

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

The week of AUGUST 11/12

True Riches

#1 *Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." Luke 12:13-21*

Do you want to grow up and be rich? Our Bible reading today teaches us how to be truly rich. We learn about a man who thought he was rich, but found out otherwise.

It's summer right now, but remember back to last Christmas. Were there things you wanted very much: toys, clothes, electronics? As we grow into adults we still want things. Jesus tells us that there is nothing wrong with having things, unless they cause us to forget about God. We can get so busy playing with our toys or trying to get more money, or bigger cars and houses that we no longer worship God and obey Him. Then we aren't rich at all. As we go through life, we need to make choices. Having some things is OK. But let's always remember God and what He has done for us. Let's make sure He comes first in our lives. Then we will be truly rich.

Pray: God let me never forget that You are the most important part of my life. Your love for me makes me truly rich. Amen.

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

The week of AUGUST 11/12

True Riches

#2 *So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.... Ephesians 4:17-18, 20-22*

What is your favorite game? Darts? Croquet? Checkers? Something else? What if you were taught the wrong rules when you learned to play your favorite game? Each time you played you would probably have a hard time winning. You might even insist that your way was right. If you were going to win, you would have to learn the right rules. Our Bible reading tells us that we learned to live by the wrong rules and need to change. Because of our sin we live our lives selfishly, with greed and laziness. We don't love others the way we should. We need a different set of rules. Jesus teaches us how to live in the Bible. He tells us to trust in Him as our Savior from sin and to put off the old rules. His rules are the right way. His rules tell us to love one another, putting other people first. If you learn the correct rules to a game, you will be able to play well and win. If we try to follow the rules Jesus taught, we will enjoy a new life with Him and be a blessing to others as well.

Pray: Jesus, teach me Your ways so that I might love You and others as You did. Amen.