from school one day and asked his parents if they would buy him an instrument and let him sign up to play in the band. Well, the boy's parents didn't say yes, and they didn't say no. They said, "We'll have to think about it. After all, a musical instrument costs a lot of money and we aren't sure you will stick with it."

A few days went by and the boy's parents still hadn't said anything, so the boy decided he should ask again. The boy's parents didn't say yes, and they didn't say no. They said, "We are still thinking about it."

On his way home from school the next day, the boy decided to stop by the local music store to check out the musical instruments. When he walked in the store, the first thing that caught his eye was a beautiful, shiny trumpet. It wasn't new, but it was in very good condition and it had a really cool fake crocodile skin case. It was just what he wanted.

That night at supper the boy said to his parents, "I went by the music store today after school and they have a really nice used trumpet. It is exactly what I want and it only costs R500."



The boy's father turned to his wife and said, "I guess we had better go take a look at that trumpet or we are never going to hear the end of this." The next day, the boy went to the music store with his parents and they bought him that trumpet.

The boy joined the band -- and he did stick with it. He played in the band all through high school and when he graduated from high school, he went on to college and studied music. After graduating from college, he became a music teacher. I wonder how differently his life might have turned out if he had asked his parents for that musical instrument one time and never mentioned it again.

The Bible teaches us that just as our parents want what is best for us and will give us what we ask for, God, our heavenly Father, also hears and answers our requests. Sometimes we ask God for something one time and never mention it again. Maybe it's because we are impatient. When we ask for something, we want God to say "yes," and we want Him to say it right now!

Jesus said that we should always pray and not give up. Perhaps God just wants us to show that we are really serious about what we are asking of Him. Does this mean that if we keep asking for something over and over again that God will always give it to us? No, but He loves us and wants what is best for us, and He will answer, "yes" if He can.

PRAYER:

Dear Father, teach us to pray - and teach us to be patient and persistent in prayer. In Jesus' name, Amen.

MEMORY VERSE:

“ALWAYS PRAY AND NEVER GIVE UP.”
LUKE 18:1

ACTIVITY: Start a Prayer-Journal.



Write 5 things you would like to pray for from the “5-Finger Prayer”.



Pray for it every day.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

The 5 Finger Prayer

Thumb: Those closest to you, your family.

Pointer: Those that point you in the right direction (teachers, doctors, priests) ask for wisdom & support.

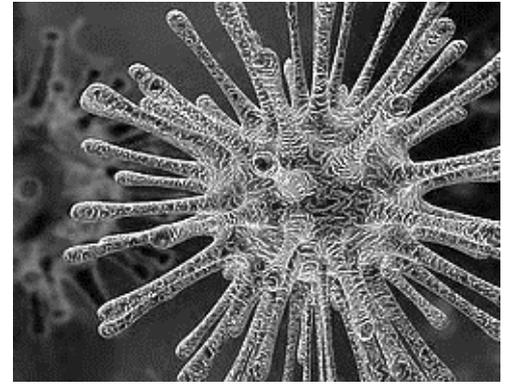
Index: (tallest) Those that lead us, (Government) ask for guidance & wisdom.

Ring: (weakest) Those that are weak, in trouble, or in pain. We cannot pray too much for them.

Pinkie: (smallest) Our prayers for ourselves & our own needs.



COVERING THE WORLD IN PRAYER



PRAY ALSO FOR:

- ⊙ The covid-19 virus to end.
- ⊙ The many people working hard to find a cure, the doctors, nurses, policemen, army, etc.
- ⊙ The families of those who have lost loved ones.
- ⊙ The people who are ill with the virus – for God to heal them.
- ⊙ For our world, country and leaders to make wise decisions.

SONG SUGGESTIONS:

1. How great is Our God – by Chris Tomlin
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBD18rsVJHk&feature=youtu.be>
2. Waymaker – by Sinach
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DFGDU3XZmms>



May the Lord bless you and protect you
May the Lord smile on you
And be gracious to you
May the Lord show you His favour
And give you His peace.
Numbers 6:24-26

made with  love