

THE VICE OF GREED

The Christian Teachings of Virtue (Series 4, Part 5, Teaching #29)

Instructions: Watch video, read aloud, underline what stands out to you most, discuss

Leader Guide...
See the back page for detailed facilitator instructions.

The insatiable thirst for more arises from the deadly sin of greed.

The vice of greed is a disposition of immoderate desire to possess worldly things over spiritual things.

Scripture warns, “Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions” (Luke 12:15). But greed deceives you to believe happiness is just one promotion away, one purchase away, one possession away. It whispers, “If only I had more... then I’d be fulfilled.” But the more you feed it, the more it hungers. It never satisfies. It only consumes.

There is nothing wrong with nice things. Greed is found in the rich and the poor alike. It can be present in the mansion or the shack, in the capitalist or the day laborer. For greed is not revealed in the content-quality of one’s things—but in the content-quality of one’s heart. Greed, therefore, is not about what you own—it’s about what owns you.

The greedy heart is preoccupied with image, status, and accumulation. It trades peace for possessions, contentment for comparison, purpose for profit, and inner joy for outward extravagance. For it is said, “Earthly riches are like the reed. Its roots are sunk in the swamp, and its exterior is fair to behold; but inside it is hollow. If a man leans on such a reed, it will snap off and pierce his soul” (St. Anthony of Padua).

Greed makes you more concerned with how the world views you than with how God sees you. The vain pursuit of temporal gain over eternal gain erodes your character—leaving you angered at what you lose, dissatisfied with what you have, and trapped in an endless pit of want for what you do not yet possess. Greed places the betterment of your status above the betterment of your soul—and in the end, leaves you empty.

But there is a better way.

Guard against greed with the virtues of generosity, detachment, and integrity.

Be generous. Let your heart be open-handed—not only with money, but with your time, your gifts, your attention. Every act of selfless giving weakens the grip of greed. When you give, you remind your soul that you are not the owner—only the steward.

Be detached. Hold loosely to the things of this world. Let your soul echo the truth: “The earth is the Lord’s, and all that is in it” (Psalm 24:1). What you have is not yours forever—it is on loan. Use it wisely while it’s in your care.

Live with integrity. Let your measure of success not be the size of your bank account, but the strength of your character. Proclaim, “If I have any worth, it is to live my life for God” (St. Patrick). Strive to be rich from the inside out. Grow your virtue more than your wealth. Build up the treasure of your soul—for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(continues on next page...)

7 Chief Vices

Pride

Envy

Anger

Sloth

Greed

Gluttony

Lust



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

Greed chains you to the things of earth. Generosity sets you free for the things of Heaven. When you give freely, you live freely. When you desire less, you enjoy more. When you fix your eyes on Christ, the craving for more fades—and the hunger for righteousness grows.

So refuse greed. Give when it's inconvenient. Share when it costs you. Trust that God is your provider, not your possessions. For fulfillment does not come from what you own—it comes from who owns your heart.

Let your soul say, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1). And then live like you believe it.

That is the way of virtue. That is the path to fulfillment. That is the victory over greed.

Greed is the restless craving for more—more money, more status, more security—believing fulfillment lies just beyond the next possession. It is not about what you own, but about what owns you. When worldly gain outweighs spiritual growth, the soul becomes hollow and anxious. But through generosity, detachment, and integrity, the grip of greed loosens and the heart is freed for God.

1. Greed promises fulfillment but never satisfies. It always wants more. → Where are you believing “just one more” will finally be enough?

2. Greed shifts focus from eternal to temporal. It prioritizes status over sanctity. → Are your goals shaped more by worldly success or spiritual growth?

3. Greed reveals misplaced trust. Possessions become substitutes for God’s provision. → What do you rely on most for security—God or material stability?

4. Generosity breaks greed’s grip. Giving weakens the illusion of ownership. → When was the last time you gave sacrificially or joyfully?

5. Detachment restores freedom. Holding loosely keeps the soul light. → Could you surrender what you own if God asked it of you?

6. Integrity redefines success. Character outweighs accumulation. → Are you more focused on building wealth—or building virtue?

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GENEROUS & DETACHED SOUL

Those who overcome greed and walk in virtue exhibit these traits:

1. Generous. They give freely of resources, time, and attention.

4. Trusting. They rely on God as provider, not possessions.

2. Content. They find peace in what God has already provided.

5. Grateful. They recognize all they have as a gift.

3. Detached. They hold possessions lightly and use them wisely.

6. Integrity-Driven. They measure success by holiness, not wealth.

Signs of Greed Taking Root...

