

one with
virtue

**Lesson Plan
for Kids**
(12 and under)



Harper Escapes the Trap of Greed

Harper was a girl who loved shiny things. She liked glitter pens, sparkly shoes, and the newest gadgets her friends talked about at school. Every birthday and holiday, she made long lists of everything she hoped to receive. Back then, she believed that getting more would make her happier. She just didn't realize how quickly "more" can become "never enough."

At school, Harper often compared what she had to what others owned. When her friend Lily brought a brand-new tablet, Harper couldn't stop staring at it. She smiled politely, but inside she felt a tug. Instead of being thankful for her own things, she began thinking about what she didn't have.

Slowly, she began to believe a quiet lie. She told herself, "If I just had that too, I'd feel satisfied." Without realizing it, Harper was letting the **vice of greed** take root in her heart. Greed isn't about having nice things—it's about letting things have you.



Source Teaching: Scan the QR code to access this source teaching as well as additional resources such as related Scripture, quotes, and more.
Or, visit horseandchariot.com/the-vice-of-greed

For Harper, greed looked like constant wanting. She refreshed online wish lists and circled items in catalogs. She started asking her parents for things she didn't really need. At night, instead of thanking God for what she had, she planned what she hoped to get next. Her heart was becoming more focused on possessions.

When her cousin donated some old toys to a shelter, Harper frowned. "Why give them away?" she asked. She felt nervous at the thought of parting with her own things. Even when she had more than enough, she worried about losing something.

Soon, Harper noticed something else. When a new backpack came out that she couldn't afford, she felt frustrated. When a friend received a gift she wanted, she felt irritated. Greed had made her concerned about image and status. Instead of enjoying time with friends, she compared and counted.

By the middle of the year, Harper felt strangely empty. Her room was full, but her heart felt hollow. The excitement of each new purchase faded quickly. What once seemed so important now sat forgotten on a shelf. Greed had promised happiness, but it delivered restlessness.

One evening, Harper sat on her bedroom floor surrounded by her things. She looked around and realized none of them could hug her, laugh with her, or pray with her. She remembered a verse her grandmother loved: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." She wondered if she truly believed it.

Harper understood that her problem wasn't what she owned—it was what owned her. She knelt beside her bed and prayed, "God, I've been chasing things instead of trusting You. Help me to be generous. Help me to hold my possessions loosely." She asked God to make her rich in kindness instead of stuff.

The next day, when her church announced a toy drive, Harper felt a tug in her heart. She opened her closet and chose a few items she had once loved. It wasn't easy. But she placed them in the donation box anyway. Each act of giving felt more freeing.

She also started a new habit. Before asking for something new, she paused and thanked God for three things she already had. She began offering her time to help her mom cook and her neighbor rake leaves. Generosity wasn't just about money—it was about her heart.

Choosing the **virtue of generosity** didn't make Harper poorer; it made her freer. She found joy in sharing and peace in trusting God as her provider. When she desired less, she enjoyed more. The craving for "one more thing" slowly faded.

Harper learned that greed chains the heart to the things of earth, but generosity sets it free for the things of Heaven. When she fixed her eyes on Christ instead of possessions, the **virtue of detachment** grew. And in that detachment from worldly things, she found something far better—fulfillment in God.

Simple Reflection Questions (5 Minutes)

Ask the kids these three questions to get them thinking:

- 1. The "Feeling" Question:** How did Harper feel even after she got new things? *(Answers: Restless, empty, frustrated, never satisfied)*
- 2. The "Warning" Question:** What were the warning signs that greed was growing in Harper's heart? *(Answers: Constant comparing, wanting more, not thanking God)*
- 3. The "Grace" Question:** What changed when Harper chose generosity instead of holding onto everything?

The "Heavy Load vs Light Load" Exercise (4 Minutes)

This is a physical way to show the difference between Greed and Generosity.

Step 1 (The Heavy Load): Find a backpack or bag. Hold it up and begin stuffing it with random items (books, toys, objects). Explain: "This is what greed looks like. It makes our hearts heavy. The more we add, the heavier it gets."

Step 2 (The Light Load): Now start removing items from the bag and giving them to others. Explain: "This is what generosity looks like. It makes our hearts light when we give to others. We trust God to provide."

The "Content Heart" Prayer (2 Minutes)

Have the kids close their eyes and repeat after you:

Dear God,

- Thank You for what I already have.
- Help me not to chase after more and more.
- Teach me to give with joy.
- Make my heart generous and content.
- Help me trust You as my provider.

