

JULY 31, 2016  
ELEVENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

taking+  
faith  
home

*Seek after God and not things.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 12:13-21	Parable of the rich fool
Monday	Colossians 3:1-11	The true Christian life
Tuesday	Ecclesiastes 5:10-20	Worldly riches are meaningless
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 8:4-20	Warnings about forgetting God
Thursday	Luke 12:22-31	Trust God, not material things
Friday	1 Timothy 6:6-19	Love of money
Saturday	1 Chronicles 29:10-13	David praises the Lord
Sunday	Luke 12:32-40	Seek treasures in heaven

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

You have been raised to life with Christ. Now set your heart on what is in heaven, where Christ rules at God's right side. **Colossians 3:1 (CEV)**

### **SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

O God, keep us from becoming greedy. Help us to see how rich we already are because of you. Amen.  
(Luke 12:15,21)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Give us grace, O God, to be ever-thankful for your goodness, and ever-willing to help others in need. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May Jesus fill you with life. May he help you to know and follow his ways, now and always. Amen.  
(Colossians 3:1-11)



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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What is your most treasured possession? Why?
- Jesus warned people about wanting to have more and more things. He said that life is not made up of how much a person has (Luke 12:15). What in life can't we get from money or possessions?
- What does faith in Jesus give us that money can't buy?

## DEVOTIONS

In Luke 12:15, Jesus warns against greed. Owning a lot of things does not make your life safe and happy. Draw a picture of something you have and treasure very much. On the picture write, "Seek after God and not things." Reread the parable of the rich fool (Luke 12:13-21). Offer a prayer of confession for things in your life that get in the way of trusting God. Then offer prayers of thanksgiving for faith in Jesus as the source of the real treasure of life.

## SERVICE

"Being rich towards God" (Luke 12:21) can result in increased generosity toward those who are in need. Look for items that you have in your home that could be given to others. Select those possessions and give them away.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Giving consistently and regularly to God's work in and through the church is a helpful practice for keeping a check on our accumulation of earthly things. Setting aside a portion of our income for church giving reminds us that God is the giver of all we have and puts God first. Talk together about how you determine your financial giving to the church and why it is important to give in this way. If family members (including children of all ages) do not give regularly, decide on a practice that will help them do so.

Encourage children toward stewardship by teaching them about: 1) Giving—setting aside a portion of all monies received for God; 2) Saving—to reach a goal, instead of instant gratification; and 3) Spending—making wise purchasing decisions.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)