

Jesus Talks to a Rich Young Man

Overview



Materials You'll Need

- construction paper
- clear sealing tape
- markers and crayons
- safety pins
- scissors



Scriptures

Mt 19:16-22; Mk 10:17-25

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to love Him with all our heart and mind

Behavioral Objective(s)

To identify ways we can share our things to show God we love Him

Memory Verse

"You shall love the Lord your God."
(Deut 6:5)



Bible Knowledge

The Rich Young Man

When Jesus was about to leave Perea ("the coasts of Judea by the farther side of Jordan," Mk 10:1), a young man came running up to Him, eager to learn how to obtain eternal life. The young man was a ruler (Lk 18:18) with considerable wealth (Mt 19:22) and he was of high moral character (Mt 10:20). He said he had never broken any of the laws Jesus mentioned (Mk 10:19), and perhaps he had even kept the Pharisees' strictly detailed version of them. But Jesus lovingly broke through the young man's pride with a challenge that truly tested his motivation: "Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor." This challenge exposed the barrier that could keep this young man out of the kingdom: his love of money.

Jesus told this young man that his riches could not buy treasure in heaven. In fact, Jesus knew as long as the young man had his riches, they would be his god. He told the young man to dispose of anything that would hinder him, and then to "take up the cross, and follow Me" (Mk 10:2). But the

promising young man turned away from Jesus and "went away grieved" (Mt 10:22). Money represented his pride in accomplishment and self-effort. Ironically, his attitude made him unable to keep the first commandment, to let nothing be more important than God (Ex 20:3). The man came to Jesus wondering what he could do; he left seeing what he was unable to do.

The Commandments

When the rich young man asked Jesus what he could do to be saved, Jesus mentioned six commandments in Matthew 19:18. He tells the man, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" Interestingly, the commandments Jesus chose to talk about all had to do with how one treated others. Although the young man thought he had kept these laws, his answer was obviously flawed. If he had truly loved others, he would not have a problem sharing his riches with those who were in need. Ultimately, he also could not truly love God (or keep the first four commandments) since money was more important to him.



Understanding Your Students

Kindergartners, as a group, are very loving people. They like their families, friends, and teachers. They are intrigued by the physical world; they are curious, open, and receptive. Help your children understand that God has given us much to enjoy, and that He wants us to love His gifts. But, more than all these things, He wants us to love Him with all our heart!

Talk to your students about how we can love God with "all our heart." Love is easy for the students to say but hard to really understand. Share some examples first. Try asking them concrete questions like, "Do you love your parents?" and then, "How do you love your parents?" By talking about the different ways, the students can begin to put together the word

"love" with their actions. Do the same thing by talking about how they can love God with their actions. Ask them, "How can people know that you love God?" They might answer simply, "Because we pray" or "We come to church." These are acceptable answers since their minds are still growing.

After a brief discussion, give the students a piece of pre-cut-out heart-shaped construction paper. Ask them to draw or write down three things that they can do to love God with all their heart. Encourage the students to share what they drew or wrote down with the class. Take this opportunity to emphasize that God watches our heart, and He treasures every little effort we make to love Him even more every day. Post these hearts up in the class (or bring them home) to help encourage the students each time they come to worship Him.



Vocabulary

Eternal

forever, something that never ends



Before You Teach

This lesson asks us a very important question: What barriers are keeping us from turning our life completely to Christ? To this rich young man, his great wealth was his biggest obstacle to loving God with all his heart. Do we ever feel the same way as he did? What does our money mean to us? Although Jesus wanted this man to sell everything and give his money to the poor, this does not mean that all believers should sell all their possessions. Most of Jesus' followers did not sell everything, although they did use their possessions to serve others. Instead, from the conversations between this rich young man and Jesus, we learn that we must not let anything we have or want keep us from following Jesus. We must remove all barriers in order to fully serve God. If Jesus asked, could we give up our house and move into a smaller one, trade in our car and take the bus, reduce our level of income, or

our status? Our reaction may show our attitude toward money.

