

Life of Christ

Jesus and the Rich Man

Matthew 19:16-26

Younger Verse

Put God's kingdom first.

Matthew 6:33

Older Verse

Put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you.

Matthew 6:33

Lesson Goals

Learn that we must put God first in our life
Understand that God's ways are always best
Recognize that the only way to Heaven is through Jesus Christ

Welcome Time

What if someone asked you to give up your favorite video game or toy? Would it be hard to do? Jesus told a rich man to give up his riches. Let's see what happens.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

We have learned that Jesus loves children very much. He wants us to have faith in Him like a child has for their parents. He also wants us to know that we shouldn't think we are better than anyone else.

A man who had a lot of money and possessions asked Jesus a question. He wanted to know how he could go to Heaven. He wanted to live forever.

Jesus knew the man was very rich. Jesus told the young man something he already knew. Jesus told the man to follow the commandments (rules).

The young man told Jesus that he had obeyed all the commandments.

Jesus loved the young man, but He knew that there was one thing which stood between this man and God. He knew the young man loved his money and things more than anything else in the world. The man loved God, but he loved being rich even more.

So Jesus told him to sell all he had and give his money to people in need and follow Him.

When the man heard this, he was very sad. He lowered his head and turned away. He knew deep down that he had not given God first place in his life. He was not willing to give up his riches and follow Jesus. So he walked away, very sad.

Jesus told His friends that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to go to Heaven, because it is hard for them to give up all they have.

Jesus' followers were surprised that He said this. They thought that rich people were especially blessed by God because of their wealth. Jesus wanted them to know that to Him, all people are the same. They must all be saved the same way—by believing in Jesus as their Savior.

The way for us to get to Heaven is through Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's Son. He was born and lived with us. While He was here, He did not do anything wrong. He did not sin at all. Many people loved Him, but others decided that He must die because of the things that He was saying.

These people arrested Jesus and put Him on trial. He was finally sentenced to death—on a cross! However, three days later, Jesus arose from the grave! Jesus took our place and paid for the wrong things we had done. He died and rose again so that we could get to Heaven if we ask Jesus to be in our life.

How do we do this? We must be sorry for the wrong things that we have done. We must tell Jesus that we have done wrong and ask Him to forgive us. Then, we must believe in Jesus and pray for Him to come into our lives. Praying this prayer means that He has to be the most important thing to us now. If you mean what you say, Jesus will come into your life and you will go to Heaven.

Review Questions

1. What did the young man ask Jesus? (How to get to Heaven)
2. How did Jesus answer him? (to obey all the commandments)
3. What else did Jesus tell the man to do? (sell everything he had and give the money to the poor people)
4. Why didn't the man want to follow Jesus? (He didn't want to give up the things he had; he loved things more than God)

Prayer Time

Pray that we will put God first in our lives. Ask God to help us love Him more than anything else.

Life Application

It is easy to put all our focus, time and energy on “stuff.” We want new, exciting toys and video games. We want to have the best clothes and shoes. But what does *God* want? That is the first thought we should have.

When we give our lives to Christ, He becomes our Master. We need to seek His will in all areas of life—even about the stuff we want.

God knows what is best for us. We can trust Him to have our best in mind.

Planning for Next Lesson
Workers in a Grape Vineyard
Matthew 20:1-16

Preschool Lesson For Jesus and the Rich Man

(Bring a toy or video game to the class. Ask the kids if they would want to share their toys or video games with someone else.)

A man who had a lot of money asked Jesus a question. He wanted to know how he could go to Heaven. He wanted to be with God forever.

Jesus knew the man had lots of money. Jesus told the man that he needed to follow all of God's rules.

The young man told Jesus that he had obeyed all the rules.

Jesus loved the young man, but He knew the man loved his money and things more than God. The man loved God, but he loved being rich even more.

So Jesus told him to sell all he had, give his money away, and share it with others.

When the man heard this, he was very sad. (make a pouty face) He lowered his head and turned away. He knew deep down that he had not loved God most of all. He walked away, very sad.

Some people heard Jesus talking and asked how to get to heaven. Jesus explained that the way for us to get to Heaven is through believing in Jesus. Jesus died on a cross. But, three days later, Jesus arose from the grave! Jesus took our place and paid for the wrong things we had done. He died and rose again so that we could get to Heaven if we ask Jesus to be in our life and believe in Him.

Pray that we will put God first in our lives. Ask Him to help us want to share what we have with others.

Hands-on Activities for Jesus and the Rich Man

Bring a needle and thread. Take volunteers to try to put the thread through the eye of the needle. Now ask if they could fit a large animal, like a camel, through the needle's eye. Of course not! But with God, all things are possible.

Jesus mentioned the 10 commandments in this lesson. Do you know where they are in the Bible? Take time to look them up with the kids. They can be found in 2 books of the Bible: Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21. Explain what they mean.

Arrange furniture so that there is a very small space that the kids must squeeze through. Let them try to get through the space. Explain that the "eye of the needle" was a way for Jesus to help His friends understand that just as it is hard to squeeze through a small space, it is hard for a rich man to go to Heaven because he may love his money more than God.

Try playing this game to help the kids see how they cannot have 2 leaders in their life. Play a game like red light green light. However, pick 2 people instead of 1 to be the leader. Now it is really hard to follow both leaders and do what both want. The kids will become frustrated. Talk about how the same thing is true in our lives. We cannot have 2 leaders in our life: God and _____. The rich man had money as the other leader in his life.

Make up a version of game show. Use the words "Who wants to go to Heaven?" or something similar. Use questions that will help the kids see that they can only go to Heaven by believing in Jesus. For fun you may want to use phrases that they use on game shows!