

A Rich Man's Questions

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 10: 17-31

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 19

Lesson Focus
God helps us share.



Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Kids use blocks and animals to build the rich man's house, pretend they are camels moving around and under chairs, and use plastic needles to stitch green yarn into growing shapes.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Wooden blocks, fake jewelry, stuffed animals, brown fabric pieces, chairs, plastic or blunt needles, green yarn, scissors, small pieces of green paper, crayons

Circle Time

Kids welcome each other with a name game and discuss questions related to A Rich Man's Questions.

None

None

Prayer Time

Kids copy the leader's actions as they pray.

None

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

A Rich Man's Questions Storytelling

Kids draw pictures to help tell the story.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles, Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Paper, crayons or markers

A Very Rich Man

Kids discuss the story, color coins, and add a sticker to their leaflets to retell the story.

Leaflets, Lesson Stickers

Crayons or markers

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
I Can Share Kids circle photos of items to share.	Leaflets	Crayons or markers
Artwork to Share Kids share a coloring picture with a partner.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Crayons or markers
Growing Game Kids play a game with actions about growing during Pentecost.	Leaflet	None

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids do a quick review of the lesson and say an action rhyme to close.	Leaflet	None
Prayer Time Kids kneel and repeat the leader's words in a prayer.	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: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Set up three activity areas prior to kids' arrival. Set the blocks, jewelry, and stuffed animals in an open area on the floor. **In our Bible story today, we're going to hear about a rich man who met Jesus. I wonder what kind of house the man lived in?** Encourage kids to build a rich person's house, decorating with fake jewelry as desired. **Be sure to include a place for all of his animals to stay!** Make a row of three or four chairs. **In Bible times, people used camels to ride on and carry things. Camels needed to walk through narrow, winding streets. Some of the gates camels went through were very narrow, too.** Have kids drape brown fabric over themselves and pretend to be camels, weaving in and out among the chairs.

In another area, set out the yarn, needles, paper, and scissors on a table. **What color do we see in church during the season of Pentecost? (green) Green reminds us that we are growing in our faith during Pentecost.** Help kids cut lengths of yarn, and invite them to thread the yarn through the eye of the needle. **The part of the needle the thread goes through is called the eye. We're going to hear about the eye of a needle in our story today!** Let them try but be ready to assist kids before they become frustrated. When their needle is threaded, invite them to stitch a leaf in the small piece of paper. If needed, draw a simple outline for them to follow. Provide copies of the downloadable Coloring Page for this lesson for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

When the kids have all had time to play, ask them to clean up their materials. As they do so, use the following rhyme to help them transition to Circle Time. Repeat the rhyme as many times as needed, inviting kids to join in.

**We've tried something new,
We haven't done before.
Please come join us now.
Let's learn something more.**

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Wooden blocks
Fake jewelry
Stuffed animals
Brown fabric pieces
Chairs
Plastic or blunt needles
Green yarn
Scissors
Small pieces of green paper
Crayons

Circle Time

When all the kids in your group are seated in your circle for Circle Time, you may begin. **Welcome everyone. Thank you for coming to Sunday school today. I'm so glad you're here! Let's start by seeing who's here today!**

Spark Resources

None

Welcome each kid by using this format: **We're glad you're here today; tell us your name today.**

Supplies

None

Each kid responds by saying his or her name The whole group responds with:
Hi, _____!

Start with one person in the circle and continue around, making sure everyone gets a turn. Don't forget to include yourself.

Raise your hand if you built with blocks today. What did you build? (*rich man's house*) Allow kids time to respond to this and the following questions. **How many of you pretended to be a camel today?** Invite kids to talk about their experiences. **Did you do something with a needle?** (*put yarn through the eye, threaded it, stitched with it.*) **Was it easy or hard?** Allow kids to respond. **In today's story a rich man had questions for Jesus—and an animal was part of Jesus' answer! Can you guess what animal it was?** Allow time for kids to respond. Regardless of what they guess, simply say, **Hmmm . . . Listen carefully. We'll have to find out.**

Prayer Time

Before we begin our story, let's pray together. Invite kids to copy your words and actions during the prayer.

Spark Resources

None

Dear God, (*rest hands in lap, palms up*)
I'm happy to be here today. (*pat ground*)
Help me to listen (*cup ears*)
And help me to learn (*point to head*)
About your love. (*hug self*)
Amen! (*clap hands*)

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

A Rich Man's Questions Storytelling

Hand out the Spark Story Bibles and help everyone find A Rich Man's Questions on page 334. Read it through once as kids follow along.

Next, divide the kids into four groups. Give each group a piece of paper and crayons or markers. **You can help retell the story in a new way. Each group of you will draw something from the story on your paper. Then we'll read the story and show our pictures together. We will need to share during this activity, so I'll be watching for good sharers and will be giving them a prize.** Award an "I Shared" sticker to any child who shares during this activity (or any other time during the rest of the lesson).

Give the groups the following drawing directions:

- Group 1: Draw hearts (a symbol of God's love)
- Group 2: Draw money
- Group 3: Draw a camel
- Group 4: Draw hearts (a symbol of God's love)

When they finish, have kids sit with their groups holding their drawings. **As we read the story again, each of your groups will get a chance to come up front and show everyone your picture.** Read the story, and pause briefly at each of the following sentences to give groups a chance to hold up their pictures.

- "What do I have to do for God to love me forever?" (Group 1)
- "Sell everything you have," said Jesus. (Group 2)
- In fact, it's easier for a lumpy, bumpy camel. . . (Group 3)
- God loves us always and no matter what. (Group 4)

Thank you for your help! Ask kids the following questions, allowing time for responses. **What did Jesus tell the rich man to do?** (*sell everything*) **Jesus said it's hard for greedy people to enter God's kingdom. In fact, it's easier for a camel to . . . what?** (*Fit through the eye of a needle*) Show the picture of the camel and the needle on page 335 of the Spark Story Bible. **Does that look possible?** (*no*) **But remember, everything, even things that are hard sometimes, are possible with God. God helps us share. Do you think God helped the rich man share?** Allow time for kids to respond.