To this young man, Jesus' words pierced his heart. The Bible records that he walked away with a sad face. It was tough for him to hear the truth. But in fact, Jesus was showing genuine love for this man. True love is able to give tough to hear advice; it doesn't hover around the truth. Christ loved us enough to die for us, and He also loves us enough to be honest with us. If His love were superficial, He would give us only His approval; but because His love is complete, He gives us life-changing challenges to help us become better and stronger Christians. The next time we come upon a challenge, we should have the courage to face it head-on. Do we have some personal issues we need to confront first? Do we need more strength from God? He loves us so much that no matter what we are facing, He will guide us, so long as we are faithful.



Bible Story

Before the lesson, give the students a pre-cut out heart-shaped construction paper. Ask them to draw or write down three things that they can do to love God with all their heart. Encourage the students to share with the class what they are drawing or writing down. Then put them aside and begin the lesson. Tell them that they will use the hearts later on in the story.

Jesus Talks to a Rich Young Man

We learned from the past lessons that Jesus went to many places to tell others about God. After a while, many people had heard about Jesus and His teachings.

One day, Jesus was going out on the road, and all of the sudden, there was a young man who ran up to Jesus, wanting to talk to Him. This man was very rich- he had lots and lots of money and owned many things. He had a beautiful house, good food to eat, and nice clothes to wear. Today, if we had all those things we would probably be very happy. Imagine if you could buy any toy, any time you wanted to, wouldn't that make you very happy? Well, this man could buy whatever he wanted so that should have made him feel very happy. But he felt that he was missing something because he still felt unhappy, even though he could have everything. That is why he came to Jesus. He came to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, how can I be sure that I have eternal life? Please tell me what to do!" This young man wanted something that was even better than anything he had in this world—he wanted to be able to go to heaven one day. He knew heaven was something you could not buy with money. So he asked Jesus how he could go to heaven.

Jesus said to him, "God's Word tells you what to do. You know the Ten Commandments. It says, 'Do not kill people; do not hurt people; do not tell lies; do not steal things; and love your father and mother.' You should follow all of them." What was Jesus telling the young man? He was telling him that in order to go to heaven, he needed to follow God's commandments. Do you remember what some of those commandments are? (Take a few moments to review them briefly.)

When this young man heard Jesus, he said, "Ever

since I was a little boy I have always followed these rules."

Jesus Tells the Man to Share His Money

Then Jesus looked at the man lovingly, and said something else. But He said something that the man was surprised to hear. Jesus said, "There is one rule you have not followed—that is you must love God more than anything else in this world. Here is what you need to do to go to heaven: Sell whatever you have and give your money to the poor who need it to buy food, and then come follow me." What was Jesus telling the rich young man? Jesus told him to share his money with the poor. That way, he could really show God how much he loved him.

But when the rich man heard Jesus' words, he couldn't believe it. He had a lot of money. How could he give it all away? Imagine if you had a lot of toys and Jesus asked you to give them away to other children who didn't have any toys. Would you share your toys with them? (Allow students to share without passing judgment.) Well, this young man knew it would be very hard for him to share all his money. So he shook his head sadly and walked away. He walked away because he wanted to have eternal life and be Jesus' follower, but he did not want to give away his money and everything that he had. He loved his money too much; He loved money more than he loved God.

Jesus Wants Us to Love Him Completely

Jesus was sad, too. Children, why do you think Jesus felt sad when the young man walked away? (Encourage children to share.) Jesus was sad because He knew that people cannot have eternal life unless they love God more than anything else. This rich man could not love God more than anything because he loved his money most.

