

Junior Soldiers

UNIT 14 : LESSON 6



I Want More!

PURPOSE: For the children to explore and understand how much is enough and what to do with excess.

“Don’t be greedy! Owning a lot of things won’t make your life safe.”
Luke 12:15b (CEV)

Consider & Prepare

Read:

Luke 12:13-21

What happened in this story?

Why do you think Jesus told this story?

If you were the man in this story, what would you have done?

Can you think of a time when you had more of something than you needed? What did you do with the extra?

Things to consider:

In the world today and throughout history, there is an inequality in the division of wealth. The children in your group may have much more than they need. They might have just enough. They might be in the position where their basic needs are not being met on a daily basis. In this lesson, we ask children to consider what they have, to think about the difference between needs and wants and to reflect on what they might do when they have more than enough – use, store or share.

Be particularly mindful of the response of children who do not have enough. You might also find that some children in this age group feel particularly distressed about

the injustice and inequality caused by greed. Give these children an opportunity to express their feelings without hijacking the lesson. You might find it helpful to ask them what difference they would like to see.

For the 'Connecting In' activities you will need to be aware of any allergies in your group.

For the 'Memory Verse' activity be mindful of children who have latex allergies as well as those who are fearful of balloons popping. Ensure that these children are provided with a safe space away from the balloons or change the activity.

What you will need:

For 'Connecting In'

Option 1

- A block of chocolate or bowl of wrapped lollies
- A knife and fork or pair of chopsticks
- A few clothing accessories (e.g. hat, gloves, scarf, sunglasses)
- One or two dice depending on the size of your group
- Disinfectant wipes

Option 2

- A large bag of wrapped lollies or marbles or pebbles or small shells etc.
- A small bowl or container for each child (or they could use their hand instead)
- A few larger bowls

Small Group Option

- A bag of wrapped lollies

For 'The Main Thing'

- Bibles
- Five pieces of paper – write each number from 1 to 5 on a separate piece of paper

For 'Tying In'



- Print enough copies of the 'What would you do?' sheet (page 10) for each child to have one
- Pencils, crayons or markers for each child

For 'Memory Verse'

- Twelve balloons – six each in two different colours (add another set in a third colour if you have a large group)
- Print two copies of the memory verse table (more if you have a large group) (page 9)
- Cut each set into six sections and place them inside the balloons so that one complete verse is in each set of balloons

For 'Prayer Time'

- Print a copy of the prayer for each child (page 9)

For 'Home & Beyond'

- Print off the Home & Beyond cards for each child

Connecting In

I wonder how much you have. How much food do you have? How much money do you have? How many toys do you have? How many pairs of jeans do you have? *Ask these as rhetorical questions, prompting the children to think without it becoming a competition.*

Today, I have some chocolates/lollies and I'm going to share them with you.

Activity...

Option 1: Play the Chocolate Game – Greed vs. Generosity version

Preparation

- *Play this game with either chocolate or wrapped lollies. In either case, be mindful of hygiene and ensure that the children do not place the utensils in their mouths. You might like to have some disinfectant wipes handy.*
 - » *Chocolate: cut a square at a time with the knife and fork; then use fingers to place a square into your mouth*
 - » *Lollies: unwrap one lolly at a time; use the chopsticks to pick the lolly up and place it in your hand; then put it into your mouth*

Setup

- *Ask the children to sit in a circle on the floor*
- *In the middle of the circle, place*
 - » *a block of chocolate (or a bowl of wrapped lollies)*
 - » *a knife and fork (or a pair of chopsticks)*
 - » *a few clothing accessories (e.g. hat, gloves, scarf, sunglasses*)*

Game

- *Each child takes a turn to roll the dice***
- *If a child rolls a six then they must*
 - » *run to the middle of the circle*
 - » *put on all of the accessories*
 - » *use the knife and fork to cut a single square of chocolate at a time (or unwrap a lolly)*
 - » *in this version of the game, the child must choose to either eat the treat themselves or feed it to another child*
 - » *use the fork to eat/ feed someone else the chocolate (or use the chopsticks to eat/ feed someone else the lolly)*
- *The child may continue to eat or feed others the treats until another child rolls a six*
- *Once another six is rolled the first child must*

- » *stop immediately*
- » *remove all of the accessories*
- » *return to their place in the circle*
- *The game continues until all of the treats have been consumed*

** NOTE: it's best to avoid items such as t-shirts or trousers as they might cause embarrassment if they do not fit a child OR if items of the child's own clothing are caught up as they take off the game clothes*

*** NOTE: If you have a large group then you might like to use two dice and start them at opposite sides of the circle*

At the end of the game, ask the children:

- What did you enjoy about this game?
- Do you think it was a fair game?
- If you had a turn in the middle, how did you decide whether to eat the chocolates/lollies yourself or give them away?

