

# A Rich Man's Questions

## Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**Mark 10:17-31**

Lectionary Sunday/  
Church Season  
**Pentecost 19**

Lesson Focus  
**We put our faith in God, not in things.**

Bible Memory Verse  
**"But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first." Mark 10:31**



### Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Arrival Activity</b> Kids are introduced to what has true value as they look for treasure.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Activity Pages 	Cross (any size or style), paper, pencils, coins or small bills (optional), random items such as a watch, cell phone, and keys
<b>Opening Conversation</b> Kids check in and review lesson content from the previous week.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Pencils
<b>Opening Prayer</b> Kids join a call and response prayer.	None	None

### Open the Bible (15 minutes)


	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>A Rich Man's Questions Story</b> Kids draw the story they are hearing.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Paper, colored pencils, masking tape
<b>A Tough Choice</b> Kids think about what they value most as they read a contemporary story about making a tough choice about stuff.	Leaflets	None
<b>What Did He Say?</b> Kids are reminded of Jesus' warning about putting faith in wealth as they solve a cryptogram.	Leaflets	Pencils

## Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Fun Facts</b> Kids learn the Fun Facts as they play a true or false game.	Leaflets	None
<b>First and Last</b> Kids play a rapid letter game that makes the last first.	Leaflets	Scissors

## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Closing Conversation</b> Kids review the Bible Memory Verse (BMV) and learn about the Faith on the Go! options.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	None
<b>Closing Prayer</b> Kids pray a summary of Jesus' point.	Family Pages 	None

 Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://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)

## Arrival Activity

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If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the downloadable Activity Page and set them out for kids to try. Prior to kids arriving, hide a cross, a Bible, and several random objects (especially those that appear valuable).

As kids arrive, hand them a piece of paper and a pencil. **I've hidden some treasures randomly throughout the room. Your job is to find anything you think is a treasure, leave it there, but write down what you've found, and then rank them by their value. The most valuable thing should have a number one by it, and so on.**

Set kids loose to see what they find that they believe is valuable. After a few minutes, go through the lists together. **Let's go through our lists to see what valuable things were found.** Allow time for sharing. **I'd like to show you two of the most valuable things in this room.** Show kids the Bible and cross.

Don't forget to collect any items you used!

## Opening Conversation

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**Now let's hear about your week! Tell me a high point from your week and a low point, too.** Go around so that everyone gets a chance to share.

Thanks for sharing your week. **Did you get a chance to try a Faith on the Go! activity from last week's suggestions? Which ones?** Allow time for sharing.

Pass out Spark Bibles and pencils. **Does anyone remember the Bible Memory Verse (BMV) from last week?** If kids remember the BMV, invite them to recite it for the group. If your group remembers parts, help guide them to remember the verse in its entirety.

Once kids can remember the verse in its entirety, recite it together. **Can anyone put it to music?** Encourage kids to try it!

Invite kids to place an I Memorized It sticker in their Bibles next to the verse if they haven't done so already. They can also write today's date in the margin near the verse.

**Now let's find this week's memory verse. It's Mark 10:31 and part of our story for today. I bet we can put this one to memory very quickly!** Read Mark 10:31 from page 1114 several times. **Now let's all shut our eyes and see if we can say it together!** Kids can place one of the stickers from their Bibles near the verse.

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers  
Activity Pages



### Supplies

Cross (any size or style)  
Paper  
Pencils  
Coins or small bills (optional)  
Random items such as a watch, cell phone, and keys

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

### Supplies

Pencils

## Opening Prayer

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**Please pray with me now! I will say a petition, and you can respond, "Jesus said, 'Come, follow me.'"**

Spark Resources  
None

**God, it's not always easy to choose wisely.** (*Jesus said, "Come, follow me."*)  
**You called your followers away from love of stuff.** (*Jesus said, "Come, follow me."*)  
**You asked us to love you more than anything.** (*Jesus said, "Come, follow me."*)  
**With you all things are possible.** (*Jesus said, "Come, follow me."*)  
**Amen!**

Supplies  
None

## Open the Bible (15 minutes)

### A Rich Man's Questions Story

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Pass out paper and colored pencils. **Somewhere on your paper, please write, "Mark 10:17-31." Today we're going to hear a very interesting story. I'm going to read it to you twice, and I'd like you to spend a few minutes drawing what you hear. Don't worry if you're not an artist; sketch whatever you feel moved to draw as you hear this story.**

Spark Resources  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies  
Paper  
Colored pencils  
Masking tape

Read the story in a slow, storylike voice. Repeat. Give kids a few minutes to finish their drawings. Kids can share what they drew with the rest of the class if they want. The drawings can be posted on a wall in your classroom or folded to go in Mark 10:17-31 in their Bibles.

