

Boasting and Riches

James 4:13-17; Luke 12:13-21

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - It is very stupid to boast about what you will do and the money you will make. We don't know what will happen.

Memory Verse

James 1:19

Learn the verse by saying it as instructed:

Everyone should be

(pause, take a breath, say next bit very fast)

quick to listen,

(pause, say next bit very slow)

slow to speak

(pause, say next bit even slower)

and slow to become angry.

(pause, say next bit normal speed)

James chapter one verse nineteen

Singing

Select 2/3 songs that thank God for everything we have or for the blessing we have in Jesus.

Good Boasting, Bad Boasting

Need:

- the following boasts written on strips of cardboard
- tape to attach the strips on a white board
- white board markers

Boasts:

- *I am going to save up and buy myself a Ben Ten watch!*
- *I am a child of God.*
- *We're going on holidays to the Gold Coast!*
- *Because of Jesus, I'm going to heaven.*
- *My Mum is buying me an ipod.*

- *Jesus has forgiven all my sins.*
- *My Dad's taking me to Luna Park!*

Introduction:

- *We all boast.*
- *Most of the time when we boast, we brag what we're going to do or what we are going to get.*
- *This is bad boasting (write the title *Bad Boasting* on one side of white board).*
- *But there is good boasting (write the title *Good Boasting* on the other side of white board).*
- *I have some boasts (hold up strips of cardboard).*
- *We're going to read out each boast and decide whether it's good boasting or bad boasting.*

Instructions:

- Select one child at a time to read out boast and tape it on correct side of the board.
- Continue until all boasts have been placed on the board.

Conclusion:

- *Bad boasting is all about what we will do and what we will get.*
- *We can't ever be sure that these boasts will come true.*
- *We don't know what will happen tomorrow.*
- *Our Dad may lose his job or get sick and not be able to work.*
- *Mum might change her mind.*
- *She may not buy it because we did the wrong thing and need to be punished.*
- *Luna Park may close down.*
- *Nothing is certain!*
- *Except the boasts we have because we follow Jesus.*
- *Forgiveness of sins, a home in heaven, being made a child of God.*
- *All these boasts will happen, because they all depend on Jesus.*
- *So if you are going to boast, boast about what God has done for you in Jesus.*

Boasting and Riches

James 4:13-17; Luke 12:13-21

K-2 Group Time

Main Point - It is very stupid to boast about what you will do and the money you will make.

Money

Need: money from different countries.

Display and briefly talk about the money (every country in the world has some sort of money).

Ask:

- *Why do people like to have lots of money?*
(so they can get things and do what they want to do)
- *What is the big problem with money?*
(end up loving money more than God, money can make you think you're the boss, that you can do anything and get anything, you forget that God is the boss)

Conclude

- *We all like to have money.*
- *Money can buy us lots of great clothes, toys and food.*
- *With money you can do lots of things.*
- *But Jesus said that money is very, very dangerous.*
- *And he told a story to warn us.*
- *The man in Jesus' story was a rich farmer who built bigger and better barns.*

Barn Building Relay

Need: a pile of 8 boxes for each team, ranging in size from small to large.

- Divide the children into teams of 8. Position teams along one side of the room.
- Provide each team with 8 boxes.
- On Go the first child picks up the largest box and races to

the other side of the room, places the box on the ground and races back. They tap the child next in line who grabs the second biggest box, races to the other side of the room and places that box on top of the first box. They race back and tap the next child, etc. Continue until all boxes are piled up to create the biggest barn in all the world.

- First team with boxes stacked wins.
- Repeat the relay, this time dismantling the barns.

Conclude

- *As quickly as the barns went up, they came down again.*
- *Jesus told a story about a man who built bigger, better barns, one after the other.*

Story Time

Option 1

Using the script of the children's talk titled, *Boasting and Riches* (available on the *Kidswise* web site) as your guide, retell the parable of the Rich Fool. As you tell the parable of the Rich Fool draw a series of pictures of barns, getting bigger and bigger and bigger.

Option 2

Read *The Rich Farmer*, by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen, published by Marshall Pickering. **Note: you will need to set it in the context of James 4.** See the introduction and conclusion of the script of the children's talk titled, *Boasting and Riches* (available on the *Kidswise* web site) as a guide.

