

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 34

THE RICH YOUNG MAN

MARK 10:17-27

Life of Christ

The Rich Young Man

Mark 10:17-27

Younger Verse

Put God's kingdom first.

Matthew 6:33

Older Verse

Put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all of those things will also be given to you.

Matthew 6:33

Lesson Goals

To know that Jesus wants all people to be able to be in Heaven with Him
To understand that we need to love God more than other things
To know that God can do things that we feel we can not do by ourselves

Opener

What if someone asked you to give up your favorite video game or toy? Would it be hard to do? Jesus told a rich man to give up his riches. Let's see what happened.

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.*

Last week we learned how important children are to Jesus. He told His disciples to let the children come and see Him. Jesus loved spending time with the children.

After Jesus had visited with each of the children, a rich young man ran up to Him. The man fell on his knees in front of Jesus.

"Good teacher," the man said, "what must I do to get into Heaven?" How do you think Jesus answered Him? (Teachers: This is a good opportunity to find out your children's understanding of how they get to Heaven.)

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus said. "No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not lie, do not cheat, honor your father and mother.'"

Do these sound familiar to any of you? Jesus was reminding the man of the Ten Commandments. God gave people the Ten Commandments so that they could know how to follow Him.

When the man heard this answer, he was excited. "Teacher," he said, "all these rules I have kept since I was a boy."

Jesus knew the young man was very good at obeying God's commands. He also knew the man was very rich and loved his money. "There is one thing you still need to do. Go and sell everything you have and give to the poor. Do this so that you will have treasure in Heaven. Then come and follow me."

When the man heard the answer, he was sad and he walked away from Jesus. He was sad because his money was very important to him. Jesus knew the man loved his money more than he loved God. Jesus looked back at His disciples and said, "It is very hard for a rich person to enter Heaven!"

When the disciples heard this, they were amazed. Jesus wanted to help His disciples understand that sometimes rich people love their money more than anything else. Again Jesus said to the

disciples, “It will be very hard for a rich person to enter Heaven. It would be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.”

Jesus said this to help the disciples and us understand that loving money can take our focus off of God. Our relationship with God needs to be the most valuable thing to us. We need to choose each day that Jesus will be more important than anything else within our hearts.

Once the disciples heard Jesus’ answer, they were amazed. They looked at one another and asked, “Who *will* be able to get into Heaven?”

Jesus answered them, “People cannot get into Heaven by themselves, but only with God’s help will it be possible.”

How did God make it possible for us to be able to get into Heaven? He sent His only Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. Sins are the bad choices we make. Our sins keep us from getting to be with God in Heaven. Three days later, Jesus came back to life so that our sins could be taken away. If we ask Jesus to come in our heart and forgive us for all of our sins, then we know that we will get to be with God up in Heaven. Jesus gave the young man in our story a choice on whether or not he wanted to follow Him. Jesus gives each of us a choice. If you believe you are ready to follow Jesus in your heart today, please talk with me.

Review Questions

1. What did the young man ask Jesus? (How to get to Heaven)
2. How did Jesus answer him? (You must obey all the commandments)
3. What else did Jesus tell the man to do? (Sell everything he had and give the money to poor people.)
4. Why didn’t the man want to follow Jesus? (He didn’t want to give up the things he had; he loved things more than God)

Prayer Time

Pray that we will put God first in our lives. Ask God to help us love Him more than anything else.

Life Application

It is easy to put all our focus, time, and energy on “stuff.” We want new, exciting toys and video games. We want to have the best clothes and shoes. But what does *God* want? That is the first thought we should have.

When we give our lives to Christ, He becomes our Master. We need to seek His will in all areas of life—even about the stuff we want.

God knows what is best for us. We can trust Him to have our best in mind.

Planning for Lesson 35
James and John’s Request
Mark 10:35-45

Preschool Lesson for The Rich Young Man

(Bring a cross and some fake money—Monopoly money or create your own.)

Welcome! I'm so glad to see each of you here today. Our story today is about a young man that had a lot of money.

One day the rich man decided he really wanted to go see Jesus. He was so excited when he found Jesus that he fell down on the ground at Jesus' feet. Why do you think he wanted to see Jesus?

“Good Teacher,” he said, “how do I get to Heaven?”

What do you think Jesus said? (Use this as a chance to find out if your children understand about how to get to heaven.)

Jesus told him that he needed to obey God's rules. The man became excited because he had been following God's rules ever since he was a little boy.

Jesus knew the man was good at following the rules, but He also knew the man was very rich and loved his money. Jesus loved the man and wanted to help him know how to get to Heaven. “You need to go and sell everything you have, give it to the poor people, and then come and follow me. God will have greater treasures and rewards for you in heaven.”

Jesus told him what he needed to do. What do you think the rich man decided? Did he obey Jesus' directions?

The man looked down at the ground. He loved his money. He would not give it up. He walked away sad. Then Jesus told his disciples that if people love money more than God, it will be hard for them to get into Heaven. God wants us to love Him more than anything else. How do we show God that we love Him?

We spend time with Him—reading our Bible, going to Bible study, and praying. We make choices that show other people we love God. Jesus really wants us to be with Him in Heaven one day. That is why He died on the cross and came back to life. He made a way for us to have all the bad things we do taken away so that we can have clean hearts. If you are ready to believe in Jesus in your heart, please talk with me.

