

Week One: The Rich Fool

Focus verse: "Jesus said, Life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Luke 12:15

This week's Bible reading: Luke 12:13-21

Additional readings:

- Ecclesiastes 2:17-23
- Psalm 51:1-4
- Isaiah 32:6
- Jeremiah 4:22
- Proverbs 11:26

Video Resources:

David Flowers – Why does money matter? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxwbNNAP_Ws

Generosity Stories – Rose https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NKz9_0Pdf6c

Prayers

Thematic Prayer

Loving Father, you have made us your people, richly provided us with good gifts and called us to live for you. May gratitude be in our hearts, may generosity be in our hands, may justice and righteousness guide our feet, and may the life of your kingdom and the joy of heaven be found among us. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Faithful One, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives For the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession

Coming together as God's family, with confidence let us ask the Father's forgiveness for our failure to respond fully to his grace, for he is full of gentleness and compassion.

A time of SILENCE - for reflection

Father God, sometimes we find it easier to accumulate things for ourselves than to be generous to those in need. Sometimes we find it is easier to maintain personal control than to be open to your guidance.

*Father God, forgive us and grant us the serenity to accept the things we cannot change, courage to change the things we can and wisdom to know the difference. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect

*Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth. Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you most humble and hearty thanks for all your goodness to us and to all people. We bless you for our creation, preservation and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the

redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And give us, we pray, such a sense of all your mercies that our hearts may be truly thankful, and that we show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honour and glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

A Prayer for Giving

Heavenly Father, give grace to us, the living stones who form your Church, to reflect prayerfully at this special time on our love for you and our neighbour. Make us mindful of the many gifts you bestow upon us. We ask that your Holy Spirit will inspire and direct us in our choice of giving, remembering that we are only giving back that which is truly yours.

Strengthen us, Lord, to meet this challenge according to your will. Through Jesus Christ our Lord who has given all that we might live. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

As those who live in the abundance of God's grace, let us pray to the Lord, saying
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray for the world in which we live; that the leaders of the affluent nations of the west may have the desire and the courage to share your resources with your children imprisoned by poverty and disease.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, we pray for your Church, for every congregation and gathering. May your people find their focus in Jesus and show forth his values in their lives and families.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are anxious or stressed by the domination of money and possessions. We pray for those in all other forms of sickness, and for those who mourn.

Offering

Consider all that God has done for you, especially as you see this in Jesus. 'Count your blessings' and respond with appropriate generosity from your material wealth.

Blessing

May God who gives us all things in Christ, swell the harvest of your benevolence, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father, we bless you for all who have gone before us in the faith of Christ, and especially we remember...

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we thank you for your abundant provision in nature. Thank you that you are our role model in your generosity and bountifulness. Help us to reflect on our attitude towards money, to take steps towards a better future, to ask ourselves questions and to be prepared for change. Transform us in heart and mind, that we might become effective servants of your Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.