

Date: 10-14-18

Theme: God and the Things We Own

Scripture: Mark 10: 17-31

Materials and Preparation:

- a. Have plenty of construction paper on hand (to be used in making the puppets). White (or light colored) paper is best so the students can draw on it. Darker colors can be used for the hair, beard, tongue, etc., as desired.
- b. Multiple rolls of scotch tape (to be used in making the puppets). *It's best to use tape since there may not be time for glue to dry.*
- c. A Sharpie (felt-tip) marker for each student, to be used for drawing eyes, eyebrows, nose, etc., on the puppets.
- d. Multiple pairs of scissors (for cutting out add-ons to the puppets, e.g., tongue, teeth, or beard).
- e. Prior to class, using the URL provided below, make at least one puppet to show the students; this will assist them as they make their own puppets. (The above list of materials assumes the students will be making the *first type* of puppet at the website.)
- f. Bring at least six copies of the script for the puppet show (page 3) to class—one copy for each teacher and one per role: Rich Young Man, Jesus, Peter, and John.
- g. You may wish to use the puppet theatre which is available in the resource room.
- h. Bring a needle to class to be used in discussing Jesus' statement, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."
- i. The New Revised Standard Version of today's Bible text is copied for your convenience on page 4 below; it may be of interest to you as background information.

Vocabulary Words: rich, material possessions, God's kingdom (roughly, those who accept that God is in charge of everything and who will live with God forever)

Objective: To help students understand the proper value to place on their material possessions--the things they own.

Opening: Have the students recite the Lord's Prayer. (They may need to repeat each line after you.)

Question:

Which of your things would be hard to give away? (Toys? Your favorite shoes or jacket? Your room? Money?)

Today's Bible story is about a man who didn't want to give *something* away. To understand the story, we are going to tell it as a puppet show. But first, we need to make the puppets!

Activity 1: Making the paper puppets.

Materials needed: these are listed under "Materials and Preparation" (above). The following URL will provide you with step-by-step instructions.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Simple-Paper-Puppet>

Each student should make one puppet (to play one of the following roles): Rich Young Man, Jesus, Disciple Peter, Disciple John. Be sure *at least* one puppet is made for each role.

Activity 2: The Puppet Show (see page 3 for the script)

Have the students take turns putting on the puppet show, using the puppets they have made. If possible (depending on the number of students present), let all of the students take part in putting on the show at least once. Have the students perform the show several times, with different students playing different roles.

[After the students have performed the puppet show, you may wish to read Mark 10:17-31 in the *Whirl Story Bible* or the *Spark Story Bible*.]

Discuss the Bible story:

1. What didn't the rich young man want to give away?
2. The rich young man wanted to enter God's kingdom? What is God's kingdom?
3. Jesus said it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a person to enter God's kingdom *if he loves his material possessions too much*. Can a camel go through the eye of a needle? [Have a needle on hand for students to look at.]
4. Why do people tend to love their material possessions (the things they own)?
5. What is the meaning of this Bible story? What lesson is Jesus trying to get across to the young man? And to everyone—including us?

Closing: Offer a short prayer asking God to help us all to have a proper attitude toward the things we own.

Offering: Have a student announce, "We performed a puppet show about Jesus and the Rich Young Man. Here are the puppets we made." Have all the students lift their puppets up for the congregation to see.

Script: Rich Young Ruler Puppet Show

Rich Young Man: Good teacher, I want to be in God's kingdom. How can I make that happen?

Jesus: You know God's rules. Don't murder anybody. Don't steal. Don't lie. Honor your father and mother.

Rich Young Man: Oh yeah, I know those rules. I've always kept them. No problem there.

Jesus: I would really like to help you.

Rich Young Man: Fine. So, tell me, if I've kept the rules you just listed, am I ready to enter God's kingdom? Is that all there is to it?

Jesus: Well, it's not quite that simple. Let me ask you this: Are you rich?

Rich Young Man: Most people would say so; I own a lot of stuff. Ten houses, a thousand cattle, hundreds of sheep, a fishing business, piles of silver and gold, lots of jewelry. Why do you ask?

Jesus: How would you feel about selling all that stuff and giving the money to poor people? Then come and be my disciple.

Rich Young Man: What? There is no way I would do that! That's crazy!

Jesus: I see you are very attached to the things you own. We have to love God more than we love the things we own.

Rich Young Man: I just can't accept that. No way. I'll be on my way.

Disciple Peter: You know, I feel kind of sorry for that young man.

Jesus: Peter, if a person owns a lot of things, those things can easily seem more important than doing God's will.

Disciple John: I guess that's true. But we do need some things, don't we?

Jesus: Yes, John, we do, but the things we own are really just things God allows us to use temporarily. Actually, God owns everything.

Disciple Peter: I never thought about it like that. I'll have to think that over.

Jesus: Let me tell you something important. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for people to enter God's kingdom *if they are in love with the things they own*.

Disciple John: You're making it sound like no one can be saved. That's a scary thought.

Jesus: Here's the truth: People can't save themselves. No one is good enough for that. Only God can save a person and that's simply because God's loves everyone—even though everyone sins.

Teachers: The New Revised Standard Version of today’s Bible lesson is copied here for your convenience, as helpful background information. (The NRSV stays much closer to the original Greek text than does the *Whirl Story Bible* or the *Spark Story Bible*.) I do not recommend having the students read from the NRSV but it may be of interest to you.

Mark 10: 17-31 ¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. ²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.” ²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”