

Life of Christ

The rich man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

Younger Verse

Set an example for all believers. 1st Timothy 4:12

Older Verse

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 1st Timothy 4:12

Welcome Time

Have you ever wondered if there really is a Heaven? Have you thought about what it takes to get there? Jesus told a story in today's lesson to help us see what it takes.

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.*

Make sure the kids understand that this Lazarus is **NOT** Mary and Martha's brother.

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 He would help him with his problems.

One day Lazarus died and the angels took him up to heaven. The rich man also died, but he went down to hell.

The rich man could see Lazarus and others in heaven. The rich man called to Father Abraham in heaven and said to him, "Have pity on me and 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."

Then the rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus to his family's house so he could tell them how to get to heaven. The rich man did not want anyone to be with him because it was a terrible place to be.

Then Abraham told the rich man that his family could read the Bible and listen to the prophets. He said that the rich man's family would not listen even if Lazarus was raised from the dead to go talk to them.

Why did Jesus tell this story? What does it mean? First, Jesus tells us that there really is a heaven and hell. He also tells us that when we die we will go to one

Lesson Goals

Explain who was faithful—the Rich man or Lazarus
Share what it means to have faith

of them. It is our choice. If we trust Jesus and believe in Him, we will go to Heaven and be with God. If we choose to do what we want and live for ourselves and not trust Jesus, we will not be in heaven.

It's not about knowing in your head who Jesus is. It's about knowing Jesus and trusting Him with your heart. It takes a step of faith. That means that you believe and trust God even though you have never seen Him. Lazarus believed in God and had faith in Him. Lazarus talked to Him and knew that God would take care of him. He was Lazarus' best friend.

When you believe, God becomes your best friend. You want to spend time with Him because you love Him and know that He died and rose again for you.

Would you like to trust Jesus? Talk to me during activity time.

Learning Activities

Find the activities that will help your children understand and apply the lesson. Be sure to clearly share the Good News of Jesus. When talking to a child about Christ, be sure to ask him/her open ended questions like "What do you do to get to heaven?" instead of yes or no questions. Be sure the child understands what he/she is doing and isn't just doing this to get attention or please you.

Memory Verse Activities

This is a very long verse with some words that may not be familiar. Talk about what it means to tell others about Jesus (confess) and how we are "saved."

Prayer Time

Are you a model of prayer for your kids? Do they know that you pray for them (if you do)? Take time before class to pray for each of your students by name. Try to visit them and find out how they are doing. During prayer time today, let each person share a need. Write them down and pray for them this week. Challenge them to do the same.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Bring "fire balls" or some "heavenly angel food cake" for snacks. Another idea would be some "hot" salsa and chips. There are other snacks available also!

Planning for Oct. 3rd
Ten Lepers meet Jesus
Luke 17:11-19

Preschool Lesson
for
The Rich Man and Lazarus

(Teachers: please be sure you are careful as you teach this lesson. The preschoolers may be scared if you get graphic about where the rich man goes.)

(If you have an apartment with stairs, you may want to act out the story and have Lazarus go up the stairs and the rich man stay at the bottom).

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 He would help him with his problems.

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."

Then the rich man asked Abraham to send Lazarus to his family's house so he could tell them how to get to heaven. The rich man did not want anyone to be with him because it was a terrible place to be.

Then Abraham told the rich man that his family could read the Bible and listen to the prophets. He said that the rich man's family would not listen even if Lazarus was raised from the dead to go talk to them.

Why did Jesus tell this story? What does it mean? First, Jesus tells us that there really is a heaven. He also tells us that it is our choice. If we trust Jesus and believe in Him we will go to Heaven and be with God.

Thank God for Heaven and ask Him to help us do good things this week to help others.

Sing, "Deep Down in My Heart."

Hands-on Activities for The Rich Man and Lazarus

Make Heaven pictures. Use cotton balls for clouds. (We have lots of them)

Create the Pop-up picture. One side is Lazarus and the other side is the rich man.

As you share the story, have props for the fire. You may want to give everyone a “fireball” candy or “Hot Tamales” or other hot candy. Then, they will understand why the man begged for water. Have water handy as the rich man (and the kids) beg for water. Be sure to let the kids know that the rich man did NOT get his water! Ask them to imagine how it must feel to be where the rich man was. For Heaven, you may want to pass out cool breath mints or gum.

Sample marshmallows (to symbolize clouds) and talk about how a person can go to Heaven.

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.

There are several applications to this lesson. Be sure the children see how this lesson can relate to their lives. In the story, we can see that Lazarus was faithful in his life to follow God and serve Him. Being rich and having lots of things will not count for anything after we die. All that truly matters and the only thing that will count is that we believe in Jesus. Another lesson is the fact that in the story, Lazarus has a name. Even though Lazarus did not have much, there was one thing he had: God. God knew his name. Does He know yours?