



the Have-lots & the Have-less

Children's Story

Cycle C, Proper 21

Title: The Have-lots
& the Have-less

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Church: Home Street Mennonite
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Text: Luke 16: 19-31

Theme: Jesus wants us to share and
be fair.

Wondering Questions:

- I wonder why the have lots forgot to share fairly.
- I wonder how it felt to live in Have-Less kingdom.
- I wonder how the King felt when he saw that the Have-Lots people were being greedy and the Have-Less people were sharing.
- I wonder how Jesus, who is the King of Kings, feels when we share fairly.

Gathering Activity:

Good morning, children.
How is everyone today?

Is there anyone here who thinks they are rich enough?

Does anyone think it isn't fair when their friends have more toys, or better clothes, of better food than they have? Does this ever lead to trouble? I'm not surprised. God's Word for us today is about learning to share and be fair. (Show them the Luke text) So, let's get ready to listen to the story about some people who had some trouble with sharing fairly. To listen well, it will help a lot to get comfortable and really quiet. Imagine you are on Jesus' lap and that Jesus, the best story teller there ever was is telling you this story. Are you ready? (pause) Good.

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Story:

Once upon a time, there were two kingdoms, the Have-Lots, and the

Have-Less. Now the people of Have-Lots had the biggest houses, the biggest cars, and the fanciest things imaginable. Their kitchens had taps that poured whatever kind of drinks they wanted. They had everything they could possibly want. The Have-Lots lived at the top of a mountain. When something was not good enough for the Have-Lots, they would throw it down the mountain.

This was how the Have-Less got everything they had. Whenever the Have-Less heard something rolling down the mountain, they all got out of the shelters they had managed to build with what came down the mountain, because the new thing might break their shelter if it rolled into it. Then they would gather around it and share it as equally as they could. This way everyone at least had a little.

The Have-Lots knew that the Have-Less lived at the bottom of the mountain and promised them that whatever came down the mountain was theirs to keep, but they did not really worry too much about them.

A long time ago the King of both kingdoms had made this deal with

the Have-Lots. "I will give you everything I have. Whatever you do not need I want you to take down the mountain and share with the people who live there. They are my people, too, and I want you to care for them, as I care for you."

Most of the Have-Lots had forgotten what the king had told them. Every once in awhile, the King would send them a messenger to remind the Have-Lots of what he had asked of them. Most people just ignored the messengers and continued to live as before.

One day, a great wind came and blew everything down into the valley, leaving the Have-Lots with nothing. The Have-Lots ran down the mountain to reclaim everything they had lost. When they got to the edge of the valley, the King of both kingdoms was waiting for them. He stopped them and said, "I have lived in this valley since I left you, but you have not shared as I asked you to. Whatever comes down the mountain belongs to my people who live here."

The Have-Lots thought about this. They decided to offer the Have-Less money if they would return their things. The Have-Less laughed, saying, "But, we have everything we need. We do not want your money. Come, we'll share what has come down the mountain with you." And they did. Then they threw a big party to celebrate that everyone finally had enough. The Have-Lots were amazed, and ashamed that they had not been sharing freely.

Prayer:

Thank you, Jesus, for this story that teaches us to share fairly. Please forgive us when we act like the Have-Lots people did. Help us to share like the Have-Less people did, even when we have lots. Amen.