

## **Children and family talk for Sunday 31st July 2022.**

Good morning!

Do you collect anything? Maybe, like me you have collected more than one thing, in fact, you may have more things than you need! I don't mind admitting that I am not very good at getting rid of things, so I really do have too much! Today we're going to look at a man who had more than he needed, and what happened. We're also continuing on our Fruits of the Spirit theme for the summer. Our readings today are from

Luke chapter 12, verses 13-21 and Galatians 5 verses 22 and 23.

### **The Story of the Rich Fool**

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd spoke to Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "tell my brother to divide the family property with me."

<sup>14</sup> Jesus replied, "Friend, who made me a judge or umpire between you?" <sup>15</sup> Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against wanting to have more and more things. Life is not made up of how much a person has."

<sup>16</sup> Then Jesus told them a story. He said, "A certain rich man's land produced a very large crop. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have any 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. I will store my extra grain in them. <sup>19</sup> I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain stored away for many years. Take life easy. Eat, drink and have a good time."'

<sup>20</sup> "But God said to him, 'You foolish man! Tonight I will take your life away from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

<sup>21</sup> "That is how it will be for whoever stores things away for themselves but is not rich in the sight of God."

### **Galatians 5:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful <sup>23</sup> and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind.

#### **Talk:**

This story that Jesus told makes it quite clear that we shouldn't keep things to ourselves or take more than we need. In fact, this does us more harm than good, as we may never have the time to enjoy all the things we have. How many people do you know who pile their plates up at a party with so much that they couldn't possibly eat it! Perhaps you have done that before. We are not very good at sharing sometimes, are we? And we can be very wasteful with the abundance of good things that we have. There is actually enough food for everyone in the world and there has been for some time, if the richer countries shared with the poorer countries then no one would go without, but this doesn't happen enough. Last

September, world leaders made a commitment to end hunger by 2030, as part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, so hopefully this will happen. We will have to wait and see, but in the meantime, we all need to just try and have what we need, and no more, and this will help spread out our resources and help look after our planet too. So, can you guess which two of the fruits of the Spirit we have talked about today? Goodness and kindness. By sharing what we have and not being so greedy, we are being good and kind to others and the world we live in. I'm going to take a look at some of my possessions and see if I can take any to the charity shop, so that others can make use of them!

Now let's talk to God;

For times when we have been greedy:

**God, forgive us.**

When we have kept things back from others:

**Jesus, forgive us.**

When we have been jealous of what others have:

**Holy Spirit, renew us.**

We thank you, God, for planting the treasures of heaven in our hearts.

We thank you, Holy Spirit, for revealing them to us.

We thank you, Jesus, for enabling us to find them.

**Amen.**

Let's finish by saying the grace together:

And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out your hands as if receiving a present)

The Love of God (Cross your hands over your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands together)

Be with us all, now and for evermore, Amen. (Bring thumbs together).

Here's a link for the children's sheet: [activity-sheet-31-july-2022.pdf \(rootsontheweb.com\)](https://www.rootsontheweb.com/activity-sheet-31-july-2022.pdf)

And here's a fun song to sing with actions if you know them, 'the fruit of the spirit':

<https://youtu.be/Rezg4jYFoj0>