Boys and girls, now that we know what makes Jesus sad, let's think about another question- what makes Jesus happy? (Allow a variety of responses.) The Bible tells us that Jesus is happy when we love Him more than anything else. There are many things we love to do, like play, eat, and swim. What are some others things we really like to do? (Allow students to answer.) We might like to watch television or play video games. Those are fun things to do. But most of all, Jesus wants us to love Him. We have learned from the story that this young man couldn't

love God with all his heart because of the money he had and the many things that he owned. Jesus doesn't want us to be like that. He wants us to love Him more than anything. It doesn't mean we can't do fun things we like. It means He wants us to show Him with our actions every day that we care about Him a lot. How can we show God we love Him with all our hearts? (Brainstorm answers with students or bring out the heart-shape activity prior to the lesson.)

Let's remember what God wants us to do. Today's memory verse teaches us to love God with all

our hearts. Earlier we made this heart and we wrote down things that show God we love Him. Let the heart be a good reminder for everyone to do the best they can to love God with all their heart. Everyone should already have three things that they drew or wrote down in the beginning of the class to put their love for God in action everyday. (Allow time for those who haven't finished to write down three things at the end of the class.) Next time, we can share one thing we did to show God that we love Him with all our heart.



Check For Understanding

1. **What did the young man ask Jesus?** (He asked Jesus what he should do to get eternal life.)
2. **What is eternal life?** (Eternal life is life together with God in heaven forever.)
3. **What did Jesus tell the young man to do in order to receive eternal life?** (He needed to sell his things, give his money to the

poor, and come follow Jesus.)

4. **The Bible says the young man walked away sad after Jesus told him to share his things. Why?** (He loved his money more than anything and could not give it up.)
5. **What is it that Jesus wants us to do every day?** (He wants us to love Him with all our heart every day.)
6. **How can we love Jesus with all our heart every day?** (Allow students to answer.)



Life Application Story

The Blue Ball

The Hayes family and the Sharp family were having a picnic on a beautiful Sunday morning. The children from both families went to the same school. Cathy Hayes and Melissa Sharp had become great friends in their first grade classroom, and their younger sister and brother, Rachel and David, played well together, too. The two families loved to do things together on the weekend. The Hayes have also been inviting the Sharps to go to church with them so they would get to know God better.

On this day, Mr. Sharp and Mr. Hayes were barbecuing some meat for lunch. Mrs. Hayes and Mrs. Sharp were walking by the lake talking about their children. Rachel and David were playing frisbee with Togo, the Hayeses' dog.

Cathy was playing with Melissa by the lake. They were looking at the birds swimming by. As they looked, Melissa spotted a blue ball by the table. She quickly ran over and picked it up.

"Hey, Cathy, let's play catch," said Melissa.

Cathy looked up at her friend. She couldn't believe her eyes. Melissa had grabbed her favorite ball. Cathy had just gotten that blue ball as a present from her parents. This blue ball was small enough to hold in one hand, and could bounce very high. Cathy liked the ball a lot. She even wrote her name on it just in case it got lost. If someone found it, he might return it to her.

"That's my ball and you didn't ask me if you could play with it," snapped Cathy as she ran to grab the ball back from Melissa.

"I'm sorry, Cathy. I didn't know it was yours," apologized Melissa.

"I don't want to get it dirty, Melissa. It's brand new. I don't even let my sister touch it," explained

Cathy.

"That's okay," said Melissa. "We can play with something else."

Cathy felt bad that she wasn't sharing.

"Well, I guess we could play with it for a while. We just have to be very careful," said Cathy.

Soon, the two girls were playing "Pepper" with the blue ball, a game that requires players to throw the ball very quickly back and forth to each other. It was Cathy's turn to throw the ball this time. Up it went! The ball flew high in the sky toward Melissa, but she missed it. The blue ball started bouncing towards the lake!

"Oh, no!" Cathy cried as she ran towards the ball, but it was too late. Cathy saw the ball rolling down to the lake. She had lost her favorite ball.

Cathy was angry and she walked over to Melissa and said, "Why didn't you catch the ball, Melissa? You saw it coming. Why did you miss it?"

Melissa said, "I couldn't. You threw it too fast, Cathy. I am sorry the ball went down to the lake."

