

# Life of Christ

## Jesus and the Rich Man

**Matt. 19:16-26**

**Younger Verse**

Don't worry about anything but pray about everything. Philippians 4:6

**Older Verse**

Don't worry about anything but pray about everything. With thankful hearts, offer up your prayers and requests to God. Philippians 4:6

**Welcome Time**

Ask the group what they would do if they won a million dollars on a game show? Then, ask them what they think Jesus would want them to do with the money. Share that today's lesson is about a rich man. Encourage them to listen and see what Jesus says.

**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.*

A man asked Jesus a question. He wanted to know how he could go to Heaven. He wanted to live forever.

Jesus knew the man was very rich. He also knew the man had trained for many years to be a religious leader. Jesus told the young man something he already knew. Jesus told the man to follow the commandments (rules).

The young man told Jesus that he had obeyed all the commandments.

Jesus loved the young man, but He knew that there was one thing which stood between this man and God. He knew the young man loved his money and things more than anything else in the world. The man loved God, but he loved being rich even more.

So Jesus told him to sell all he had and give his money to people in need and follow Him.

When the man heard this, he was very sad. He lowered his head and turned away. He knew deep down that he had not given God first place in his life. He was not willing to give up his riches and follow Jesus. So he walked away, very sad.

Jesus told His friends that it was easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than for a rich person to go to Heaven because it is hard for them to give up all they have.

Some people overheard Jesus talking and asked who could go to Heaven. Jesus said that people could not get to Heaven by themselves. People cannot get to Heaven by being good enough or doing the "right" things. Jesus said it is impossible with man, but it is possible through God.

**Lesson Goals**

See that being good does not get a person to Heaven  
See why God wants us to love Him and not money

The way for us to get to Heaven is through Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's Son. He was born and lived with us. While He was here, He did not do anything wrong. He did not sin at all. Many people loved Him, but others decided that He must die because of the things that He was saying.

These people arrested Jesus and put Him on trial. He was finally sentenced to death—on a cross! However, three days later, Jesus arose from the grave! Jesus took our place and paid for the wrong things we had done. He died and rose again so that we could get to Heaven if we ask Jesus to be in our life.

How do we do this? We must be sorry for the wrong things that we have done. We must tell Jesus that we have done wrong and ask Him to forgive us. Then, we must believe in Jesus and pray for Him to come into our lives. Praying this prayer means that He has to be the most important thing to us now. If you mean what you say, Jesus will come into your life and you will go to Heaven.

When you pray this prayer, you probably will not feel any different or see fireworks etc. It may seem so simple, but Jesus will come into your life and He will never leave you. So, what's next? You will want to spend time with your new best friend. Read your Bible, pray and learn more about Jesus. Invite other friends to church and tell them about the prayer you prayed.

You will also want to be good—to obey God—not because you have to, but because you want to. God asks us to be good and do good so that others will see us and we can tell them about Jesus.

**Learning Activities**

Choose the activities that will help the children apply the lesson to their lives and have fun too!

**Memory Verse Activities**

Play hangman using posterboard or pieces of construction paper. Make a line for each letter of the verse. Let the kids take turns guessing letters. When completed, explain the verse and ask them if they can get to Heaven by being good.

**Prayer Time**

Ask the kids if they pray during the week? Encourage them to do so. Please don't belittle them if they have not. Instead, praise them for what they have done and encourage them to make it a goal this week to pray even more!

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Be sure everyone helps clean up. It really helps them learn responsibility. Pass out snacks and enjoy the time with the kids. Be sure they put all the litter in a trash sack.

Planning for Sept. 28  
Workers in a Grape Vineyard  
Matthew 20:1-16

Preschool Lesson  
for  
The Rich Young Man

A leader asked Jesus a question. He wanted to know how he could go to Heaven. He wanted to be with God forever.

Jesus knew the man had lots of money. Jesus told the man that he needed to follow all of God's rules.

The young man told Jesus that he had obeyed all the rules.

Jesus loved the young man, but He knew the young man loved his money and things more than God. The man loved God, but he loved being rich even more.

So Jesus told him to sell all he had and give his money away and follow God.

When the man heard this, he was very sad. (make a pouty face) He lowered his head and turned away. He knew deep down that he had not loved God most of all. He walked away, very sad.

Some people heard Jesus talking and asked how to get to heaven. Jesus explained that the way for us to get to Heaven is through believing in Jesus. Jesus died on a cross. But, three days later, Jesus arose from the grave! Jesus took our place and paid for the wrong things we had done. He died and rose again so that we could get to Heaven if we ask Jesus to be in our life and believe in Him.

Sing the fun echo song, "O You can't get to Heaven."

Hands-on Activities  
for  
The Rich Young Man

Jesus mentioned the 10 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.

Share the paper fold illustration of “How to get to Heaven.” It is not by having a boat, house, plane, or rocket; it is by asking Jesus to come into your life.

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.

Again emphasize that being or doing good will not get a person to Heaven.

Try playing this game to help the kids see how you 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 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!