Option 2: Storing Up Treasure

- *Give each child a small bowl, only big enough to hold about three of the wrapped lollies.****
- *Place some larger bowls in the centre.*
- *Explain to them that you will be sharing some wrapped lollies.*****
- *Each time they receive a lolly they must place it into their bowl.*
- *No lolly is allowed to fall out of a bowl.*
- *When their bowl is full they must decide what to do with any additional lollies.*
- *They have three choices*
 - » *Eat a lolly – not an option if you are using inedible items!*
 - » *Give a lolly away.*
 - » *Trade their small bowl for a larger one (or use a larger bowl instead of their hand) and continue to fill it.*
- *Begin to share the lollies but do not give the same amount to each child. Ensure that some children have enough to fill their bowls whilst others do not.*

**** NOTE: you could ask the children to use one hand instead of a bowl.*

***** NOTE: you can use any small item for this activity including marbles, pebbles or small shells etc.*

At the end of the game, ask the children:

- What did you enjoy about this game?
- Do you think it was a fair game?
- If you had too many lollies, how did you decide whether to eat the lollies yourself, save them for later or give them away?

Small group option:

- *Show the children a bag of lollies.*
- *I am going to share these lollies with you.*
- *Give each child just one lolly.*
- *Now, you each have a lolly and I'm going to keep the rest.*
- *How do you feel about how I have shared these lollies? (continue on the next page)*

- *Give them each one more lolly.*
- Is this fair now?
- If you had the bag of lollies, how would you decide whether to eat the lollies yourself, save them for later or give them away?

Link...

Did you know that there is enough food in our world to feed everyone? Why do you think it is that lots of people in the world still go hungry?

The Main Thing

Imagine that you have to spend a year on a desert island and can take just five things with you...

Write down or draw pictures of the five things that you would choose.

- Would you have to leave some of your belongings behind?
- Would you be able to survive without these other things?

There are only six things that we really **need**. Allow the children to try and guess what they are.

1. Oxygen
2. Water
3. Healthy food
4. Shelter
5. Sleep
6. Love

Which of these things do you usually have in a day?

Let's assume that you had oxygen on the island and didn't need to pack it.

- What do you think would have happened to you if you didn't pack water?
- What do you think would have happened to you if you didn't pack healthy food?
- What do you think would have happened to you if you didn't pack shelter?
- What do you think would have happened to you if you if you weren't able to sleep?
- What do you think would have happened to you if you didn't take a friend or family member?

Oxygen, water, healthy food, shelter, sleep and love are needs. Everything else is a 'want'.

Greed is having enough of the things that we need but always wanting more.

Ask the children to repeat this definition with you.

Ask the children to look up the story of the rich man in Luke 12:13-21.

Allow the children to take turns reading a verse each aloud.

If you have children who are reluctant to read aloud, allow them to pass on their turn.

A man in a crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of what our father left us when he died."

¹⁴ Jesus answered, "Who gave me the right to settle arguments between you and your brother?"

¹⁵ Then he said to the crowd, "Don't be greedy! Owning a lot of things won't make your life safe."

¹⁶ So Jesus told them this story:

A rich man's farm produced a big crop, ¹⁷ and he said to himself, "What can I do? I don't have a place large enough to store everything."

¹⁸ Later, he said, "Now I know what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I can store all my grain and other goods. ¹⁹ Then I'll say to myself, 'You have stored up enough good things to last for years to come. Live it up! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.'"

²⁰ But God said to him, "You fool! Tonight you will die. Then who will get what you have stored up?"

²¹ "This is what happens to people who store up everything for themselves, but are poor in the sight of God."

- What happened in this story?
- Why do you think Jesus told this story?
- If you were the man in this story, what would you have done?
- Can you think of a time when you had more of something than you needed? What did you do with the extra?

It's important to know what and (how much of it) we need.

Choose two or three of these six examples that your group will best connect with or make up your own examples.

1. How many apps do you need on your device?

- » Everyone stand up.
- » Think about how many apps you think are enough.
 - ◇ How many apps can you actually play in a week?
 - ◇ How much space do you have?
 - ◇ Do you need to delete one to get a new one?
- » I'm going to start counting from one. I want you to sit down when I get to the number that you think is enough.

2. How many pairs of shoes do you need?

- » Everyone stand up.
- » Think about how many pair of shoes you think are enough.
 - ◇ How many pairs of shoes can you wear in a week?
 - ◇ How much space do you have in your cupboard/ wardrobe/ closet?
 - ◇ Do you throw out or give away a pairs of shoes to get a new pair?
- » I'm going to start counting from one. I want you to sit down when I get to the number that you think is enough.

3. How many lollies or sweet treats do you need?

- » Everyone stand up.
- » Think about how many lollies you think are enough.
 - ◇ How many lollies can you actually eat in a day?
 - ◇ What will happen if you eat too many lollies?
 - ◇ Do you need to eat some before you get more?
- » I'm going to start counting from one. I want you to sit down when I get to the number that you think is enough.

4. How many meals do you need in a day?

- » Everyone stand up.
- » Think about how many meals you think are enough.
 - ◇ How many meals can you actually eat in a day?
 - ◇ How much time do you have for eating?
 - ◇ Do you need to finish one before you start another?
- » I'm going to start counting from one. I want you to sit down when I get to the number that you think is enough.