Hands-on Activities for The Rich Young Man

Jesus mentioned the Ten Commandments in this lesson. Do you know where they are in the Bible? Take time to look them up with the kids. They can be found in 2 books of the Bible: Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21. Explain what they mean.

Arrange furniture so that there is a very small space that the kids must squeeze through. Let them try to get through the space. Explain that the “eye of the needle” was a way for Jesus to help His friends understand that just as it is hard to squeeze through a small space, it is hard for a rich man to go to Heaven—because he loves his money more than God.

Try playing this game to help the kids see how they cannot have 2 leaders in their life. Play a game like “Red Light, Green Light.” However, pick 2 people instead of 1 to be the leader. Now it is really hard to follow both leaders and do what both want. The kids will become frustrated. Talk about how the same thing is true in our lives. We cannot have 2 leaders in our life: God and _____. The rich man had money as the other leader in his life.

Make up a version of a game show. Use the words “Who wants to go to Heaven?” or something similar. Use questions that will help the kids see that they can only go to Heaven by believing in Jesus. For fun you may want to use phrases that they use on game shows!

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kingdom
first.

Matthew 6:33



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Word Search

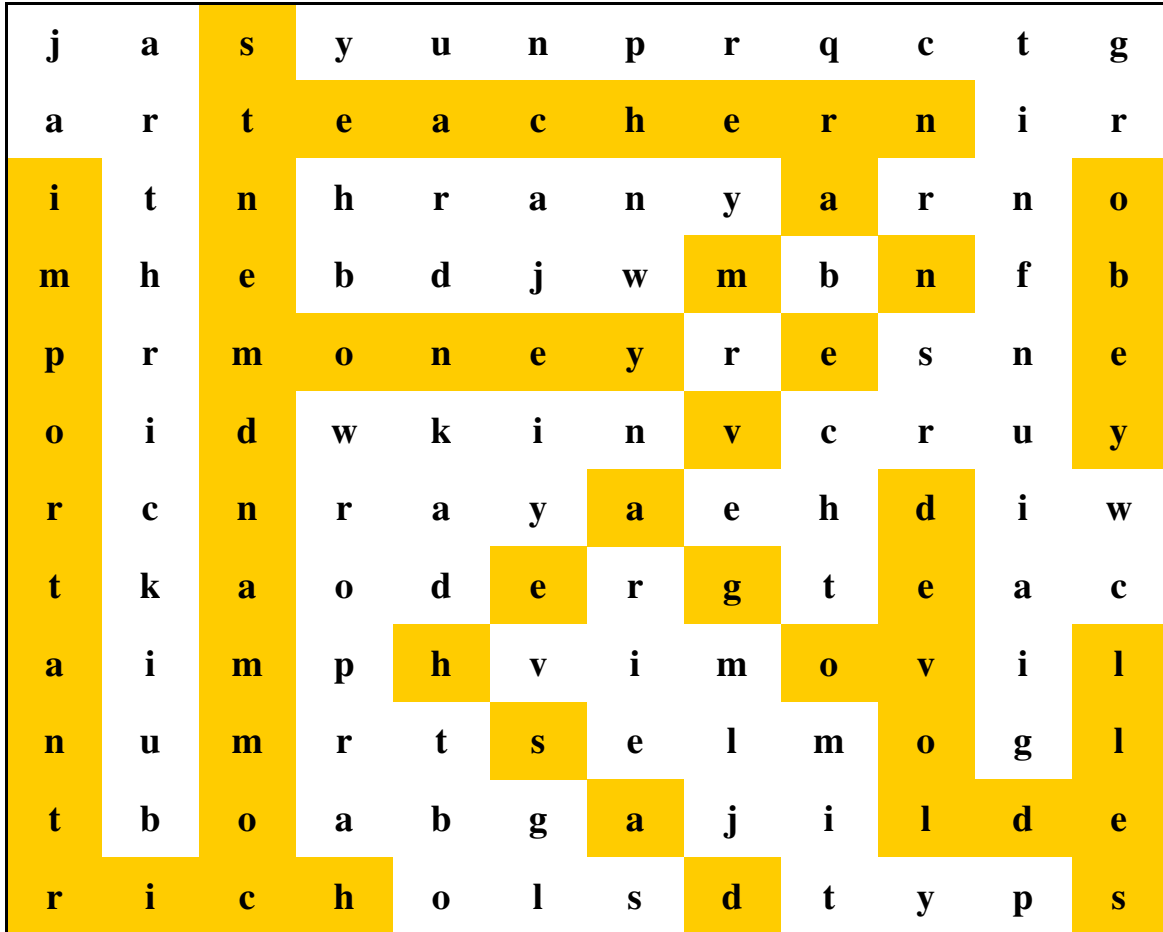
The Rich Young Man

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m	h	e	b	d	j	w	m	b	n	f	b
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Heaven	teacher	good
commandments	obey	loved
money	important	sad
rich	man	sell

Word Search

The Rich Young Man

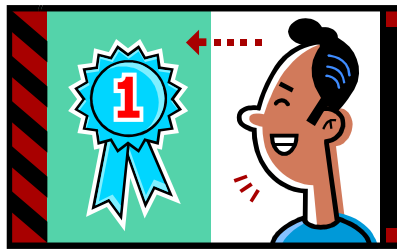


Heaven	teacher	good
commandments	obey	loved
money	important	sad
rich	man	sell

Jesus wants to have

FIRST

place in our life!



We need to
l__v__ God more than
anything else.