

A Rich Man's Questions

Lesson At-A-Glance


Scripture Reference
Mark 10:17-31

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 19

Lesson Focus
I can share.



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Center Time Kids use a mirror to watch their faces as they make happy and sad expressions, pass stuffed animals through the circled arms of a leader, and color Bible story pictures.</p>	<p>Coloring Pages </p>	<p>Mirror, stuffed animals, blank paper, markers or crayons</p>
<p>Circle Time Kids are welcomed by a bell, hear about the church season, and add items to a large bag until it gets too heavy to move.</p>	<p>Leaflets</p>	<p>Bell or chime, green parament or stole, miscellaneous items from the room, large sheet or piece of cloth</p>
<p>Prayer Time Kids add the word <i>impossible</i> to the prayer when they hear the bell.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Bell</p>

Open the Bible (15 minutes)


	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>A Rich Man's Questions Storytelling Leader reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible.</p>	<p>Spark Story Bible</p>	<p>Heavy bag from Circle Time</p>
<p>If You're Happy . . . Kids sing familiar song "If You're Happy and You Know It."</p>	<p>Lessons Stickers</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>A Question Kids use a sticker to create a sad face on their leaflet.</p>	<p>Leaflets, Lesson Stickers</p>	<p>None</p>

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Thread a Needle Kids practice threading with yarn.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Hole punch, yarn, stuffed animal
I Can Sign Kids learn sign for "to share."	Leaflets	None
Millions of Marshmallows Kids share their marshmallows with leader who doesn't have any.	Lesson Stickers	Mini marshmallows or crackers, small paper plates or napkins/ paper towels

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids add small stones to a dish to make a class altar.	Leaflets	Quarter-sized polished rocks, dish
Prayer Time Kids repeat lesson focus in final prayer.	Family Pages 	Bell or chime

 Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 Minutes)

Center Time

You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have time to participate in at least one center, use a small bell three times to announce the transition time.

Listen to my bell. When I ring it once (ring), it means it's time to clean up. When I ring it twice (ring twice), you should get ready to move. When I ring it three times (ring three times), come and meet your friends in the story circle.

Look at Me!

Use a hand mirror to encourage kids to make their happy face and their sad face. Model for them your own expressions as they begin. Ask kids to guess which face other kids are making. Be sure all who want have a turn.

Animal Fun

Demonstrate how to make a circle with your arms, and have kids pass stuffed animals through your arms. Make the circle smaller and smaller, with kids continuing to pass animals through until it's too small. Explain how the circle is like the eye of a needle. Kids can then take turns making their own circles, with other kids passing animals through.

Coloring Center

Have coloring supplies and copies of the Spark Coloring Page available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

Circle Time

Welcome to Sunday school! Let's see who's here today. Ring the bell and say your name. Pass the bell around. Let kids ring the bell and say their name. Encourage the class to say, "**Welcome, _____ (name)!**" after each kid's turn.

Hold the leaflet for the kids to see. Point to the colored border and seasonal icon, the leafing tree. **Do you know what season this is?** Accept all answers. **This is "green" time. We call "green" time "Pentecost."** Repeat the word *Pentecost* two times and have them echo. **What season is this?** (*Green time!*) **What special word do we use for "green" time?** (*Pentecost!*) **Good.**

Bring in a green parament or pastor's stole. Let the kids touch it. Talk about other things that are green.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Mirror

Stuffed animals

Blank paper

Markers or crayons

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Bell or chime

Green parament or stole

Miscellaneous items from the room

Large sheet or piece of cloth

Create a big “bag” from a large piece of cloth by tying corners together. As the kids gather, encourage them to drop some of the items from around the room into the bag. **I have a lot of stuff in my bag, and now I have to carry it.** Try to lift the bag. Be very dramatic as you can’t lift the bag. **Is the bag too heavy? Does it have “too much stuff”?** Use the word *impossible* during these questions as it ties into the following prayer. **I just don’t think I can carry this bag. It’s impossible!**

Prayer Time

Ring the bell and have the kids insert the word *impossible* into the prayer.

Soon we’re going to pray, but I need your help. When I ring the bell, I want you to say the word *impossible*. That way we can pray together. Let’s practice.

Take time to quiet the bodies.

