

THE RICH YOUNG MAN

One day, a rich young man asked Jesus, “What should I do in order to go to heaven?” Jesus said, “Why do you ask?” You know what God has said. Here are some of the commandments: ‘Do not kill. Do not steal. Do not lie. Honor and respect your mother and father.’”

The man said, “I have kept all these commandments.” He seemed to want Jesus to tell him more. Jesus then said, “There is one more thing you can do: sell all you have and give the money to the poor. Then, come and follow me. For in heaven you will have all that you need.”

The man was sad because he had a lot of expensive things. He did not want to sell them.

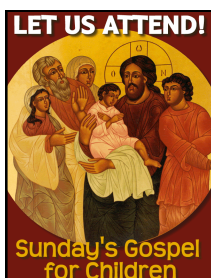
Jesus then told the crowd: “It is easier for a camel to go through an eye of a needle than for a rich man to go to heaven. But the rich can be saved and go to heaven. With God all things are possible.”



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. In this story, who is speaking with Jesus?
2. Jesus tells some of God’s commandments. Which one talks about mothers and fathers?
3. What does the commandment about mothers and fathers say?
4. What is another of God’s commandments?
5. Jesus told the man he could do one more thing if he wanted to go to heaven. What was it?
6. In the picture, why is the rich man leaving sad?



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Pre-12



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Materials:

- * white drawing paper
- * crayons
- * furniture, objects, pillows to be used in an obstacle course
- * copy of song, "Put God First"

Procedure:

1. After reading the gospel story to your child, take time to review the discussion questions following the story.
2. On a sheet of drawing paper, ask your child to draw some pictures of things that are important to them. Discuss these things. Remind your child that in the gospel story, the rich man loved his possessions very much, so much that he wasn't willing to give them up for Jesus. Ask your child how they can show Jesus that they want Him to be more important than the things they just drew on their paper. Discuss ways to put God first: praying often, attending Liturgy and Sunday School, learning more about God by listening to bible stories, tithing, giving to the poor, etc.
3. Tell your child that it can be very hard for people to value God above all other things. That is why Jesus said that it was "easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven." Set up a small obstacle course in a room or rooms of your house. Make spaces for your child to crawl that are small and challenging to squeeze through. Allow your child to work their way through the obstacle course. Once your child has completed the course, discuss the challenges of the course. Remind your child that even though it was difficult, it wasn't impossible. The same is true for following God. If we fully trust in God and are willing to give everything to Him, He will help us and make all challenges in our life possible. If we are willing to value God above ALL things, than our reward will be great - we can have eternal life with God in heaven. That is His promise and nothing in our lives on Earth is better than that!
4. Teach your child the song, "Put God First". Sing the song once for your child, then invite them to join in singing one line at a time. Add the actions. Then sing the entire song together using the actions! Remind your child that this song helps us remember that by putting God first, He will always show us the way to go in life!

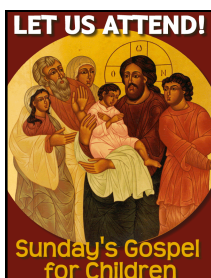


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Song:

Put God First (to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or "Are You Sleeping?")

Put God first (*action - make a number 1 sign with finger, with arm raised high)
Put God first (repeat action)
above all things (*action – swing arms side to side)
above all things (repeat action)
And you will be saved (*action – point to icon of Jesus)
And you will be saved (repeat action)
Put God first (*action - make a number 1 sign with finger, with arm raised high)
Put God first (repeat action)



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One day, a man came to ask Jesus a question. “Good Teacher, what should I do so I can go to Heaven?”

Jesus said, “You know the commandments, don’t you? God wants you to not kill, not steal, not lie, and honor your parents.”

The man said, “I’ve done all of that since I was young.”

Then Jesus said, “There is one thing that you still need to do. Sell everything you have. Give the money to poor people. Then you’ll have treasure in Heaven! Then come and follow Me.”

