



LC STUDY GUIDE

Done in Sync with the "Reset" Series

The Passage: Luke 12:13-31

For Life Community usage the week of 8/16/15

Preface: This week we continue in our series entitled "Reset" in which we examine the biblical idea of Sabbath and rest and what it means to have renewal in our often busy and frantic lives. We recommend 45-60 minutes for this study, including 10-15 minutes for application and group prayer.

Big Idea: A life oriented toward God and others is richer than a life oriented toward your own needs.

Focusing Questions: Think back to a time when you felt you were treated unjustly. What thoughts went through your mind? How did you react? What would you have done differently?

Luke 12:13-31 (NIV)

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

¹⁴ Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" ¹⁵ Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

¹⁸ "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

²⁰ "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?'

²¹ "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."

²² Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵ Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? ²⁶ Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?"

²⁷ "Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰ For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

O – What do you observe about the man in the parable (vv. 16-21)? (his situation, decisions, actions, character)

O – Of all the things you noticed, what does Jesus indict him for (v. 21)?

I – What is one word that you would use to describe the warning Jesus issues in this parable? In other words, the warning Jesus issues in this parable is a warning against _____.

[There isn't only one "right" answer to this question. Examples include self-centeredness, greed, self-reliance, etc.]

O – Take a look at the context of this parable (you might want to scan vv. 1-11 of the chapter). What's happening?

I – In verses 13-14, Jesus doesn't address which brother is at fault. It's possible that this man's brother is indeed hoarding the full inheritance unjustly. Why do you think Jesus would respond to his question with this parable?

[Jesus was certainly capable of judging this dispute fairly. However, his time on earth was not meant to be spent as a judge. In his response, Jesus is giving his audience tools to examine their own hearts. The most important thing isn't determining which party is justified in their actions; it's entering the discussion with proper motives.]

A – Think about a current situation in your life where you feel treated unjustly. What are your motives behind rectifying the situation? Is your course of action helpful and healthy for all involved? How can you orient your heart towards God and others in the midst of your frustration?

[These are sensitive questions, and may be more suitable for reflection than discussion in some groups.]

O – What does Jesus underscore with his disciples as he continues the conversation with them?

O – What remedy does Jesus offer for those who are consumed by worry (v. 31)?

I – What connections do you see between being "rich toward God" (v. 21) and "seek[ing] his kingdom" (v. 31)?

A – What is one tangible way you can shift the focus off of your own needs and act more richly toward God?

Pray together – Spend time thanking God for how he has blessed you individually and as a group. Ask for his guidance in how to use these blessings to serve others.

Leader notes:

- a. Use these questions as a guideline. You best understand your LC—so lead accordingly, prayerfully discerning what will serve your group best. Be flexible in the discussion while encouraging people to grow and follow God.
- b. Complement OIA questions with "process questions" (what else? what more? what do others think?).
- c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don't rush people but encourage their participation. And avoid answering your own questions!
- d. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into "teaching," rather than facilitating. It can cause people to feel distracted or de-powered.