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."

The 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!"



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- 1. In the story, who was speaking with Jesus?
- 2. Jesus mentioned some of God's commandments. Which ones did he tell about?
- 3. Jesus told the man he could do one more thing if he wanted to go to Heaven. What was it?
- 4. Why was the rich man sad when Jesus said this?
- 5. Are you keeping all of the commandments?
- 6. Do you share with the poor? Ask your parents or priest how you can share more.



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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 yourchild that this song helps us remember that by putting God first, He will always show us the way to go in life!

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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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."



Image courtesy of sxc.hu

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

- 1. Why do you think the rich man was "testing" Jesus?
- 2. What does the rich man call Jesus? Who does Jesus say is good?
- 3. What commandments did Jesus say the rich man knew? Can you think of any others?
- 4. What did Jesus say that the rich man needed to do? How did the man respond?
- 5. Jesus said that it is difficult for rich people to be saved. But what does he say that can give hope to those who are rich?
- 6. What about you? Are you keeping the commandments? Are you giving to the poor? Look for a way to do even more today.



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Pre-12



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

vouth.

Narrator: And when Jesus heard it, he said to

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Narrator: Those who heard it said,

People: Then who can be saved?

Narrator: But Jesus said,

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