

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Luke

Lesson 39

The Rich Man and
Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

Life of Christ

The Rich Man & Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

Younger Verse

*"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40*

Older Verse

*"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40*

Bible Story



*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus told a story about a rich man and a poor man. He didn't give us the name of the rich man, but the poor man's name was Lazarus. Jesus said that the rich man dressed in fine clothes and lived like a king. He had plenty of food and drink. But outside the rich man's door was a sick beggar named Lazarus. The beggar hoped that the rich man would share some of his food with him—even the crumbs from his table. But the rich man never shared with him. It got so bad for Lazarus that the dogs came and licked the sores on him.

Jesus said that Lazarus died and went to Heaven. He got to see Abraham, a follower of God from the Old Testament. Then the rich man died, but he did not go to Heaven. Instead, he was separated from God in hell. The rich man looked up in agony, and he saw Lazarus with Abraham.

The rich man shouted to Abraham, "Father, take pity on me! Send Lazarus to dip his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am burning in these flames!"

But Abraham answered, "Son, think about how you lived while on earth. You had everything you wanted; you lived comfortably. Lazarus, on the other hand, had nothing. So now, he is here, being comforted, and you are suffering. And there is no way to cross the huge divide between us. No one can pass from one place to the other."

The rich man went on. He asked Abraham to send Lazarus to his family to warn them about what would happen when they die. But Abraham said that they already had all of the writings in the Bible to warn them. He said they could read it whenever they wanted.

The rich man said that if his family could see someone come back from the dead—THEN they would believe and change. But Abraham said it would not matter. He said that if they would not listen to the prophets of God, they wouldn't listen to someone coming back from the dead either.

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus wants us to share with others
Understand our need to follow Christ's example
Learn that God sees the attitude of our heart

The rich man was selfish; he was not willing to share even a little bit with the beggar. God wants us to love each other and share what we have with those in need. Jesus said, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Jesus was teaching about the attitude of our heart. If we believe in Jesus and give Him our life, we will follow His example. We will want to help others and share what we have with them. We will not be greedy and selfish.

Have you given your life to Jesus? He loves us so much! He does not want anyone to die without knowing Him. But it is our choice. We can choose to follow Jesus now and be with Him forever, or we can ignore Him and spend eternity separated from Him.

God made a way for us to be forgiven of all our sins. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for all the bad things we have ever done. Maybe you have been selfish in the past, but Jesus can come into your life and change your heart. He will give you eternal life!

Review Questions

1. What was the name of the sick beggar in the story? (Lazarus)
2. What did the rich man do to help Lazarus? (nothing)
3. Where did Lazarus go when he died? (heaven) Who did he see there? (Abraham)
4. What did the rich man want Abraham to do for him? (Let Lazarus touch his tongue with water; go warn his family)

Life Application

In Matthew 25:31-45, Jesus talks about what will happen when He returns. He says that He will divide people into two groups—the sheep and the goats. The sheep will go with Him to Heaven and the goats will not.

He says the sheep are those who shared with others and the goats are those who refused to help others. This does NOT mean that if we help people we get to go to Heaven. But Jesus *is* saying that if we have Him in our life, we will want to help others. The heart of God is love for people, so we will want to serve like Jesus did while He was here. Let's make sure our hearts are right with God. Then go out and serve others!

Planning for Lesson 40
The Ten Lepers
Luke 17:11-19

Preschool Lesson for The Rich Man & Lazarus

Jesus was teaching his friends and other people. Jesus told them that there once was a very rich man. He had fancy clothes and everything he wanted. He never took time for God. He lived for himself and the things he wanted.

Outside the rich man's fence was a man named Lazarus. He didn't have much. Lazarus had a lot of sores and was very sick and hungry. He was so hungry that he wanted the crumbs that fell off of the rich man's table. Lazarus loved God and knew that God would help him.

One day, Lazarus died and the angels took him up to Heaven. (*Point up*) The rich man also died, but he went down. (*Point down*)

The rich man could see Lazarus and others in heaven. The rich man called to Father Abraham in Heaven and said to him, "Help me! Please send Lazarus to dip his finger in the water and touch my tongue. I am hurting in this fire."

Abraham called back to the rich man and said, "Remember that in your life you had good things, while Lazarus received bad things. Now Lazarus is in comfort and you are hurting. There is too much space between where you are and where we are. We cannot come to you and you cannot come to us."

The rich man went on. He asked Abraham to send Lazarus to his family to warn them about what would happen when they die. But Abraham said that they already had all of the writings in the Bible to warn them. He said they could read it whenever they wanted.

The rich man said that if his family could see someone come back from the dead—THEN they would believe and change. But Abraham said it would not matter. He said that if they would not listen to the prophets of God, they wouldn't listen to someone coming back from the dead either.

The rich man was selfish; he was not willing to share even a little bit with the beggar. God wants us to love each other and share what we have with those in need. Jesus said, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Jesus was teaching about the attitude of our heart. If we believe in Jesus and give Him our life, we will follow His example. We will want to help others and share what we have with them. We will not be greedy and selfish.