- You constantly compare what you have to what others possess.
- You feel anxious about money or status beyond reason.
- You prioritize worldly success over spiritual life or relationships.
- You struggle to give freely or joyfully.
- You equate success with material gain.
- You feel dissatisfied despite having enough.
- You resent financial loss more than spiritual stagnation.

Think: Greed whispers that more will satisfy—but only God fulfills. When I cling to possessions, my heart grows heavy. When I give freely, my soul grows light. True wealth is not stored in accounts, but in character. What I own is temporary. Who I become is eternal.

Pray: Lord, free my heart from the craving for more. Teach me to trust You as my provider and to find my security in Your promises. Make me generous, detached, and grateful. Guard me from measuring my life by possessions instead of holiness. May my treasure be stored in Heaven, and may my heart belong wholly to You. Amen.

SELF-EVALUATION & ACTION STEP

Of the areas you underlined throughout this teaching, which stood out to you most and why?
(Reflect, write down, discuss)

Rate yourself from 1-10
1 = I often crave more and feel discontent
10 = I live in contentment and generous trust in God

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
←				(avoid 5)	→				

Why did you give yourself this rating?

Where is greed most influencing your thoughts—money, status, comfort, image, security?

What possession, goal, or financial fear most controls your peace right now?

What act of generosity can you intentionally practice this week (financial giving, time, encouragement, service)?

Daily Affirmation: Today, I will reject greed. By God’s grace, I will trust Him as my provider, hold possessions loosely, and give generously. My treasure is not in what I own—but in the One who owns my heart.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS

Courageous Facilitator,

Your willingness to step forward and lead is a gift of grace to your community and a brave act of faith. God bless you for answering the call to inspire others to grow in virtue and pursue the character of Christ.

The Holy Spirit thrives in fellowship and community, working powerfully through the connections and shared experiences of small groups. That's why these lesson plans are designed to cultivate genuine relationships, inspire meaningful conversations, and foster a spirit of transformation through shared wisdom and grace.

Facilitating these lessons is both simple and impactful. While many forms of teaching rely on one-way communication, where one person speaks and others listen, true transformation happens through two-way communication. In this format, ideas aren't merely taught—they're explored together. You'll guide, but everyone will share and learn from one another, creating a rich environment where the Holy Spirit can move and grow each mind, heart, and soul.

These lesson plans succeed because they:

- **Encourage connection** in a collaborative small group setting that fosters action and accountability
- **Empower every voice** with opportunities for each participant to share and contribute
- **Inspire growth** through educational, inspirational, and transformational teachings

Your role as a facilitator is to:

- **Follow the instructions and trust the process**—the wheel is already built, you're here to guide it.
- **Honor the schedule** by being punctual and respecting the time of your group.
- **Lead with love** and rely on God's grace to inspire, guide, and uplift everyone in the group.

Your courage to create a space for growth and fellowship will not only bless others but will deepen your own journey of faith and virtue. Together, with God's help, lives will be transformed.

To God be the glory!

FACILITATOR CHECKLIST

1. Getting Started (5-10 mins)

- Give everyone a few minutes to join before getting started. Be friendly and greet people as they arrive. Get them talking! Come prepared with some good ice-breaker questions you can ask during this time.
- 3-5 minutes in, do quick introductions for anyone new to the group. What brought them to the group? Spend a moment getting to know them.
- Open with a short prayer (facilitator or volunteer).

2. Watch & Read the Teaching (5-10 mins)

- Watch the video of the teaching as a group.
- Have a volunteer read all of page 1. Have others follow along and underline what stands out to them most.

3. How it Applies (5-10 mins)

- Have a volunteer read all of page 2. Have others follow along and underline what stands out to them most.

4. Reflection & Discussion (20-30 mins)

- Have everyone quietly take 5 minutes to complete the "Self-Evaluation & Action Step" on page 3.
- Then, going around the group, have each person take a minute to share what stood out to them most about the teaching and why.
- If time allows, continue the discussion using the remaining self-evaluation questions as a guide.

5. Wrap Up (5 mins)

- Remind everyone to do the daily affirmation until you meet again next time.
- Ask for any prayer requests from the group.
- Close with a short prayer (facilitator or volunteer).