

## Part 2

When the laughter had died down, the professor began to speak.

“OK, joking aside, I want you to see that this jar is like your life. Now, we’ve all got to do some work to earn money, but apart from that, in a free society you’re allowed to fill your life with pretty much whatever you want to.

The pebbles represent the *big* things in your life, the really important things – your partner, your family, your friends, your health, your strongest passions. Sure, there are other things that seem really important, but the pebbles are the things which, even if you lose everything else, mean that your life can still be full and meaningful.

The peas are other things which are also important in your life – your job, your house, your car. But you don’t *need* to have these things in order for life to be meaningful, and they’re not as difficult to replace if you lose them. And the sand ... that’s everything else in life – the small stuff. You can have great fun with it – watching TV, going on Facebook, playing video games. But, here’s the lesson in this ...

If you look around, you’ll notice that a lot of people’s lives, and maybe your own, can easily get filled up with too much sand and too many peas. You mustn’t let this happen, because if the jar’s full of sand and peas, there’s no space for the pebbles. You’ve got to keep an eye on how much time you’re devoting to the small things in life, because if you’re not careful, you won’t have enough space for the big things that are most important in life. You should make sure you’re spending enough time on the things that bring you real happiness – doing something special with your partner, playing with your children, seeing good friends. You can always *make* time to do all the other things you think you have to do, chores like cleaning the house, washing the car ... and you might decide you don’t really have to do them as often as you think. So, take care of the pebbles first, and decide what your real priorities are in life – the rest is just sand.”

‘What about the beer?’ asked Kirsty...



## Vocabulary

6 Match the words from the text with their definitions.

1 to giggle	a to give time to
2 to soak	b to watch carefully
3 to die down	c ordinary, everyday things
4 to devote time to	d everyday jobs around the house
5 stuff	e to make something completely wet
6 to keep an eye on	f things which are seen as most important
7 chores	g to laugh nervously
8 priorities	h to become quieter or weaker

### What do you think?

Work in small groups. Think of other things in your life that are represented by the pebbles, peas, and sand.

- Are there enough pebbles?
- Is there too much sand?
- Are there too many peas?
- What could you do to improve this?

▶ Watch a video about choices to make when growing up.