Have you given your life to Jesus? He loves us so much! God made a way for us to be forgiven of all our sins. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for all the bad things we have ever done. Jesus can come into your life. He can help you to love others and help them.



**Hands-on Activities
for
The Rich Man & Lazarus**

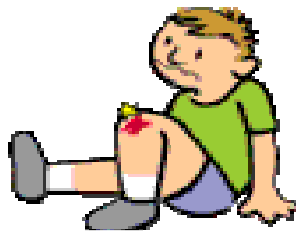
This is a fun way to illustrate the story. Blow up a balloon (no need for helium). Bring a paper plate or pan and salt and pepper. Share that the balloon will represent Heaven. Sprinkle the salt into the plate. Tell the group that the salt stands for the rich man. Now sprinkle pepper into the plate. Share that the pepper is for Lazarus. Now rub the balloon in your hair (or someone else's hair) to create static electricity. Put the balloon up to the plate. Instantly, the pepper will cling to the balloon, while the salt stays in the plate. Share how Lazarus went to Heaven because He believed in Jesus and the rich man did not go to Heaven. Let them try the trick with extra balloons.

If your group knows someone who is sick, have them make get-well cards. If possible, take them to deliver the cards and visit the person. Pray together with them.

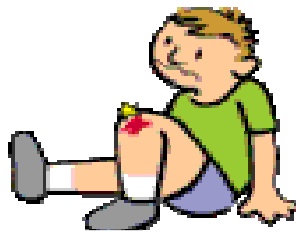
Have the class think of ways they can show the love of Jesus to others. Bring poster board or a dry-erase board and write them down. If possible, keep the list visible the next few weeks for your class as a reminder. You might also want to type them out and copy them for the kids to take home the following week.

Sing "Father Abraham." Talk about who Abraham was and why he was mentioned in today's story. He was a man of faith who became the spiritual father for all who follow God. He was also the Father of the Jewish nation.

