

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

**COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.**

## Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

### Message Summary

As we learned last week, guardrails are in place to warn us of imminent danger unless we make a correction. In the first part of Luke 12, Jesus warned us to guard ourselves against hypocrisy, and in this week's passage, He tells us to guard ourselves against greed. While most people would readily agree that they don't like hypocrisy, Jesus' teaching against greed is very counter-cultural, and so these guardrails may sting a bit more than others, but they are critical, because our spiritual lives are at stake. This week's Big Idea summed up the reality of Luke 12:13-21 best: **it's impossible to be greedy and godly.**

1. **What exactly is greed?** The simplest definition of greed that I can think of is this: greed wants more than we need. This means that greed is always going to be fed by fear and forgetfulness. These are the 2 guardrails that Jesus spoke about in the parable of the rich fool.
2. **Guardrail one: we fear scarcity.** We live in a world of scarcity, but that wasn't (and still isn't) by God's design. The fall of man set the table for it, and mankind has been struggling with it ever since. Money runs out, stuff breaks, bodies get run down. It's one thing to recognize it, and quite another to fear it. The rich fool feared it, and that's why he didn't feel like he had enough even when he was already rich! When we understand God's ability to provide from His unending resources, we'll never have to fear the end of ours. But when we fear running out, we'll only grip things tighter.
3. **Guardrail two: we forget eternity.** How do we know when we've forgotten eternity? When we start to value HERE more than HEAVEN. The rich fool already had what he needed, but his focus stayed on himself and how much he could enjoy this life. He totally forgot about eternity, and he wasn't ready when he met God! Greed blinds us to eternity and keeps us from seeing our possessions as resources for God to use to achieve His eternal purposes.

### Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- Nobody likes to think of him or herself as greedy, and yet most of us struggle with wanting more even though most of us already have what we need. What does Ecclesiastes 5:10 say? Have you ever experienced that kind of greed? What is the end result of it?
- Read Matthew 6:31-33. What needs are mentioned? What needs do you currently have? According to verse 32, who knows what you need? Who does verse 33 say will provide what you need?
- In the parable of the rich fool, we see the tragic result of forgetting eternity. According to Matthew 6:33, what happens when we remember eternity? Share a time when you put God's kingdom above your own desires and experienced what verse 33 describes.
- How can we apply a verse like 1 John 3:17 in a world where the needs are bottomless?
- Does being content rule out bettering my circumstances if I get the opportunity? Why/why not?
- Are things like insurance, savings, and investments opposed to trusting God and seeking first His kingdom? Biblical support?