Dear Jesus—

We couldn’t lift the bag. It was (bell) _____!

Even our leader couldn’t lift the bag. It was (bell) _____!

But for you, Jesus, NOTHING is (bell) _____!

Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Bell

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

A Rich Man's Questions Storytelling

In today’s story, a man has a lot of stuff. It weighs him down. It keeps him from following Jesus. Hold up bag from Circle Time. **All the man’s stuff made him sad. Let’s listen.**

Take out your Spark Story Bible and open to A Rich Man’s Questions on page 334. Read the story out loud and point to the corresponding pictures. Look for Squiggles the caterpillar in each picture. Ask kids what they think Squiggles is feeling or doing. Encourage them to make a face like Squiggles.

Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to answer.

What question did the man ask Jesus? (*What do I have to do for God to love me forever?*) **Was the man sad or happy as he walked away?** (*sad*)

Why is it sometimes hard to share our things with others?

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Supplies

Heavy bag from Circle Time

If You're Happy . . .

Talking about this sad man is making me sad. Let's sing a happy song and put smiles on all of our faces! Sing "If You're Happy and You Know It" for the class and have kids add the motions (clap your hands, stomp your feet, say, "Amen!"). Be sure to include "Share your toys."

When you and the kids tire, hand out happy face stickers for kids to wear.

Spark Resources
Lessons Stickers

Supplies
None

A Question

Invite everyone to gather around a table. Give each kid a leaflet. Point to the picture on the front of the leaflet. **This is the rich man who had a question for Jesus. But I can't tell if Jesus' answer made him happy or sad. What do you think? Let's finish the picture.** Distribute the sad mouth sticker and help kids place the mouth on the face printed on their leaflet. **Now does he look happy or sad? Why is this man so sad? What did Jesus tell the rich man to do?** Remind kids of the heavy bag during the opening activity. **How can we keep our bags from being so heavy?** Emphasize the lesson focus: I can share!

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Thread a Needle

Today's story talked about something that seems impossible: a camel going through the eye of a needle! Let's think about what we can put through the eye of a needle. Demonstrate the Animal Fun activity from Gather again if you think it will help kids understand the idea of an animal going through the eye of a needle. Distribute the needle stickers and help the kids place it on the outlined spot of the leaflet. Punch a hole in the part of the sticker where the "eye" would be. Give kids a small piece of yarn and have them practice going through the hole. Help them imagine a camel going through the eye of a needle. While they won't understand the concept of this story, they will connect to the tangible pieces.

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies
Hole punch
Yarn
Stuffed animal

I Can Sign

Jesus told the rich man in today's story that he needed to share his things. Let's use our bodies to say the word *share*.

Point to the sign on the leaflet, demonstrate the sign, and say the word out loud. Repeat the sign a few times. Sign in front of each kid and have her or him echo your movements. **Let's remember to use this sign anytime we see someone sharing!**

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Millions of Marshmallows

Give each child five mini marshmallows. Keep your plate empty.

How many marshmallows do each of you have? How many do I have? Would anyone like to share one of their marshmallows with me? Wait and collect from all who offer. **Now how many do I have? Thank you for sharing with me! You can share!** If someone doesn't share, ask or encourage. If the answer is no, that is fine. **I'd like to share with all of you. Here is a sticker for you to wear!** Distribute heart stickers.

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Have kids sit in a circle and thank them for coming. Place the dish on the table.

This week we are building and growing a class altar. As stones are added, our "altar" grows. When I give you a stone, place it in the dish. Hand each kid a stone and say, _____ (name), you are growing with God.

Hold up the leaflet and point to Faith on the Go! on the back. **Be sure to take your leaflet home because it has one more fun activity you can do with your family. Today we learned that Jesus wants us to share! When you share at home, stop and make the sign we learned today. See if your family can tell what you're saying.**

Prayer Time

Explain to the kids that when you ring the bell, they should say, "I can share!"

Jesus—

(ring) **I can share!**

Thank you for teaching me to share.

Keep my bag light, Jesus.

Then I can follow you.

(ring) **I can share!**

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids, dismissing them as appropriate.

Spark Resources

Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Marshmallows or crackers
Small paper plates or
napkins/paper towels

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Quarter-sized polished rocks
Dish

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Bell or chime