

2026-05-31 Small Group Guide

Small Group Discussion Guide

"Being Rich Toward God" - Luke 12

Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin by asking God to speak to each person's heart about what it means to be rich toward Him, not just in giving, but in all areas of life.

Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Question: What's one possession or experience you've been grateful for recently? How did you recognize God's provision in it?

Key Scripture

Luke 12:15-21 - The Parable of the Rich Fool

"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

Discussion Questions

1. Understanding Greed (10-15 minutes)

The pastor defined greed simply as "more." How does this simple definition challenge or change your understanding of greed?

What are the different "kinds of greed" you see in our culture today? In your own life?

Why do you think Jesus warned us to be "on guard" against greed rather than just telling us to avoid it?

2. The Rich Fool's Mistake (10-15 minutes)

Count how many times the rich man in the parable uses "I," "my," and "myself." What does this reveal about his perspective?

The man had a bumper crop—a blessing from God. What was wrong with his response to this blessing?

Have you ever experienced unexpected abundance? How did you respond?

3. Being Rich Toward God (15-20 minutes)

What do you think it means to be "rich toward God" versus being rich in possessions?

The pastor asked: "Who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" How does this question make you feel? What does it reveal?

How does Uncle David's story (facing cancer with contentment) illustrate being rich toward God?

4. Fear and Faith (10 minutes)

Jesus says to fear God who has power over both body and soul (v. 5), but also says God cares about every sparrow and hair on your head (v. 6-7).

How do these two truths work together?

What's the difference between healthy fear of God and unhealthy anxiety about life?

5. Personal Conviction (15-20 minutes)

The pastor shared his wrestling with this passage over two weeks. What part of this sermon made you uncomfortable or challenged you most?

He mentioned that we've allowed the government to take over the church's role in caring for people. What responsibility do we have as individual believers to meet needs around us?

"If a man doesn't work, he doesn't eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10) versus caring for those in need—how do we balance these biblical principles?

Key Takeaways

Our life doesn't consist in the abundance of our possessions - We can have much and still miss what matters most.

Being rich toward God means investing in eternal things - Especially in people and relationships, not just accumulating for ourselves.

Greed is subtle and comes in many forms - It's not just about money; it's about wanting "more" in any area of life.

God provides so we can share, not just consume - We are stewards, not owners, of everything we have.

Tonight could be our last night - This isn't meant to scare us but to help us live with eternal perspective.

Contentment is learned - Paul said he had to learn the secret of being content (Philippians 4:11-12).

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge (Choose 1-2):

1. The Inventory Exercise Take 30 minutes this week to:

List your major possessions and financial resources

Ask God: "What do you want me to do with these?"

Pray: "Not my will, but yours be done" regarding your resources

2. The Generosity Step

Identify one person in need you can help this week (food, encouragement, time, money)

Give without expectation of return or recognition

When you give, say: "God wanted me to share this with you. Is there anything else you need?"

3. The Contentment Practice

Each day this week, write down three things God has provided that you don't deserve

Practice saying "thank you" to God for these things

Notice when you catch yourself wanting "more" and pause to pray about it

4. The Heart Check

Ask yourself daily: "Am I being rich toward God today?"

Journal about one way you invested in eternal things versus temporary things

Share your reflections with someone in the group

5. The Conversation Starter

Have a vulnerable conversation with your spouse or close friend about your relationship with money and possessions

Ask them: "Do you see any areas of greed in my life?"

Pray together about being rich toward God

Reflection Questions for Personal Quiet Time

If tonight were my last night, what would I wish I had done differently with my resources?

What am I storing up for myself that I'm not rich toward God with?

In what ways am I more like the rich fool than I'd like to admit?

What does my bank account and calendar reveal about what I truly treasure?

How can I be content with food and clothing while still planning responsibly?

Prayer Focus

Pray for:

Eyes to see needs around us that God wants us to meet

Freedom from the grip of greed and materialism

Wisdom to know when to give and when not to

Contentment with what God has provided

Courage to have hard conversations about money and generosity

Hearts that are rich toward God, not just rich in possessions

Personal Prayer: "God, everything I have comes from you—my life, my breath, my possessions. Help me to see them as gifts to steward, not treasures to hoard. Show me how to be rich toward you. Give me your heart for people in need. Help me to invest in what lasts forever. Not my will, but yours be done. In Jesus' name, Amen."

For Next Week

Come prepared to share:

One way you practiced being rich toward God this week

One challenge you faced in applying this teaching

One insight God gave you through this sermon

Additional Resources

Scripture for further study: Matthew 6:19-34; 1 Timothy 6:6-19; 2

Corinthians 9:6-15; Philippians 4:11-13

Question to ponder: "Am I giving God my leftovers or my first fruits?"