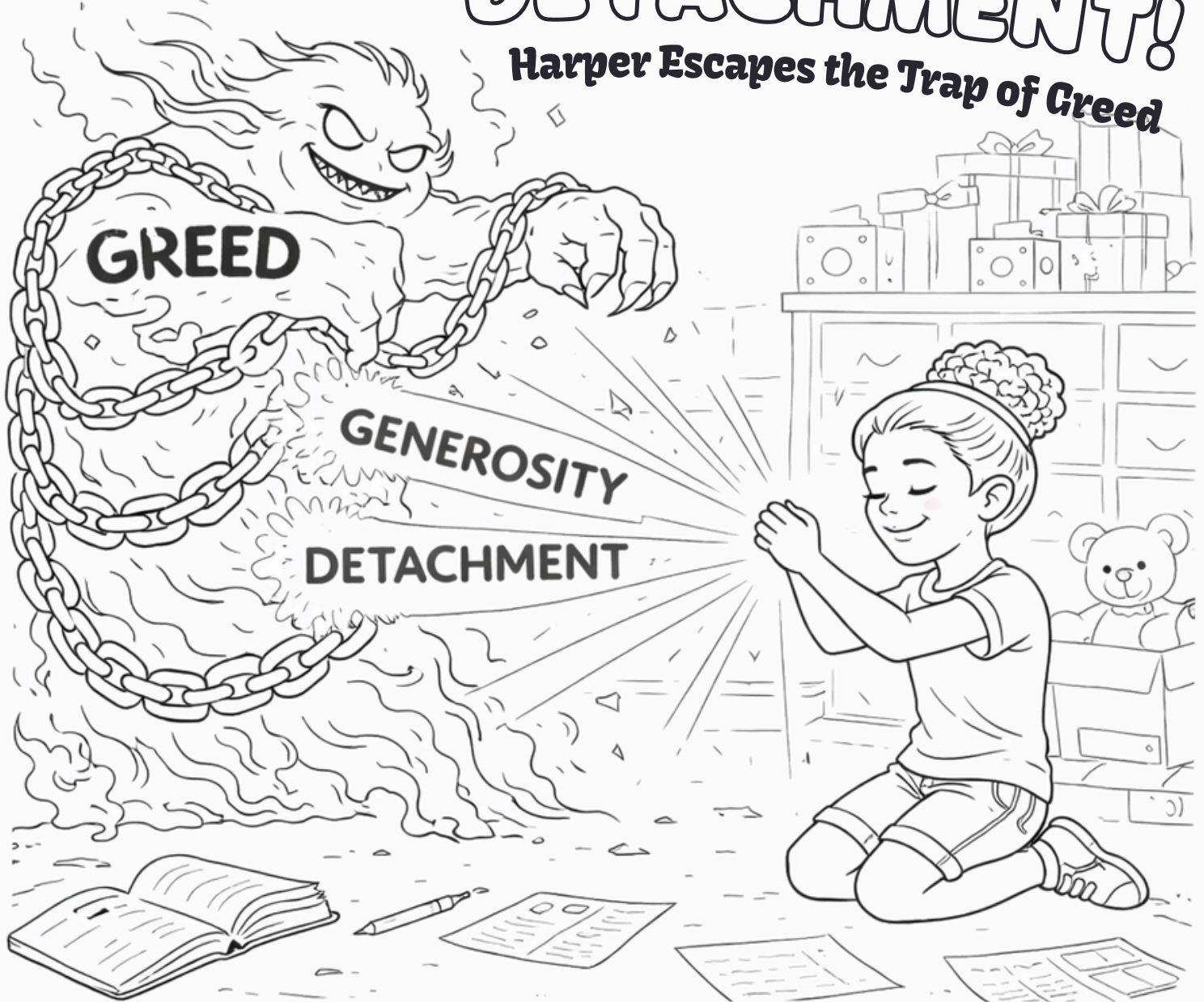
Amen.

Fun Extras:

- **Coloring Page:** Give the kids time to color and fill in the page on the back
- **Virtue over Greed:** Talk through the examples at the bottom of the coloring page. Try to relate them to real-life situations you've encountered recently. This is a great way to connect the lesson to everyday life and gently challenge growth.

CHOOSE GENEROSITY & DETACHMENT!

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Circle what it looks like to choose virtue over greed

Refusing to share your snacks — or — Offering to share with someone else

Giving some money to someone in need — or — Keeping all your allowance just for yourself

Saying, "That's mine! Don't touch it!" — or — Letting someone borrow something kindly

Wanting the biggest piece every time — or — Letting someone else choose first

Donating things you don't need anymore — or — Holding onto old things you never use

Helping because it's the right thing to do — or — Only helping if you get something in return