

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 trust God
with my future.**

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
Arrival Activity Kids interview each other about how they're doing.	Activity Pages 	Pencils
Opening Conversation Kids consider what it would be like to give up their favorite possessions.	Leaflets	Pencils
Opening Prayer Kids pray responsively with the teacher.	None	None

Open the Bible (20 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
A Rich Man's Questions Story Kids take their first look at the Bible story.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Pencils
Eye of the Needle Kids create their own images.	Leaflets	Colored pencils or markers
The End of the Story Kids write their own ending to the rich man's story.	Leaflets	Pens or pencils
Got Grace? Kids engage in an activity that helps them understand the nature of grace.	None	Large paper plate, red marker, masking tape, sticky notes, paper cross
Remember it Kids memorize the Bible Memory Verse (BMV) and place an I Memorized It sticker in their Bibles.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Pencils

Activate Faith (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Where Your Treasure Is Kids explore another biblical passage about giving.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	None
Sharing Bank Kids make their own banks to encourage generosity.	None	Small white boxes, scissors, pens or pencils, markers
What Time Is It? Kids begin to understand the church year calendar.	Leaflets	None

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids consider how they can give generously at home.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Pencils
Closing Prayer Kids pray with the teacher.	Family Pages 	None

 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: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather Time (10 minutes)

Arrival Activity

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.

Welcome kids by name as they arrive. Help them find partners and designate one in each pair to be the reporter. **Pretend to be a news reporter and interview your partner about what's happened in their life since our last meeting. Use your pencil like a microphone and ask lots of questions.** After a few minutes, have them switch roles. Gather together as a whole group and ask for any reporters who would like to offer a brief news report to the class about what their partner has been up to.

Who was able to try a Faith on the Go! activity this past week? Tell us what you did. Allow some time for sharing.

Who can tell me the Bible Memory Verse (BMV) from last week? If kids remember the BMV, invite them to recite it for the group. Guide the kids to help them remember parts they don't.

Opening Conversation

Distribute leaflets and pencils. Look together at the front page of the leaflet. Read the Life Question and Lesson Focus. Look at the photos and talk about the things pictured. Ask kids which of these items they own. Be sensitive to differences in your group. Some kids may have lots of stuff and others may have few possessions. Turn to the second page of the leaflet and ask for a volunteer to read Sharing. Then follow the instructions in Favorites and invite kids to list five of their favorite possessions and five things they absolutely need.

Then ask a few questions about what they'd read and listed. **How would you feel if you had to give away your favorite possession? How would you feel if you had to give up all of your possessions? What does it make you want to do when you realize that some people don't have the basic things they need for life? How can you help? What would you be willing to give up to help others?**

Ask a volunteer to read Did You Know? on the second page of the leaflet. Write \$15,000,000,000 on a piece of paper and hold it up for the group. **This \$15 billion does not include money that parents or guardians spend on kids for housing, food, clothing, computers, and other stuff. This is the money that the kids themselves spend on things for themselves.**

How much of this \$15 billion do you think kids spend on things that are absolutely necessary for life? (*Answers will vary, but most of it is spent on the "extras" of life.*) **How else could this money be spent?**

Spark Resources
Activity Pages



Supplies
Pencils

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Opening Prayer

Many people called Jesus "Rabbi," which means teacher. He was a great teacher. We are going to pray to Jesus now, and after each petition, I'd like you to say: "Teacher, teach us."

Dear Jesus, we know that you are a great teacher and we are your students.

(Teacher, teach us.)

Like the rich man, we want to know how to inherit eternal life. (Teacher, teach us.)

We look to you for help and wisdom. (Teacher, teach us.)

Be with us now as we study God's word. Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (20 minutes)

A Rich Man's Questions Story

Pass out Spark Bibles and ask a volunteer to read Mark 10:17-31 on page 1113-1114. Invite kids to place an I Read It sticker next to the text. Then read through the Know It! and Think about It! questions in the right column on page 1113.

What do you think Jesus was trying to teach the rich man? (*Possessions get in the way of being a part of God's kingdom.*) **How does his teaching make you feel? Do we have to get rid of everything in order to have eternal life?** (*No, but we have to be careful to make following Jesus and helping others a priority.*)

Direct kids to Look It Up! on the third page of the leaflet and ask a volunteer to read the passage to the group. Help kids find Matthew 6:25-33 on page 1065 in their Spark Bibles. They can sketch a bird or lily in the margin.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Eye of the Needle

Ask for a volunteer to read Eye of the Needle from the third page of the leaflet. Once kids have created images, invite them to share with the group.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Colored pencils or markers

The End of the Story

Ask for a volunteer to read The End of the Story on the third page of the leaflet. Give kids some time to write their story endings. Invite kids to read the endings to the group.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Pens or pencils

Got Grace?