Small Group Discussion

1. *What was wrong with the farmer's first barn?*
(too small)
2. *What did he do?*
(built a bigger barn, and then an even bigger barn)
3. *Why did the farmer keep building bigger barns and keep growing more vegies?*
(he wanted to be rich)
4. *What did the farmer brag he was going to do?*

(after the next harvest he'd rest from all his work and have a party)

5. *Jesus said the farmer was a fool. Why didn't his boast come true, he certainly had enough money to do it?*
(his life ended)

Application:

- *What do you say you're going to do?*
- *What do you say you're going to get?*
- *What are you absolutely sure will happen?*

Conclude:

- *In the book of James we are reminded that nothing is certain.*
- *We don't know what is going to happen.*
- *All sorts of things happen that stop us from doing what we plan to do.*
- *God is the only one who knows what's going to happen.*
- *So children be wise.*
- *Live each day trusting in what God has done, and not in what you can do.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear God, – please help us – not brag about – what we are going to do – or what we are going to get. – Please help us – to live each day – trusting in Jesus. – Amen.

Individual Prayer

- Encourage each child to select one of the *Good Boasts* (see pages 1-2) and thank God that because of Jesus we can make this boast.
- Encourage the children to ask God to help them not to boast about what they are going to do or what they are going to get.

Cooking - Popcorn

Warning: check for food allergies before beginning this activity.

- Bring in a popcorn machine and make popcorn with the children.
- Add salt to hot popcorn.
- You can even melt some butter through the popcorn.
- Eat and enjoy.

Imaginary Play

- Provide farmer's clothes (overalls, hats, gardening gloves) toy wheelbarrows, plastic shovels, plastic food (corn, carrot, lettuce) and cardboard boxes (barns), for the children to pretend to be the farmer in the parable.

Carrot or Corn Masks

- Download the resource file titled, *James Stencils* (available on the *Kidswise* web site) and find the stencil of the carrot and corn eye masks.
- Copy and cut one mask per child on cardboard. Be sure to cut out the eye holes in each mask.
- Provide collage material for the children to decorate their mask.
- Provide a paddle pop stick to attach to one end of each mask.

Barns

- Download the resource file titled, *James Stencils* (available on the *Kidswise* web site) and find the stencil of a barn and the title, *The foolish farmer boasted about what he was going to do. He spent his life building bigger and bigger barns. But the farmer was gone before he could enjoy his money. Luke 12:13-21 James 4:13-17*
- Print the barn on A4 cardboard, one per child.
- Have the children glue wooden craft material (paddle pop sticks, craft matchsticks, wooden shapes) on the barn using wood glue.
- The children could also add other collage material to build up the rest of the picture (i.e. green shredded tissue paper for grass, blue cellophane for sky)

Boasting and Riches

James 4:13-17; Luke 12:13-21

3-5 Group Time

Main Point - It is very stupid to boast about what you will do and the money you will make.

Certain vs. Uncertain

- Divide the children into groups.
- Each group decides on a boast for one of the group members (refer back to the *Bad Boasting* statements on pages 1-2), either about what he/she will get or what he/she will do.
- Each group then has to create a drama whereby he/she makes the boast but something stops him/her from seeing the boast come true.

Discuss

- *Some things in life are certain.*
- *Jesus will come back again.*
- *Our sins are forgiven because of Jesus.*
- *But others things are not certain.*
- *And Jesus warns us about putting our confidence in things that are not certain.*
- *He told a story about a man who was certain he would be rich enough to rest from all his work and enjoy himself.*

The Foolish Farmer (small groups)

- Make one copy per child of page 11, *The Parable of the Foolish Farmer*.
- Provide children with scissors to cut out each box.
- Have the children rearrange each box until the story makes sense (see leader's guide page 10).
- Glue story in order on a sheet of A4 paper.
- Read the story through as a group.

Small Group Discussion

Discuss

- *Why does Jesus call him a fool?*
- *What happened to all the man's things after he died?*

Read James 4:13-17

1. *What don't we know?*
(what will happen tomorrow)

2. *What is a mist? Why are we described as a mist?*
(a mist comes usually early morning, but goes when the sun hits it, we live for such a short period of time and then we're gone)

Think it through:

- *Is it wrong for you to make plans?*

- 3. *What does verse 15 say is the opposite of the bragging described in verse 13?*
(making plans that always acknowledge that God is the one who is in control)

Application:

- *What do you boast about?*
- *What are you absolutely sure will happen?*
- *How does this (what you are sure will happen) help you to make plans?*

Conclusion:

- *Most things in life we can't be sure about.*
- *And it's foolish to brag about and be confident in them.*
- *We are not sure about our health, the weather, the money our parents get, how well we'll do in a test.*
- *We just don't know.*
- *And in the book of James we are warned against this type of boasting.*
- *But there are things we can boast about.*
- *We can be confident in everything Jesus has promised us: sins forgiven, home in heaven, being a child of God...*
- *So make plans, trusting in God as you do.*

Prayer Time

- Encourage each child to select one of the *Good Boasts* (see pages 1-2) and thank God that because of Jesus we can make this boast.
- Encourage the children to ask God to help them not boast about what they are going to do or what they are going to get.

