

## Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler- Mark 10:17-27

### THE POINT

Focus:

Following Jesus is the only way to live in the Kingdom of Heaven  
Jesus requires whole-life devotion.

Application:

I choose to seek and follow God with every area of my life.  
I trust that God has a good plan for me.

Last Week: Jesus and Nicodemus

2 Weeks Ago: Jesus' Temptation in the Desert

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### HEART CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

#### MATERIALS:

- Magazines, stickers, or other pictures that represent a "good life" for the children in your congregation. These could include toy catalogues, Disney World or LEGO Land brochures, packaging from favorite snacks, book covers, sports emblems, etc.
- Posterboard, butcher paper, or construction paper
- Glue Sticks

**Content:** As a group, spend 8-10 minutes constructing a visual of a "good life". Let them sort through the array of images and each pick two or three that represent things that they associate with happiness or joy. Glue them together on the poster board. Some of the things might be disputed (older children might label some things "babyish", etc.), but go ahead and include an array of items.

*Relationship Builder:* Use this time to talk with children about some of their interests; make a note to follow-up, especially with disengaged children, in the next few weeks to connect with them over these interests.

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## STORY CONNECTION (8-10 MINUTES)

### MATERIALS:

- 1 large felt background (any color except blue)
- 2 peg dolls, one to represent Jesus (sometimes indicated by a different color of cloak or sash)
- Small Notecard or card-stock print-out with 10 Commandments (image attached)
- 2 Felt Cut outs of houses in different colors
- Gold/Yellow beads or felt circles (coins)
- Picture of a camel or a camel figurine (image attached)

### Instructions:

Have the children sit in a circle as you tell the story. Remind them not to touch the materials with their hands; if necessary, give them a “fidget tool” like a marble in mesh, pipe cleaner, or cotton ball to keep their hands occupied.

As you tell the story, use the tools listed above as visuals while you read. If you focus your attention on the objects and the text instead of the children, they will engage more fully with the objects themselves.

*Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.*

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*Tie this story into Lent- the Rich Young Ruler had power, wealth, and good works. He needed to learn to rely on Jesus. How are families in your congregation learning to rely on Jesus during the Lenten season?*

Mark 10:17-27

*Before you begin, lay down the large felt piece as the story background.  
Set out the two peg dolls as you introduce the characters in verse 17.*

17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him. He fell on his knees before Jesus. “Good teacher,” he said, “what must I do to receive eternal life?”

*Set down the commandments between the man and Jesus as you read aloud.*

18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good except God. 19 You know what the commandments say. ‘Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not be a false witness. Do not cheat. Honor your father and mother.’ ”

20 “Teacher,” he said, “I have obeyed all those commandments since I was a boy.”

*Put down the two house images, one above Jesus and the other beside the young man.  
Fill the young man’s house with gold coins. As you read, move the coins out of the young man’s house, and transfer some of them to the house above Jesus.*

21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “You are missing one thing,” he said. “Go and sell everything you have. Give the money to those who are poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me.”

*Place the transferred coins back in the house of the young man.*

22 The man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he was very rich.

23 Jesus looked around. He said to his disciples, “How hard it is for rich people to enter God’s kingdom!”

24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter God’s kingdom! 25 Is it hard for a camel to go through the eye of a needle? It is even harder for someone who is rich to enter God’s kingdom!”

*Place camel on the felt board.*

26 The disciples were even more amazed. They said to each other, “Then who can be saved?”

27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With people, this is impossible. But not with God. All things are possible with God.”

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### **WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)**

I wonder how the rich, young ruler felt to run up to Jesus like that.

I wonder how Jesus felt when he saw him look sad at the cost of following him.

I wonder what everyone who was watching thought about as they heard this discussion happen.

I wonder what it looks like for me or for you to follow after Jesus.

What do you wonder?

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### **SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)**

**MATERIALS:** Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

**Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.**