Have Bibles open to Mark 10:17-31 on page 1113 in the Spark Bible. Invite kids to write a few thoughts about this story in the margins or place a sticker by it. Then they can read Did You Know? on the bottom of page 1114 to learn more about following Jewish laws.

### A Tough Choice

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**Let's read a present-day story that is a little like the problem the rich man in the Bible story had.**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Read A Tough Choice on the front of the leaflet. Discuss these questions: **When have you had to choose between doing something exciting and leaving your stuff behind? What are the most important things you own? Are any of those things more important than your family, friends, or faith? How can we show that stuff isn't as important as our faith when it is really easy to get excited about stuff?**

Supplies  
None

Discuss the I Wonder statements. As you talk, ask what they would do in Sonja's place. **The most important stuff is that which helps us survive. What is the bare minimum you need to survive?**

## What Did He Say?

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**Let's do the cryptogram puzzle on the second page of our leaflet. Remember, if you need help, check out Mark 10:17-31.**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Invite kids to solve the puzzle. Each letter has a corresponding number. If kids are struggling, offer a hint or two, such as "19=T" or "22=O."

Supplies  
Pencils

Answer Key

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.

1 = E

2 = N

3 = L

4 = G

5 = F

7 = D

10 = S

11 = A

12 = I

15 = C

16 = W

17 = Y

19 = T

20 = R

21 = M

22 = O

23 = H

24 = U

26 = K

# Activate Faith (15 minutes)

## Fun Facts

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**Turn to your leaflet Fun Facts and study them now!** After about thirty seconds, announce to kids to put their leaflets down. **I'm going to ask you six true or false questions. If you think the answer is false, stand up. If you think it is true, sit down.**

**1. True or false: Camels are only mentioned in the Old Testament.** (*False; they are named in both Old and New Testaments.*)

**2. True or false: The dromedary camel has one hump, but the Bactrian camel has three.** (*False; the Bactrian camel has two humps.*)

**3. True or false: When camels get mad, they spit out the contents of their stomachs.** (*True*)

**4. True or false: Baby camels weigh around 8 pounds (3.6 kg) at birth.** (*False; baby camels weigh around 80 pounds [36 kg] at birth.*)

**5. True or false: Some of Princess Leia's voice was recorded camel sounds.** (*False; it was Chewbacca's voice.*)

**6. True or false: No camel has ever gone through the eye of a needle!** (*True*)

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
None

## First and Last

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Invite kids to find First and Last on the third page of the leaflet, cut out their alphabet squares, then turn them face down. Pair up. Play first with one set of squares then another. **This is a challenging game! Are your brains feeling sharp today?**

**Here's how to play.**

**You can decide who goes first by each player turning over a letter to see which is higher in the alphabet. The highest goes first. Shuffle the upside-down letters.**

**I will say the name of a category. The first player turns over a letter and then says a word that begins with it. If the category was "animal" and I turned over a "d," I might say dog.**

**Then, the second player must figure out the last letter of the word the first player said, and come up with a new word that starts with that last letter. So, if I said, "dog," Player 2 might say, "giraffe." Then I would say "emu." If Player 2 couldn't think of an animal that started with "u," then I would get that player's square.**

**The last shall be first! Play!**

**After kids have tried the animal category, introduce other categories like food, locations, boys' names, girls' names, toys, and types of transportation.**

Spark Resources  
Leaflets

Supplies  
Scissors

# Send (5 minutes)

## Closing Conversation

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Gather the kids in a circle. **We've had a great time today hearing about a challenge people in Jesus' time have just like we do: the challenge to put our faith in God and not in money or stuff.**

**Let's review the BMV before we go.** Ask the kids to open their Bibles to Mark 10:31 on page 1114. Invite kids to read it silently. Then ask the group to read it aloud before turning Bibles over to see if they can recite it from memory.

If they haven't done so already, encourage kids to place a sticker next to the BMV and write any notes in the margin that they'd like to remember about the verse or the story.

Next, direct the kids' attention to Faith on the Go! on the back leaflet page. **There are some good ideas for living out Jesus' words to value him over stuff.** Invite a kid to read the ideas aloud. **What might be hard about these? What might feel really good about doing these?** Encourage kids to select at least one activity to try this week and report back next time.

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers  
Leaflets

### Supplies

None

## Closing Prayer

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**Please pray with me!**

**Generous God, it would be nice to be rich, but it would be tough to push ourselves through that tiny needle head. Help us to do another hard thing: love money and stuff less and love you more. All that stuff is tempting, so help keep our heads and hearts a little clearer for you. Amen.**

Be sure to send leaflets home with kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None