**“Whatever you did for one
of the least of these
brothers of mine, you did
for me.”
Matthew 25:40**

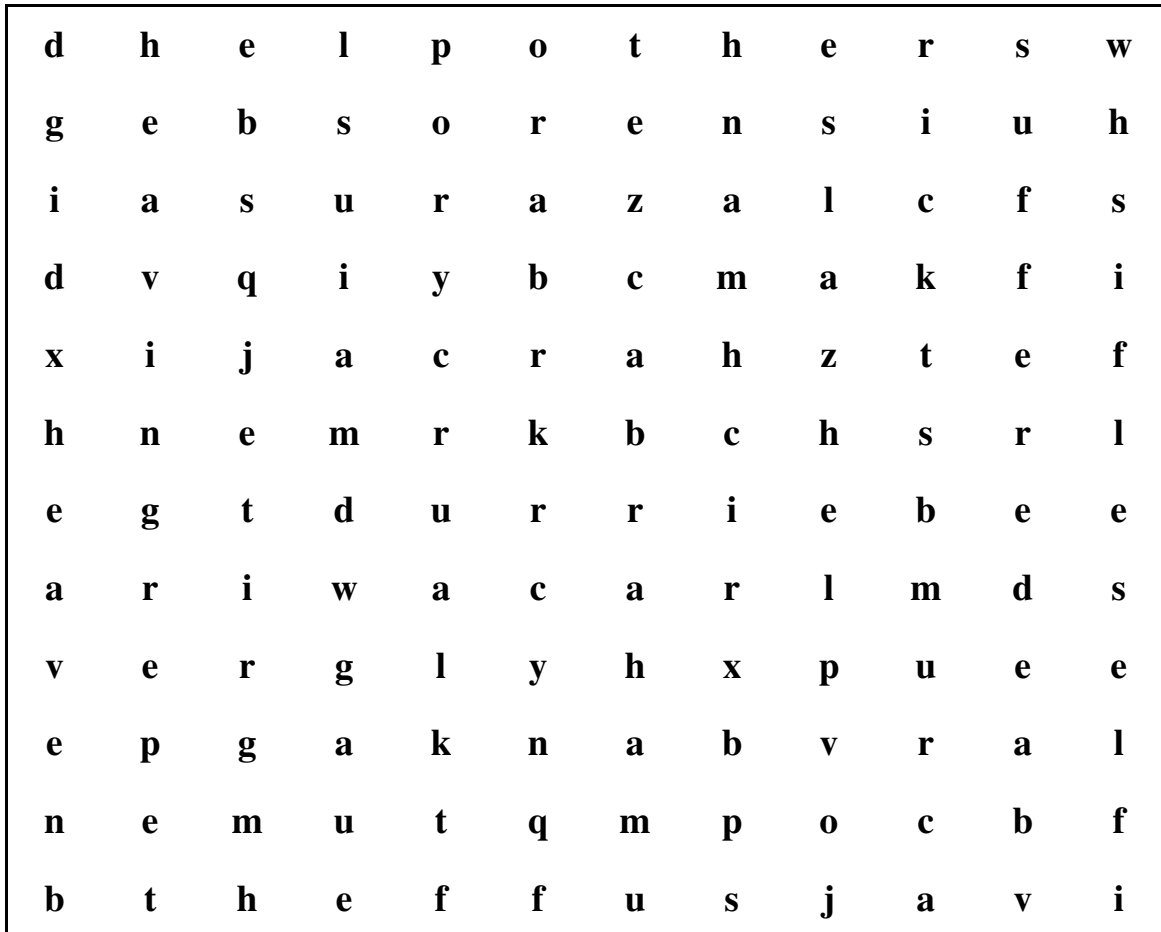


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Word Search

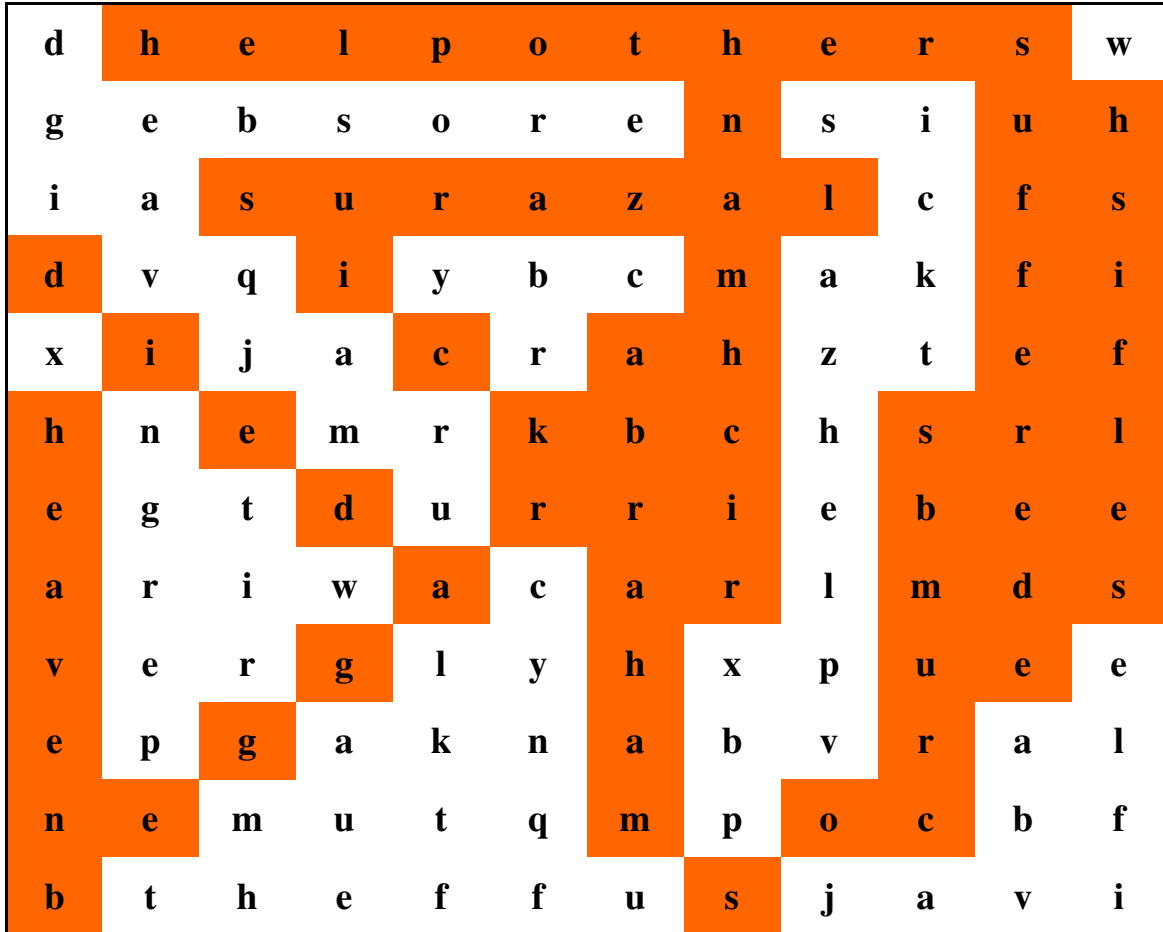
The Rich Man & Lazarus



rich man	Lazarus	beggar
sick	sores	crumbs
selfish	died	Heaven
Abraham	suffered	help others

Word Search

The Rich Man & Lazarus



rich man	Lazarus	beggar
sick	sores	crumbs
selfish	died	Heaven
Abraham	suffered	help others

The beggar's name was

L __ za __ us.

He suffered on earth,
but was comforted in

— — — — —
g d z u d m

(Write the letter that comes next in the alphabet—Z goes back to A)

Jesus wants us to

HELP

others.