Let's dig into our leaflets now and learn more about A Rich Man's Questions.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Paper
Crayons or markers

A Very Rich Man

Gather the kids at an open workspace and hand out leaflets. Direct kids' attention to the front of the leaflet.

Who is on our leaflet? (*the rich man*) **In the Bible story, the rich man was shocked that he had to sell everything and give the money to the poor. He had a lot of money, and he didn't want to share!**

Distribute the crayons or markers. **Color each of the rich man's coins.** Allow kids time to do so. **How many coins did you find?** (*ten*) **That's a lot of coins to share. Let's write that number on our paper.** Help kids write the number 10 on their paper.

Look at the camel. Jesus said that greedy people have a hard time entering the kingdom of God. Jesus something about a camel. Distribute camel stickers, and invite kids to place the sticker where indicated. **Jesus said that having greedy people enter the kingdom of God is harder than getting a camel to fit through something—but it's missing. What's missing?** (*a needle*) Hand out the needle stickers, one per kid, and invite the kids to place them on their leaflets.

Sometimes it is hard to share. The rich man had a hard time sharing. But what Jesus said helped the man understand that it's important to share and not to be greedy! I'm glad God helps us share!

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Crayons or markers

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

I Can Share

Have kids flip to the back page of their leaflets, asking them to look at the four photos pictured at the top.

What are the things you see in these photos? (*crayons, baby clothes, blocks, food*)

Point to the picture of the blocks. **Let's talk about the blocks. How many of you have blocks at home or play with them here? What would happen if you had a friend who wanted to play blocks with you?** (*I would share.*) **God helps us share what we have with others. Let's circle the picture of the blocks to show blocks are something God helps us share.**

Point to the picture of the baby clothes. **Do any of you wear clothes that look like this?** (*No! Those are baby clothes.*) **Your family might still have some of the clothes that you wore when you were younger. Now that you're bigger, you don't need those clothes. You could share them with someone who does need them. Let's circle this, too.**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Crayons or markers

Point to the crayons. **Do you have extra special art supplies that you use at home or at school? Are they hard to share sometimes?** Allow time for kids to respond. **The rich man in the story had a hard time thinking about sharing all of his things — but Jesus helped him understand that God helps us to share. Next time a friend comes over, try sharing your special art supplies. We better circle the crayons, because they are something God can help us share.**

Point to the food. **Some people don't have enough food to eat to keep their bodies healthy and strong. Some of us might have extra cans of food at home that we don't need. We can share that food. At church, school, or in our communities, there are collections to gather food to give to people in need. Next time you see one, let God help you share by giving away some extra food. Circle the food. God can help you share it!**

Wow! God can help us share a lot of things, just like the rich man learned. It's not good to be greedy and keep everything for ourselves, but it is good to share!

Artwork to Share

Point out the pizza picture on the leaflet. **Raise your hand if you've ever shared while eating a pizza with someone else. It's fun to share pizza! We just talked about sharing food. God helps us share food. We can give food to a food shelf or we can share a meal, like pizza!**

Today we are going to share a pizza in a new way—as a picture. Point out the dividing line on the picture. **Color only one slice of the picture. Then share your picture with a partner who can color the other pieces. Everyone CAN share, in so many ways!**

Give the kids a few minutes to color, making sure they color only one slice of the pizza. After a few minutes, invite them to trade pictures with a partner.

When kids are finished, invite them to exchange with their partner again so they have their original leaflet. **Wow! You did a great job sharing. Let's add a sticker to show that you shared to make this art.** Distribute the smiling face stickers, inviting them to place the stickers by the activity.

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Lesson Sticker

Supplies
Crayons or markers

Growing Game

Invite the kids to sit with you on the floor. Hold up the leaflet, pointing to the seasonal symbol on the front page. **During the church season of Pentecost, we learn how God helps us grow. How do you know you are growing?** (*from pictures, outgrown clothes, go to school, etc.*)

One way to know God is helping us grow is by the new things we learn to do. Let's play a game.

Have kids think of something they can do now that they couldn't do when they were younger and an action to go with it (examples include: ride a bike, read, hop on one foot, skip, etc.).

Invite everyone to make a circle. Stand in the middle. Name a skill and show the action to the group. Teach kids the rhyme below, using the skill and corresponding action. Pick a kid to be the next leader, inviting her or him to follow the same format. Continue in this way until everyone who wants a turn has gotten one.

When I was small, (*crouch low*)
Very small,
I couldn't _____, (*corresponding action*)
At all.

Now I've grown, (*stretch high*)
And I can say,
"I can _____, (*corresponding action*)
Today!"

God helps me grow!

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

None

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Gather the kids together in a circle on the floor. **It was fun to learn today what Jesus said about a camel and sharing to answer the rich man's questions! Take your leaflet home and talk with your family about Faith on the Go! There is an idea for something God can help you share this week.**

Before we leave today, let's think about our time together. Direct kids to echo your words and actions.

It's time to say, "Good-bye." (*wave*)
We've all learned something new. (*point to head*)
We'll keep growing in our faith (*slowly lift hands*)
In everything we do! (*spread arms wide*)

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Let's kneel for our closing prayer today. I'll say the words, and you can say them after me.

**Dear God,
Thank you for giving me
All that I have.
Be with me,
And help me to share
All week long.
Amen.**

Give each kid a heart sticker to share with who picks them up today.

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

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Lesson Sticker

Family Pages



Supplies

None