

The Marble King

Key Word: **Treasures**

Key Verse: And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." *Luke 12:15*

Charlie was thrilled. He'd just been given a bag of marbles. He spent all weekend playing with his marbles and discovered he had what his father called "an eye." On Monday morning Charlie began to challenge other marble owners in the playground. He began to win and collected a marble from each loser.

Charlie spent the evening sorting his marbles. He put his favorite marbles in a box in his bedroom, and just kept a few to use the next day.

At school he found he could win every match. He also found he couldn't think of anything else.

By the end of the week, Charlie had so many marbles he couldn't count them all, and he became famous as the Marble King.

But because Charlie had won nearly all the marbles owned by other children, there was no one left to play with him. "Give us a few of yours," begged David, his best friend. But Charlie shook his head. He'd won the marbles fairly, and he wasn't about to give them away.

Charlie approached different groups of children, but it was always the same story. "Sorry, Charlie, we don't have any marbles left." And as suddenly as it had come, the marble craze was over. Charlie noticed all the other children were already collecting and trading little plastic figures from cereal boxes.

Next morning Charlie took a plastic Spice Girl into school. "Who wants to trade with me?" he shouted.

But all the children turned away. Charlie was left all by himself. Nobody wanted to play with him. And when they had a test that afternoon in class, Charlie discovered he knew nothing. He'd been so wrapped up in his marbles, he hadn't learned a thing in the last two weeks.

Charlie was miserable. He had boxes and boxes of beautiful marbles, he was still the Marble King, but marbles were useless without friends. He realized that people, especially friends, are more important than things, even marbles.

The next day, Charlie poured out all his marbles on the playground. "Take them," he cried. "They're free."

And with that, he felt free himself. And happily, before long, his friendships were re-established and Charlie was content once more.

Questions

In the story, what did Charlie find was even more important than marbles?

Why don't possessions bring us happiness?

Be on your guard against all kinds of greed.

Secret Phrase:

1. Bolt on sawhorse
2. String on saw
3. Sole of foot
4. Belt (scarf)
5. Armband
6. Bandana
7. Grass
8. Heart
9. Landscape
10. Axe blade

Picture Differences
 Fallen Letter Puzzle
 are not rich toward God.
 treasures for themselves but
 for those who store up
 for the day to come.

Answers

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| RICH | TUN |
| POSSESSIONS | TREASURES |
| CROWD | GRAIN |
| FRIEND | CROPS |
| AMPLE | JUDGE |
| DEMANDED | FAMILY |
| MERRY | BROTHER |
| DRINK | GREED |
| PARABLE | DIVIDE |

Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story
is from
Luke 12:13-21




