LESSON 16

WHAT THE RICH FOOL FORGOT



Aim: **To teach the children that there are more important things in life than possessions.**

Scripture Reading: **Luke 12:15–21**

Memory Verse: **John 1:12**

Complete the memory verse from Lesson 15.
Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God …

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

Nearly everyone wants to be rich! What would you like to own if you were rich?

Main Points of the Lesson

1. What most people forget is that great riches bring great responsibilities. Jesus told a story about a rich man. Listen and see if you think he remembered his responsibilities.
2. The rich man owned fertile ground that produced good crops. In fact, he soon ran out of storage space. **Show Picture 16.** He decided the solution was to build bigger barns (12:16–18).
3. The rich man did not think of sharing his wealth with any of the poor around him. He did not even realise that his blessings came from God. The only one he cared about and wanted to please was himself (12:19).
4. Money can't buy everything, as the rich man found out in the end. God, who had given the rich man his fertile crops, took his life away from him. His possessions were of no use to him then. The rich man was a fool for forgetting God and living for the riches and pleasures of this world (12:20–21).

Our Response to the Story

Jesus wants us to understand that the things we own have to occupy second place in our lives. God gives us all we have and own, so he is to have first place. We should be concerned first of all with pleasing him.

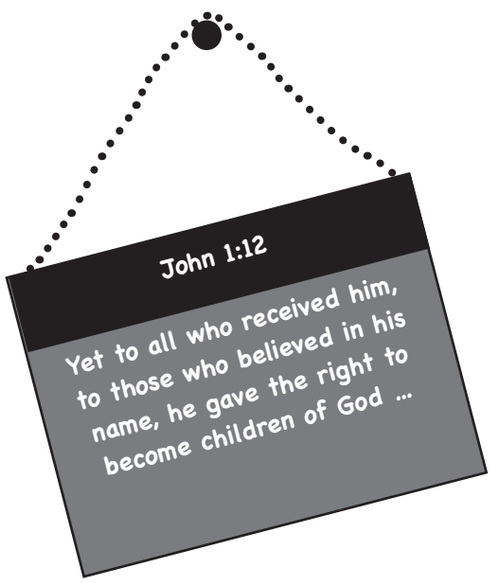
This means that the lesson of this story is meant for all of us, not only people whom we think are rich. Poor people can also become so greedy or jealous that possessions become the most important thing in their lives. In the story God had no place in the rich man's life or plans.

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It pleases God when we share what we have received from him. God asks us to trust him for what we need in this world, as he gives us the energy to work, and he will give us riches in heaven (12:15, 21).

Instil the Memory Verse



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