5. How many bedrooms do you need in your house?

- » Everyone stand up.
- » Think about how many bedrooms you think are enough.
 - ◇ How many people live in your house?
 - ◇ How many beds could you fit into one bedroom?
 - ◇ Is there a reason why one person could not share with another?
- » I'm going to start counting from one. I want you to sit down when I get to the number that you think is enough.

6. How many books do you need to own?

- » Everyone stand up.
- » Think about how many books you think are enough.
 - ◇ How many books can you actually read in a year?
 - ◇ How much time do you have for reading?
 - ◇ How much space do you have on your bookshelf?
- » I'm going to start counting from one. I want you to sit down when I get to the number that you think is enough.

Another way that we can think about what we really need is to think about what difference it would make if we took something away.

Write the numbers one to five on separate sheets of paper and place them in a line across the room, leaving a space between each one.

I want you to think about how much difference it would make to how well you could survive if we took away certain things. If you think you couldn't survive without it then go to number five. If you think it wouldn't really make much difference (even though you would still like to have it) then go to number one. Or you might choose a number somewhere in between one and five.

What difference would it make if I took away...?

- Your junk food.
- Your devices – iPod, iPad, computers, phone, etc.
- All of your food.
- All of your warm clothing.
- Your favourite book.
- Your house.

There are some things we need and some things that we just like (or would like) to have. Some things we need plenty of, like clean water and healthy food. But lots of things we really need only one. Let's think about what we can do when we have more than enough?

Tying In

Ask each child to choose one or two of these situations and draw a picture or write about what they would do.

- Imagine that you have planted a tomato vine. The vine has grown well and you have many more than you need.
- Imagine that you have been given three of the same Lego set for your birthday.
- Imagine that you already have a soccer ball and someone offers you another one.
- Imagine that you already have everything you need and you have \$10 to spend.
- Imagine that you have seven dolls, your little sister has only one, and you just received a brand new one.
- Imagine that you were given a whole bag of chocolates.

When we have more than enough of something we might choose to use it, store it or share it.

- How do you feel when you are able to share something?
- How do you feel when someone shares what they have with you?

Memory Verse

“Don’t be greedy! Owning a lot of things won’t make your life safe.” Luke 12:15b

- *Print two (more if you have a large group) copies of the table below and cut each sheet into six sections*
- *You will need six balloons in one colour and six balloons in a different colour (add another set in a third colour if you have a large group)*
- *Place one section of the verse into each balloon to form two sets*
- *Blow up the balloons and tie them*
- *Divide the children into two teams*
- *Give each team a set of balloons*
- *When you say ‘go’ they must*
 1. *pop the balloons*
 2. *collect the pieces of the verse*
 3. *place the pieces in the correct order*
 4. *sit down*
- *Allow each team to say the memory verse together, starting with the winning team*
- *Finally, ask all of the children to say the verse together*

Don't be greedy!

Owning a lot

of things

won't make

your life safe.

Luke 12:15b

Prayer Time

Ask four children to each read aloud one line of this prayer or give each child a copy and ask them to read along with you.

Dear Jesus,
Thanks for all the good things you have given to us.
Please help us to:

- Think about how much we have.
- Understand what we really need.
- Know when we have enough.
- Share what we have with others.

Home & Beyond

This week, try and do one of these small challenges each day...

1. Repeat this week's memory verse to someone who lives in your house.
2. Talk to a family member or your Big Bud about how much you have.
3. Talk to a family member or your Big Bud about what you really need.
4. Talk to a family member or your Big Bud about how you know when you have enough.
5. Share something you have with another person.

What would you do?

Choose one or two of these situations and draw a picture or write about what you would do.

- Imagine that you have planted a tomato vine. The vine has grown well and you have many more than you need.
- Imagine that you have been given three of the same Lego set for your birthday.
- Imagine that you already have a soccer ball and someone offers you another one.
- Imagine that you already have everything you need and you have \$10 to spend.
- Imagine that you have seven dolls, your little sister has only one, and you just received a brand new one.
- Imagine that you were given a whole bag of chocolates.



A large rectangular box for drawing or writing. On the left side of the box, there are seven small, light gray circles arranged vertically, serving as a guide for drawing or writing.



A large rectangular box for drawing or writing, featuring a spiral binding on the left side. The box is empty and intended for a student to draw or write their response to one of the situations listed above.

When we have more than enough of something we might choose to use it, store it or share it.

- How do you feel when you are able to share something?
- How do you feel when someone shares what they have with you?

Home & Beyond

This week, try these daily challenges...

1. Repeat this week's memory verse to someone who lives in your house.
2. Talk to a family member or your Big Bud about what much you have.
3. Talk to a family member or your Big Bud about how you really need.
4. Talk to a family member or your Big Bud about what you know when you have enough.
5. Share something you have with another person.


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Home & Beyond

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3. Talk to a family member or your Big Bud about how you really need.
4. Talk to a family member or your Big Bud about what you know when you have enough.
5. Share something you have with another person.


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Home & Beyond

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Home & Beyond

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1. Repeat this week's memory verse to someone who lives in your house.
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