

SESSION
3

THE CONVERSATION STARTER
“Not in My House”
POINT YOURSELF TOWARD GOD

Launch your study with this
CONVERSATION STARTER
[Watch the video](#) or read it below.



READ

Before the study, take a moment to read Luke 12:13-21; Ps. 19:7-14; James 4:14-16.



BONUS RESOURCE

Feel free to listen to **Weekly episode #177, “Hey You!”** before your study, as an example of a conversation led by this study guide.

biblegeeks.fm/177



It's never a good day when a 7-foot tall gangly-armed center ruins your team's playoff chances by intercepting a potential buzzer-beater shot with an epic “not in my house” block. Rather than scoring that game-winning goal, a team is left dejected as their ball goes sailing into the stands. But not all blocks are heartbreaking.

Scientists call our ongoing, inner dialogue “self-referential thought.” Since it's constant, these typically negative and anxious patterns become ingrained. We get stuck in a conversation we can't seem to escape! And that's where God comes in to knock our thoughts into a new direction, replacing them with his own.



THE BIG IDEA

The best thing that can happen to our inner dialogue is to bring God into the conversation.

Because what we tell ourselves isn't always reliable, but what God tells us can save our eternal lives. Jesus tells a parable about a man talking to himself. The man saw his farm's excellent yield and “*thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’*” (Luke 12:17). He had a talk with ... himself, and together they planned their retirement!

He wanted what he wanted, and when he spoke to himself, it was about his favorite subject: himself! If you're bold enough to look under the hood and examine your self-talk, prepare to learn some hard truths about what you value. Eavesdropping on yourself is not for the faint of heart!

But sometimes the best thing that can happen to our inner dialogue is for God to send the conversation in the opposite direction. “*But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’*” (Luke 12:20).

God's voice wants to break into your thoughts too, reminding you of a hard truth: you are mortal (James 4:14-16). So, whatever conversation you're having with yourself right now, let the Lord interrupt your thoughts with his precious Word (Ps. 19:10, 14).



THE BIG QUESTION

Are you clutching your treasures or investing your life in the lasting words of God?

Hearing God

LET GOD'S WORD INTERRUPT YOUR THOUGHTS

INTRODUCTION



Launch the study with a **CONVERSATION STARTER** on the Big Idea.

Read, listen, or watch “Not In My House” – biblegeeks.fm/daily-277 ▶▶



ICE BREAKER — Get everyone engaged and talking.

What activity do you hate to be interrupted while doing?

ACT I



JESUS SAID — Matt. 5:22, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44

What is Jesus doing with the “But I say to you” statements?

What themes do notice throughout these statements?

What insights and applications do you take from these words of Christ? What do we need to get from these words that – if understood and applied – has the power to change a life or a family?

Is there anything else here you find helpful or interesting? Anything you've never noticed before – or have always loved about these words?

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ACT II



HERE'S THE STORY — The Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21)

In your own words, summarize each section of the story identified below.

In group studies, take turns summarizing the sections until the group has told the whole story. Then discuss your answers to the questions at the bottom.

Intro – Luke 12:13-15

Story Part 1 – Luke 12:16-18

Story Part 2 – Luke 12:19-20

Conclusion – Luke 12:21

What's the main point of this passage?

What key truths should we take away from the story?

Hearing God

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ACT III



REACH OUT — Connect with each other with this question.

Share a time you've had a "you are the man" (2 Sam. 12:7-9) moment of conviction.

WRAP UP



THE CHALLENGE — Ready to put it into practice?

Write a helpful memory verse on a slip of paper and repeat it to yourself throughout the week.



REQUEST — Go to God in a closing prayer.

For example: "Help me to know the truth" (cf. John 8:32).