Cooking - Popcorn

Warning: check for food allergies before beginning this activity.

- Bring in a popcorn machine and make popcorn with the children.
- Add salt to hot popcorn.
- You can even melt some butter through the popcorn.
- Eat or using needle and thread, thread popcorn to make necklaces and wristbands. **Note: they can make them as gifts or for themselves.**

The Parable Of The Foolish Farmer (Leader's Guide)

There once was a farmer. He was a very rich farmer. He was rich because his soil was good soil. And his corn grew faster than all the other farmers. At harvest time he had much more corn than all the other farmers. He was happy.

But the farmer had a problem. He had heaps of corn. His old barn was too small to store all the corn. It was far too small!

So the farmer had a think. "Um!" he thought. "Ahhh, no worries! I will knock down this old barn and build a bigger, better one. Then next year I will be rich. Rich enough to have a rest."

So the farmer set to work. He pulled down the old barn, and he built a new bigger, better barn. But, at harvest time the next year, the new barn was still not big enough. You see the farmer had been greedy. He had planted even more corn. And some carrots as well.

"No worries," said the farmer. "I will build an even bigger, better, super-doooper barn. Then next year I can have a really great holiday."

So the farmer pulled down the barn and he built a bigger, better, super-doooper barn.

But at harvest time the next year, even the bigger, better, super-doooper barn was not big enough. Again the greedy farmer had planted more corn, more carrots, and a few lettuces as well.

So the farmer said, "I will build the most spectacular barn in all the world. And then I will be so rich, I will never have to work again!"

So the farmer pulled down the barn, and he built a barn that was enormous. It was higher than the tallest tower. When he had finished building the barn the farmer smiled. "Tomorrow I will harvest my corn and my carrots and my lettuces. And when that is done I can have some fun! I know what I'll do! I'll have a party!"

But that very night, while the farmer was asleep, he died. Dead! The birds ate all his corn. The cows ate all his carrots. The rabbits ate all his lettuces. The biggest, grandest barn in all the world stood empty. And the rich farmer never did get to have a party. He never got time to enjoy being rich.

Jesus says, "It is very stupid for you to spend your whole life trying to get richer and richer. To God, you are really poor. Do you want to be truly rich? Then trust in me!"

The Parable Of The Foolish Farmer

But at harvest time the next year, even the bigger, better, super-doooper barn was not big enough. Again the greedy farmer had planted more corn, more carrots, and a few lettuces as well.

So the farmer said, "I will build the most spectacular barn in all the world. And then I will be so rich, I will never have to work again!"

So the farmer pulled down the barn, and he built a barn that was enormous. It was higher than the tallest tower. When he had finished building the barn the farmer smiled. "Tomorrow I will harvest my corn and my carrots and my lettuces. And when that is done I can have some fun! I know what I'll do! I'll have a party!"

There once was a farmer. He was a very rich farmer. He was rich because his soil was good soil. And his corn grew faster than all the other farmers. At harvest time he had much more corn than all the other farmers. He was happy.

Jesus says, "It is very stupid for you to spend your whole life trying to get richer and richer. To God, you are really poor. Do you want to be truly rich? Then trust in me!"

So the farmer set to work. He pulled down the old barn, and he built a new bigger, better barn. But, at harvest time the next year, the new barn was still not big enough. You see the farmer had been greedy. He had planted even more corn. And some carrots as well.

"No worries," said the farmer. "I will build an even bigger, better, super-doooper barn. Then next year I can have a really great holiday."

So the farmer pulled down the barn and he built a bigger, better, super-doooper barn.

But the farmer had a problem. He had heaps of corn. His old barn was too small to store all the corn. It was far too small!

So the farmer had a think. "Um!" he thought. "Ahhh, no worries! I will knock down this old barn and build a bigger, better one. Then next year I will be rich. Rich enough to have a rest."

But that very night, while the farmer was asleep, he died. Dead! The birds ate all his corn. The cows ate all his carrots. The rabbits ate all his lettuces. The biggest, grandest barn in all the world stood empty. And the rich farmer never did get to have a party. He never got time to enjoy being rich.