

## THE PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL

### BIG IDEA

*God provides for us so we can honour him and share what we have with others; not so we can hoard it up for ourselves.*

### PREP *(Kids can help!)*

**Buy** a packet of balloons

**Find** two similar large T-shirts

**Find** some pens

**Find/Buy** an ice block or ice cream for each person

**Get** out the silo from the appendix, scissors and tape/glue (make it ahead of time or ask a child to do it during the session)

**Cut** some strips of paper to write on

**Put everything into the Faith Box before you start**



### INTRO

When Jesus talked to the people who followed him, he told them many stories which had hidden meanings. These stories were called parables. Sometimes the people could understand the hidden meaning straight away, and other times they had to work it out by talking about it or asking Jesus.

Let's see if we can work out the hidden meanings for some of these parables Jesus told.

## PLAY

### HOARD-IT RACE

*BLOW UP A PACKET OF BALLOONS (only half inflate) AND DIVIDE THE FAMILY INTO PARTNERS.*

*(If you have older children let them blow up the balloons as part of the game.)*

*Give each pair a large T-shirt (the shirts need to be the same size).*

*Each pair chooses a person to wear the T-shirt.*

*When you say, "Ready, steady, go!" the other person runs to the far side of the room, collects a half-inflated balloon and runs back as many times as they can to their partner who hoards as many balloons as he/she can inside their T-shirt.*

*Do it again, this time swapping tasks.*

When you think about it, it is pretty silly to try to hoard balloons...

What are some better things to do with balloons? (Decorate a room, play with them, attach to the letter box to show there is a party, etc.)

Today we are going to read a story that Jesus told. It is about a man who didn't stop to think about how silly it was to hoard all his money and stuff it away.

## READ

***Bring out the silo. This is where the man put everything. (If need be, construct it during the reading.)***

***HAND OUT AN ICE BLOCK/ICE CREAM TO EVERYONE TO EAT WHILE YOU READ (EXCEPT MUM OR DAD WHO ANNOUNCE THEY WILL KEEP THEIRS TO EAT LATER. LET THAT ICEBLOCK DRIP AND MELT INTO A PLATE OR BOWL).***

### PARABLE OF THE RICH FOOL

☞ One day when Jesus was talking to the people, two brothers asked him to sort out their argument about money. But Jesus instead said to them "Beware of all sorts of greed. Your life is not measured by how much you own." Then he told them a story: "A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.' Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have enough room to store all my wheat and other goods. And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"' "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?' "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God." ☞

*Luke 12:13-21 TNLB*

## PLAY

Sometimes we just think about ourselves and what we have, but we can be God's 'stewards' every day by thinking about what we have to offer other people.

Let's test how rich we are compared to lots of other people.

### THIS OR THAT

*(Hunger Awareness)*

***CHILDREN STAND ALONG ONE WALL***

*In response to the following questions they move from one side of the room to the other.*

Go and stand by the other wall if...

- You have eaten dessert or a sweet treat this week. *Hungry people in poor countries rarely get dessert.*
- You have had to walk a mile to get to a drink of water. *In many countries people do have to walk that far, and even then the water is often dirty.*
- You have had a drink of water more than once today. *Some people have no water to drink or to use to grow food.*
- Your freezer at home has bags or boxes of food in it. *People in many places don't have refrigerators or freezers to keep food fresh.*
- You ate meat or fish this week. *Many people eat only grains and never eat fish or meat.*

## QUESTIONS

What do you think was wrong with the rich man's attitude? What does 'greedy' mean?

What if he had shared his crops and money with others instead of keeping them?

Is keeping things always the right thing to do? (Look at Mum's/Dad's iceblock).

What does it mean to have a "rich relationship with God"?

Where is the best place to store up riches? (in heaven, by doing good here on Earth)

The man in the parable was not wrong to work hard to produce a good crop. To be a good farmer was a good thing.

So what made him a fool?

He is a fool because he thought the main purpose in life was getting possessions. He thought true riches were things, and that he owned those things. Actually God owns them, and we are only 'stewards' who look after them.

## EXPLORE

### GIVE EVERYONE A PEN AND STRIP OF PAPER

*Ask everyone to think of at least two of their favourite things and write them down.*

*Now everyone looks at their list and checks which things on their list will last forever.*

God has promised to look after us and we don't need to be greedy about trying to get everything for ourselves.



Jesus said, "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life – whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. Look at the ravens. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds!"



*Luke 12: 22-24 TNLB*

### FILL YOUR SILO WITH BLESSINGS ACTIVITY

The rich fool planned to build larger barns and silos to store his crops and possessions. Storing up blessings is a much better idea.

*Ask everyone to think of a blessing and write each one down on a separate piece of paper. Place the strips in the silo.*

*"There is a sufficiency in the world for man's need but not for man's greed."  
-Mohandas Gandhi*

## LIVE

*What extras do you have that you could share? Encourage everyone to find something to give away to your local op shop or to another family who would appreciate them.*

*As a family think about what blessings God has given to you that you can share with others. How could you do this?*

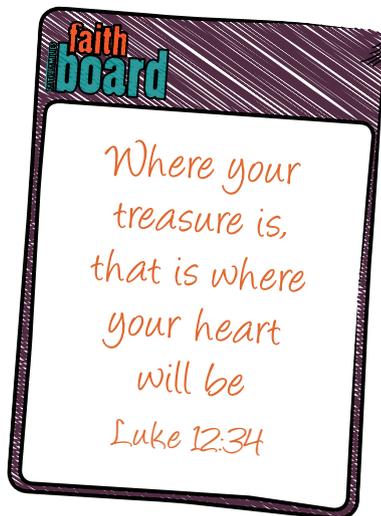
## PRAY

*PLACE THE SILO OF BLESSINGS IN THE CENTRE OF THE TABLE*

*Take turns to pick out a 'blessing strip' and thank God for it.*

Dear God, please help me to develop a 'gratitude attitude' for all the wonderful blessings you have given me. Amen.

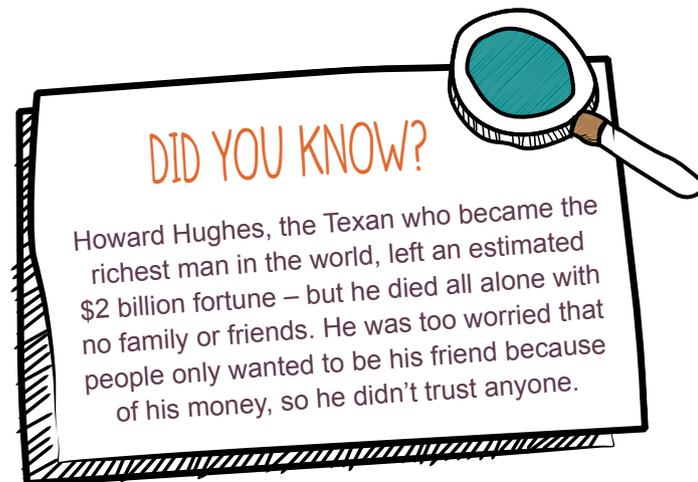
## FAITH BOARD



## OTHER IDEAS

**1** **CHOCOLATE COMPARISON**  
Provide each child with a small piece of Fair Trade chocolate and one piece that isn't Fair Trade. Remove the chocolate pieces from their wrappers beforehand and place them on plates labelled 'A' and 'B'. Ask the children to compare and contrast the chocolate. Which piece was better? Talk about how buying Fair Trade products can help others in need.

**2** Try making your own video of the parable of the rich fool.



## BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- A packet of radish seeds
- A sponge