

## Home Group Leaders Discussion Guide Luke 12:13-21

This week, in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, we listened to a sermon he preached, the main text being Luke 12:13-21.

**Q. What do you admire most about Dr. King? (Possible Icebreaker)**

**Q. Dr. King was the renowned leader of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. He spurred on great advances...but there is still work that needs to be done. In your mind, what is the greatest "civil rights" issue of our day? (Possible Icebreaker)**

(\*\*\*HG Leaders: there may be varied answers on this question, and perhaps some strong disagreement. This could be a good opportunity to demonstrate/practice "agreeing to disagree" while respecting the opinion of others.\*\*\*)

Dr. King entitled his sermon, "*Why Jesus Called a Man a Fool.*" He outlined his sermon with 3 points answering the question why Jesus called the man in this parable a fool.

Before we get to those 3 points, Dr. King prefaced by explaining that the man was NOT a fool simply because he was wealthy. There's nothing inherently foolish about being rich. And he was NOT a fool because he somehow gained his wealth through dishonest, exploitive, or oppressive ways. So WHY was this man a fool?

- I. He was a fool because he allowed the means by which he lived to outdistance the ends for which he lived.
- II. He was a fool because he failed to realize his dependence on others.
- III. He was a fool because he failed to realize his dependence on God.

**Q. We are a prosperous people. We have an abundance. (Even if by American standards someone has less than others, by global standards it is hard to argue.) We are a people of great means. How do we avoid the same temptation as the "fool" in this passage of allowing our means by which we live to outpace the ends for which we live? Perhaps one way to examine this is to list all our resources. Then itemize/articulate the end(s)/reason(s) that we live. Do we have means/resources that don't serve any stated end/purpose? Another way to analyze this is to allow others to speak into our stated ends/purpose and how they see our means connecting with it.**

**Q. In his message Dr. King brilliantly demonstrated how we can't even get out of the house in the morning without the help of people from all over the world. On a regularly basis, are we cognizant of how interdependent humans really are? (Think**

about the food in your cupboard for instance: how many different hands have touched it to get it from where it was produced to your cupboard?) How do you practically demonstrate your gratitude for all the unseen people that affect your life? How do you practically demonstrate your concern for the other people you share this planet with?

- Q. How do you trust God in tangible ways? (Think beyond our eternal destination...what does trust/dependence upon God look like practically speaking? Hint...if our use of money isn't taken into consideration, chances are we're off base/target somehow.)
- Q. Describe how you've realized/experienced your dependence on God.
- Q. Of the 3 points/reasons Dr. King offers as to why this man was a fool, which do you think you are most susceptible to? In what ways are you tempted to be "foolish"?
- Q. In his message Dr. King observed that the man/fool in the parable mentioned "I" and "my" in roughly 25% of his inner dialogue. C.S. Lewis once said that *"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, but thinking of yourself less."* In what ways are you prone to unhealthy self-focus?
- Q. As we continue through Luke we will revisit this passage. But for the time being, verse 15 and verse 21 are worth considering (Jesus book ends this parable with these statements: "a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." & "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God.") Consider all of your possessions for a moment:
- What could you get rid of without a second thought?
  - What would be hard for you to part with? And why?
  - What does it mean to be "rich toward God"?