Cathy was mad that Melissa didn't catch the ball. Her voice got louder and she yelled, "If you had caught the ball, it wouldn't have fallen into the water! It's all your fault! We shouldn't have played with it in the first place. I shouldn't have shared it."

Melissa was sad when she heard Cathy say that. She ran back to the bench and sat down. Cathy's dad overheard their conversation. He came and patted Melissa on her back and told her that it would be okay. Mr. Hayes then walked up to Cathy and sat down beside her.

"Dad, I lost my blue ball," Cathy said. "It fell into the lake. It's Melissa's fault that this happened."

Mr. Hayes said, "It seems like you care about the ball a lot."

"It was my favorite ball," Cathy replied with tears in her eyes.

"But you are pretty mad at Melissa. Jesus would be sad that you did that. He wants us to share our things and love one another too. It seems like you care more about the ball than about what Jesus wants."

"That's not true. I do care about what Jesus wants. I just want my blue ball back," Cathy said.

Dad continued, "Don't you think Melissa is sad, too? It was an accident. I am sure Melissa didn't miss catching the ball on purpose. What you said to her was not nice."

"I can say sorry to her," Cathy said with a low voice.

"That's a good start," Mr. Hayes said, "Besides, it is only a ball! We can always get you another one. But you need to show us that you can share your things and be someone who shows God's love to others!"

Cathy was still a bit sad. But she knew her dad was right. Jesus wouldn't want her to keep everything to herself. And He definitely wouldn't want her to be mad. Her friend was more important than the ball. She walked over to where Melissa was sitting.

"Sorry, Melissa," said Cathy.

"That's okay. Maybe we can play something else instead," suggested Melissa.

"Okay," smiled Cathy as they ran off together.

Questions to Think About

1. **Why was Cathy mad at Melissa?** (Melissa didn't catch the ball in time and it fell in the lake.)
2. **Would you be mad if you were Cathy? Why or why not?** (Allow students to answer.)
3. **If you were Melissa, how would you feel if you missed the ball?** (Allow students to answer.)
4. **What did Cathy's dad, Mr. Hayes, talk to Cathy about?** (Mr. Hayes asked Cathy to say sorry to Melissa and really show God's love to others.)
5. **What do you think Jesus wanted Cathy to do?** (He wanted her to show love to others because that is what He commanded us to do.)
6. **What happened to both Cathy and Melissa at the end?** (Cathy apologized to Melissa, and they played together again.)
7. **Is there something that is hard for you to share? What is it?** (Allow students to share.)
8. **What does God want us to do with our things?** (He wants us to share.)
9. **How does sharing make God happy?** (It shows that we love God because we are willing to share.)



Activity 1

Follow Jesus

Look at the picture of the rich man. The man is thinking about two things: his money and following Jesus. Which one does Jesus want him to choose? (following Jesus) Put an "X" over the other thing. (money) Color in the picture.



Activity 2

What Can We Share?

Jesus wanted the rich young man to share his things because he had so much. What are the things you can share? Help the students brainstorm some things on the board. Then distribute the page entitled "I Can Share" and have each student draw the things they can share. When we share, we make Jesus happy.



Activity 3

I Can Share Badge

Materials:

1. construction paper
2. clear sealing tape
3. markers and crayons
4. safety pins
5. scissors

Directions:

1. Give each student a piece of construction paper.
2. Draw and cut out a circle from the construction paper that is no more than 3 inches in diameter.
3. Have the students write the words, "I Can Share" on the circle.
4. Allow time for students to decorate the circle.
5. To "laminare" the badge, put clear sealing tape around the circle.
6. Pin a safety pin through the paper and help to pin the badge on the students. Encourage the students to share with others the ways they can share as they wear their badge.

Activity 12:1

Follow Jesus

Look at the picture of the rich man. The man is thinking about two things: his money and following Jesus. Which one does Jesus want him to choose? Put an "X" over the other thing. Color in the picture.



Activity 12:2

I Can Share

