

A Lesson From Jesus and the Rich Young Ruler

Mark 10:13-34

This lesson was written as a companion to the Justice and Action booklet published by PresCare in 2015 and corresponds with the Questions for Reflection written by Carolyn Kelly. The booklet encourages each of us to reconsider how we might respond in a tangible way to issues of social justice and poverty in New Zealand. Might Jesus be giving us a similar challenge to the one he posed to the rich young ruler?

WALT: (We are learning that...)

People in the bible often asked Jesus what they needed to do to "get in to heaven" or "have eternal life." Mark 10:13-34, Luke 12:32-34. Jesus taught it'sless about what we do and more about who God is. When we believe in Jesus and experience His love, we want to serve Him and His people.

Younger Children (Years 0-3): It's important to love God with our whole self. And love our neighbour as ourselves.

Older Children (Years 4-6): If we love Jesus, we will put Him first in all things. When we give everything to God, He gives everything to us...more than we can imagine.

Children's message in church: (See also: Object Lesson for Children's worship time)

Materials:

- Bible or printout of Mark 10:13-34 (see appendix)
- Simple costumes to represent the rich young ruler and Jesus (a fancy tunic and a plain tunic?)
- Cards with lines for young ruler and Jesus (see appendix for printouts)

Call the children to the front of the church and let them know that today they will hear a story about someone who looked like he was doing everything right...but wasn't quite.

Ask for volunteers to help you act out the story. If you are having the children say/read the lines for the parts, choose children who are already readers. Help them put on the costumes and give them their cards to read over.

If possible, TELL (as opposed to read) the story of the Rich Young Ruler, pausing to let the children read their lines where applicable. Encourage them to ACT their parts (Jesus looks with love at the young ruler...the rich young ruler walks away SADLY because he loves his money...)

Follow up questions:

- I wonder why Jesus asked the ruler to give up all his money to the poor?
- I wonder if Jesus wants ME to give up all my money?
- What might Jesus ask ME to give?
- I wonder...what has Jesus already given up for me?

Pray together:

"Dear Jesus, help us to love you with all our hearts and to love our neighbours as you do. Help us to notice if we are treating something as more important than you, and then get things back in order. Thank you that you are with us and can help us to see things clearly. In your name we pray, Amen."

Object lesson for children's worship time:(May also be used for children's message in church, if preferred)

Materials:

- A Frixion pen by Pilot (Found in [Office Max](#) or [Warehouse Stationary](#))
- A regular ballpoint pen
- Printout of Treasure Chest from the Rich Young Ruler Appendix (If using in church, A3 size is recommended.)
- A blow dryer or embossing tool (Something that blows hot air)

Note: Frixion pens are erasable and use heat to dissolve the ink.

See demonstration:

<http://bibleclasscreations.blogspot.co.nz/2013/03/rich-young-ruler-application.html>

Read the story of the rich young ruler from Mark 10. (See Appendix)

(While you tell the story, perhaps one child could wear fancy robes as the rich young ruler might. Someone else could pantomime the part of Jesus wearing a plain tunic.)

Remind the children that in those days, people thought that being rich meant that God blessed you for doing everything right. This guy must have thought he was pretty cool.

After reading the story ask the children:

Why do you think Jesus wanted this man to give up everything?

What did the man think was important? (Following rules, ticking all the right boxes, being rich)

Write their suggestions on the treasure chest with the Frixion pen.

What does Jesus think is important?

(Love God with your whole heart. Love your neighbor as yourself. Helping others.)

Write these suggestions with a regular pen.

Now, as time goes by, we realize that some things last, while others don't. In the book of Luke, Jesus tells us to store up our treasures in heaven. Meaning we should put our time, energy and money into things that will have a lasting effect, not just a momentary enjoyment.

I wonder what those things are...

Use the heated device to blow hot air onto your treasure chest. The Things of the World (the Ruler's things) should disappear. The Things of Jesus should stay there.

Closing: *Jesus may not be asking **you** to sell everything you own, but he may be asking if something in your life is more important than God. How is God calling us to love and serve our neighbour?*

Prayer: "Dear God. Please help us to know you better so we might know how to love our neighbour. Teach us how to store our treasure in heaven and not on earth. In Jesus name, Amen."

For Further discussion during Children's Worship: (options for older/younger children)

Print out the Bible Story from Mark on A3-sized paper.

For older children, print individual copies on A4.

Read/Tell the story together.

Can you spot the difference between the paragraph highlighted in teal and the paragraph highlighted in deep blue?

(First the man calls Jesus "Good Teacher," then, when Jesus suggests that only God is Good, he just calls him "Teacher" with the next question. This suggests that the man did not believe that Jesus is God.)

Follow up the questions from above by asking if anyone can think of something they might be tempted to put before God.

(video/computer games, sports, getting the best seat on the bus, getting the biggest portion of dessert)

How do we show Jesus' love to other people? How might that involve giving up something that is important to us? (We might have to give up being first in line in order to help someone. We might have to give up some computer time to help a neighbour, friend, or family member. Etc.)

Follow Up:

Complete the hand-shaped heart craft in the Appendix. Discuss how it relates to the story.

For older children:

Show them the Bible Humour in the appendix.

See how many children groan versus laugh. ;-) Do they get it?