When the man heard this, he was very sad because he was rich.

Jesus saw how sad he was and said, “It is hard for people with lots of money and things to enter God’s Kingdom! It is easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God’s Kingdom.”

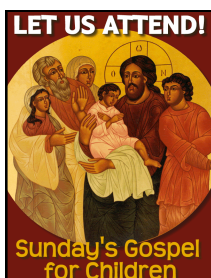
All the people who heard this wondered who could be saved, since it is so hard! But Jesus told them, “Everything is possible with God!”



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What did the rich young man want to know?
2. Jesus reminded him of God’s commandments. What did the young man say to Jesus about the commandments?
3. Jesus told the rich young man one more thing he needed to do. What was it?
4. Why did the rich young man become sad and leave Jesus?
5. What did Jesus then say is hard?
6. To understand the lesson of this story, let’s think about the people we love. Let’s pretend someone kidnapped your family. Then you found a note that said, “Collect everything that is yours and place it on your porch. We will make a trade. We will take your things, and in return, we will give your back your family.” Would you do what the kidnappers wanted?
7. Just as your family is more important than anything you own, God is more important than anything we have. We must always remember that God, and getting to heaven to be with Him, are more important than anything.
8. Jesus told us that we will have something in heaven. What is it?



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At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.’” And the man said, “All these I have observed from my youth.” And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, “One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

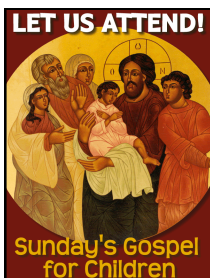
Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” But Jesus said, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does the rich man call Jesus?
2. If Jesus says God is good (God = good) and the man says Jesus is good (Jesus = good), then who is Jesus (Jesus =)?
3. If God is good, who are you like when you do a good thing?
4. Is it enough to be good just by keeping the commandments? What else should we do, according to Jesus? Is that easy, or hard?
5. How can we have treasure in Heaven?
6. Where would you like your treasure to be? What are you doing about it?



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Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Man, People

Narrator: At that time, a man came testing Jesus and asking,

Man: Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Narrator: And Jesus said to him,

Jesus: Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother."

Narrator: And the man said,

Man: All these I have observed from my youth.

Narrator: And when Jesus heard it, he said to him,

Jesus: One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.

Narrator: But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus, seeing him sad, said,

Jesus: How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than

for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Narrator: Those who heard it said,

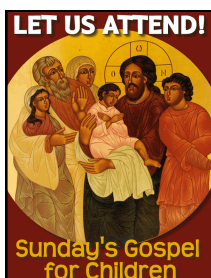
People: Then who can be saved?

Narrator: But Jesus said,

Jesus: What is impossible with men is possible with God.



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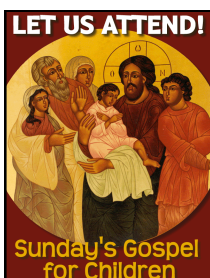
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...easier than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.”

Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” But Jesus said, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What gifts or talents do you have?
2. How does this make you rich?
3. What does Jesus tell the rich man in this Gospel to do with his riches?
4. What riches does God possess?
5. How has God given his riches away to us?
6. How can you do this with your riches?



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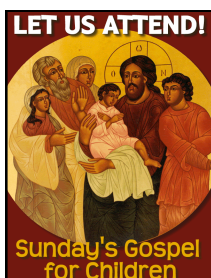
Those who heard it said, “Then who can be saved?” But Jesus said, “What is impossible with men is possible with God.”



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What gifts or talents do you have? Does everyone have those talents?
2. How does having those gifts make you rich?
3. What does Jesus tell the rich man in this Gospel to do with his riches?
4. How can you do that with your riches?
5. Who do you know that is poor in a way that you are rich? How could you give your riches away to them?
6. What does the rich man gain if he gives away his riches? What would you gain by doing that?



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