**A Rich Fool**

**Aim: T**o talk about why it is important to spend time with Jesus and not just time with new toys and things that we have.

**Occasion:** Ordinary 18

**Scripture: Luke 12:13-21**

**Game: (for the older children) Jellybean or the bag
Preparation:**you will need a list of questions to ask the volunteer,
**What to do:**Ask for a volunteer. Tell the volunteer that you will ask them three questions. If they get two out of three right, then they can have a go at the Jellybean or the bag.

Once they have successfully answered the questions, get them to choose with bag they would like to play for. Questions should be easy enough to answer, eg What time is church on a Sunday? What did you have for breakfast? What is God’s son’s name?

Holding the bowl of jellybeans, ask them to hold out their hands and put say five jellybeans in their hands. Then ask them “Now, do you want the jellybeans or the bag?”

If they say the bag (I’m guessing they will!) put a few more jellybeans in their hand and ask again “Do you want the jellybeans or the bag?”

Repeat a third time. If they say the jellybeans, then they can have them, but show them what they missed out on by not getting the bag.

If they choose the bag, take the jellybeans back and show them what they have been given.

Follow the instructions on the bag.

[ordinary-sunday-18-game.gif](http://www.strandz.org.nz/dox/ordinary-sunday-18-game.gif)(15.05 KB)

**Game: (for the younger children) my name is and I like**

**Preparation:**you need a circle of chairs that is one less than the amount of children.

**What to do:**Get the children to sit in a circle and have one child stand in the middle. They start the game by saying “My name is (insert name of child) and I like (insert something they like e.g. singing, or eating chocolate, or maths)”.

All the children who are sitting in the circle that also like what the child in the middle said, have to get up and switch places. The last child stands in the middle and starts the next round.

This is a really good name game and also helps the children to share a bit about themselves and find out what they have in common with each other.

**Story: (Luke 12:13 -21) A Rich Fool**

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!”

But Jesus answered him “Who gave me the right to settle arguments between you and your brother?”

Then Jesus turned to the crowd and said, “Don’t be greedy! Owning many things won’t make your life safe.”

And then Jesus told the people this story:

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

So he thought. And he thought. And then finally he said “Now I know what I will do. I’ll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I can store all my grain and other goods. 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.”

But God said to the man, “You fool! Tonight you will die. Then who will get what you have stored up?”

And Jesus finished the story by saying “This is what happens to people who store up everything for themselves, but are poor in the sight of God”

**Talk:**In today’s reading, Jesus told the crowd a story to teach them what happens when they spend all their time and energy working for things in the world instead of working towards the things of heaven.

How many of you have something that you really want? Maybe a toy or new clothing or something else? (Pause for answers) I know there are things that I would really like to have, like a new car or a trip to France . It’s normal for us to want things, and that’s what the man in the reading wanted too.

But there is a problem with getting what we want isn’t there? If we spend all our time working to get the next new thing, then what time do we have left for Jesus? If Jesus is our friend, then shouldn’t we spend time getting to know him and hanging out with him?

I want to make something clear; it’s ok to have things you like. Jesus doesn’t want to feel bad about having a nice dress or a new toy. But it’s not ok if you spend all your time worrying about things and no time with Jesus.

How would you feel if your friends didn’t want to spend time with you because they would rather play with their new toys? (Pause) I would feel pretty sad. I would probably feel like they didn’t like me anymore.

So what are some things that you can do to make sure that you balance playtime with time with Jesus? (Pause) Well, I think maybe you could set aside a particular time of the day that you spend time praying, or you could try to write down once a day things that you did that were being a friend to Jesus e.g. helped someone with school work they were struggling with, shared my toys, etc. There are lots of ways of making time for Jesus in your life, you just have to find a way that works for you. And you always have helpful adults around like me and your family that can help you to find what works for you.

**Questions:**

* What are some of the things that you would like for your birthday?
* Why do you think it is not ok to spend all your time playing with your toys and no time with friends and family?
* What about Jesus?
* What are some things that you can do to make sure that you balance playtime and God time?

**Activity: Storing up for heaven**

[ordinary-sunday-18-wksht.gif](http://www.strandz.org.nz/dox/ordinary-sunday-18-wksht.gif)(45.83 KB)

**What you need:**storehouse template, cello tape, scissors and things to decorate with

**What to do:**Follow the instructions on the sheet and the photos below!

  

Cut out the template and fold along the fold lines.

Cello tape flaps a, b and c to the appropriate sides

Don’t forget to cut out the door!

**How to use:**get the children to write the things that they have done ‘for Jesus’ eg. Shared their lunch with a friend, drew a picture for Jesus, helped mum with the dishes. And then put them in the storehouse.

**Alternative:**For younger children, you may like to not use the template at all and just provide them with boxes and supplies and get them to design their own Storehouse! It means you don’t have to worry about all the fiddly folding and cutting of the template, and you can let them be creative as well!