



Overcoming the Gimmies

Adapted from “New Me” series by Rod Loy.

We live in a world where people are measured by what they have. If you just drive the right car, then you will be loved and accepted. If you wear the right clothes and have the right things, then you will be successful. The problem is there is no escape from this lifestyle. Someone is always driving a better car. There is always some guy whose clothes are more expensive than yours. Some guy’s house is bigger than your house.

We could learn a valuable lesson from a children’s book, *The Berenstain Bears Get the Gimmies*. The story is about Brother and Sister Bear, who seem to want everything. The little cubs learn that they must make choices because they cannot have everything they want. The Federal Reserve Banks of St. Louis and Philadelphia turn this story into a financial teaching piece by asking students to follow along with the story and list all the goods that will satisfy the cubs’ wants. The students then take part in an activity to construct a word web and graphic organizer (table) to identify goods that will satisfy a want. They will make a choice, identify the problem of scarcity, and recognize their opportunity cost.¹

¹ Erin A. Yetter, “Economic Education: The Berenstain Bears Get the Gimmies,” 2013, <http://www.philadelphiafed.org/education/teachers/lesson-plans/The-Berenstain-Bears-Get-the-Gimmies.pdf> (accessed July 21, 2017).

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COURAGE

C1: Think about a time in your life when you bought something you later regretted. Describe the experience. Include why you bought it, what you bought, and how it made you feel when you bought it.

C2: Read through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in the next sixty days. Write down or highlight every verse where Jesus talked about or referenced money. What do you glean from these verses?

STRENGTH

S1: Read and answer the following.

- What is your thought regarding money?
- What do you believe God's thought are regarding money?

Romans 12:2 (ESV)

- According to this verse, how will you be transformed in the area of money?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very high and 4 being not very high, rate yourself on how open you are to transformation about money. Write out a plan to improve.

S2: As men, we are tempted to keep everything we can. Read and answer the following.

Hebrews 13:5 (ESV)

- What do you glean from this verse regarding money and generosity?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how well you are passing on biblical stewardship to your family? Write out a plan of improvement.

S3: Read and answer the following.

Proverbs 11:24 (ESV)

Proverbs 22:9 (ESV)

Luke 6:38 (ESV)

- What are three things you glean from these verses about giving?

- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being not very good and 4 being very good, rate yourself on how good a giver you are. Write out a plan to improve.

ENDURANCE

E1: As committed followers of Christ, we are challenged not to live for ourselves but for God. Read and answer the following.

Malachi 3:10 (ESV)

Matthew 23:23 (ESV)

- From these verses, what do you glean about tithing?
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on your consistent tithing pattern. Write out a plan to improve.

E2: We are challenged to make the Kingdom of God our primary concern. God first.

- Why is there a struggle to put God first?
- Write out five thoughts regarding a scarcity mentality and contrast these thoughts with an abundance mentality.
- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very abundant and 4 being very scarce, rate yourself on your giving mentality. Write out a plan to improve.

E3: Read and answer the following.

1 Timothy 6:6–10 (ESV)

- What are three principles from this verse you glean regarding money?

- On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very well and 4 being not very well, rate yourself on how content you are in life. Write out a plan to improve.