

# The Generous Heart

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

### DISCUSSION GOAL



*To understand that covetousness and greed are great barriers to discipleship. To understand God's heart for how we view money and possessions.*

### ICE BREAKER



Do you have brand loyalty? How would you fill in this statement? "I am a \_\_\_\_\_ (Ford, Apple, Diet Coke, etc) guy/girl." Why?

### TEXT



*Have a member of your group read the passage aloud.*

#### Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." <sup>14</sup> But he said to him, "Man, who made me a judge or arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup> And he said to them, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." <sup>16</sup> And he told them a parable, saying, "The land of a rich man produced plentifully, <sup>17</sup> and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> And he said, 'I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.'" <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' <sup>21</sup> So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God."

### MESSAGE OUTLINE



*This is what our pastoral team observed about the passage.*

**Big Idea:** Generosity protects us from being owned by the things we own.

**Key Question:** How do we guard against being owned by our stuff?

1. See the danger. (vv. 13-15)
2. Check your motives. (vv. 16-19)
3. Turn from greed. (vv. 20-21)

## DISCUSSION



- In Luke 12, Jesus is teaching the crowds about different barriers to discipleship. What barriers have you experienced to discipleship? Do you see possessions or greed as a barrier? Why?
- In Verse 15, Jesus says that we must, “take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness. What are warning signs that we are experiencing covetousness? What are practical ways we can guard ourselves, or even have a change of heart after we recognize the warning signs?
- The parable Jesus shares is meant to be a negative example for us. What do you see wrong with the rich man’s approach to his wealth?
- In verse 21, Jesus compares being rich toward the world with calling us to be “rich towards God.” What do you think this means? What are ways you have seen people be rich towards God despite a lack of possessions or financial stability?
- Read Psalm 119:33-40, paying specific attention to the psalmist’s prayer in verses 36-37. What practices or habits help you redirect your heart and attention away from covetousness and toward contentment in God’s ways?

## LIFE APPLICATION



This week’s passage challenges us to guard against being owned by the things we own. Considering this, how are you personally challenged in relation to your money and possessions? As a group come up with some ways in which you can collectively seek to be rich in God more than with possessions.

*Jot your ideas below and send a picture to your group to remind everyone of your action steps this week.*

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## PRAYER REQUESTS



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