Throughout the Bible, we learn that salvation does not come through our good works. We could never possibly earn our own salvation. It comes through the gift of God's grace. That's what Jesus means when he says that with God, all things are possible. Even sinners have the possibility of heaven because of grace.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Large paper plate

Red marker

Masking tape

Sticky notes

Paper cross

We're going to do an exercise to help us think about grace. Ask for a volunteer to draw a target on the paper plate with red marker. Tape it to the wall.

Invite kids to pantomime shooting an invisible arrow at the target, making sound effects. Stand by the target and place a sticky note next to the target to show where their arrow lands. Always have it miss the bull's eye—sometimes by a long ways.

Look at that! No one hit the target. When we sin, it is like we miss the mark that God has set for us. If we were trying to inherit eternal life on our own, it would be impossible. Tape the cross onto the target. **What if I said your bad archery scores didn't matter—that you were all given a perfect score because of what Jesus did for you? Grace is like that!**

Ask a few questions about grace to explore this key idea. **Why do you think God gives us grace? Now that Jesus has won salvation for you, what are you going to do with your freedom?**

Remember It

Help kids find the Bible Memory Verse (BMV), Mark 10:31, on page 1114. **Read the BMV silently to yourself.** Teach these gestures to accompany the verse:

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

But many who are first (hold index finger up)
will be last, (point with thumb over shoulder)
and the last (point with thumb over shoulder again)
will be first. (hold index finger up)

Supplies

Pencils

Kids can make up different actions to this verse or learn the ones you teach them. When all the kids know the BMV, invite them to place an I Memorized It sticker near the verse. They can also sketch a finish line or the number 1 near the verse.

Activate Faith (10 minutes)

Where Your Treasure Is

We're going to look at another one of Jesus' teachings about generosity. Look up Luke 12:32-34. Help kids find this passage on page 1149 of the Spark Bible. Ask a volunteer to read the passage and invite kids to put an I Looked It Up sticker next to the verses.

Ask a few questions about these verses. **Why did Jesus say that we should not fear? What do you think he meant by "purses that don't wear out"? He said that where our treasure is, there our hearts would be also. Where do you spend your "treasure"—that is, your time, talents, and money? According to this teaching, how would your heart feel if you gave more of your treasure to God?**

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

Sharing Banks

We are going to make sharing banks to take home. These will remind us that Jesus wants us to give our treasure. Help kids cut coin slots in the tops of their boxes. They can decorate them with images of camels and needles or write Bible verses about generosity. Kids can take the boxes home and work on filling them up. While they're creating them, talk about a ministry at your church that you could give their offerings to, asking kids about their interests and preferences. Make a plan to check in on their offerings in the coming weeks.

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
Small white boxes
Scissors
Pens or pencils
Markers

What Time Is It?

Ask kids to find the seasonal color and symbol on their leaflets. **What season are we in? (Pentecost, sometimes called the season after Pentecost) What is the color for this season? (green) We use the color green to symbolize Pentecost, a season for growth. One way to grow in faith is to ask questions of our teachers like the rich man asked Jesus a question. We may not always expect (or like) the answer we receive, but questions and teachers help us to grow.** Ask kids if they have any questions for you, their teacher.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

Invite kids to find Treasure Chest on the last page of the leaflet. Challenge kids to work in pairs and unscramble the gifts we receive from God. They may look up Galatians 5:22-23 on page 1293 in their Spark Bibles if they need help. They can also place a sticker near these verses.

Answer Key

VEOL (*LOVE*)

YOJ (*JOY*)

CEEAP (*PEACE*)

CEETIAPN (*PATIENCE*)

ENNSSKID (*KINDNESS*)

ROSENGITY (*GENEROSITY*)

SSENULFHTIAF (*FAITHFULNESS*)

GNLNSETTES (*GENTLENESS*)

LFSE-NOCROLT (*SELF-CONTROL*)

Ask for a volunteer to read Faith on the Go! on the last page of the leaflet. Encourage them to find a charity that interests them and to find a way to support the cause.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Leaflets

Supplies

Pencils

Closing Prayer

Stand in a circle. Have kids open their hands in front of their bodies.

Oh Jesus, our great teacher, thank you for this important teaching. You have given us your grace, and you want our whole hearts. We open ourselves to you. You are our Savior, and we want to learn to trust in you. Help us to let go of our treasure and share more generously as you have freed us to do. Amen.

Send leaflets and a Family Page home with kids.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None