

## For the Family

**Read together** Luke 18:18-30

**Explain** how a rich man asked Jesus what he had to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus listed some of the 10 Commandments, and the man said he had obeyed all of them. Jesus then told him one more thing he needed to do. Jesus told him to sell everything he owned, and give the money to poor people. If he did that, he would have treasure in heaven, and he could follow Jesus. When the man heard this he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.

**Explain** that he was sad because he didn't want to give up all his possessions. He wanted to keep everything, but Jesus had told him to give everything away. He had to choose between following Jesus and keeping all his possessions.

Jesus noticed his sadness and said, *"How difficult it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"*

**Explain** that sometimes people have a hard time choosing between worldly wealth and following Jesus. Our stuff can become more important than Jesus, especially if we have a lot of stuff.

Jesus used a silly picture to make his point: *For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.*

**Show your children** a sewing needle. Ask them to imagine a camel (or horse or other large animal) trying to fit through the eye. Jesus is saying it is impossible.

It doesn't matter if you are rich or poor. It is impossible to enter the kingdom of God without Jesus. Rich people don't have special privileges in the kingdom. Everyone needs Jesus.

**Pray together** that you never forget that you need Jesus. No matter how wealthy you are, you will always need Jesus. Pray that you will never love worldly wealth more than you love Jesus.



*The Journey of Discipleship – Luke 9-19*

### Camels and Needles

*Luke 18:15-30*

#### Our Story So Far – Luke 9:51-18:14

- Jesus sets his face to go to Jerusalem and fulfill his mission.
- Jesus sends out messengers. Some are rejected; others tell stories of their power over demons.
- Jesus teaches the importance of loving God and loving others.
- Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray.
- Jesus drives out a demon from a mute man; then challenges those who doubt his power or who want to see more signs.
- Jesus warns against hypocrisy and legalism.
- Jesus warns his disciples against greed or worry.
- Jesus warns his disciples to be always watchful and prepared for his return, even if it seems delayed.
- Jesus warns against judging others who experience tragedy.
- Jesus frees a woman from a disabling spirit, on the Sabbath.
- Jesus warns people to strive to enter the kingdom of God.
- Jesus warns people to be humble, and receive his invitation.
- Jesus warns people to relinquish any entanglements with people or possessions which will affect their discipleship.
- Jesus tells a story to show how he receives sinners and that heaven rejoices whenever a sinner repents.
- Jesus tells a story encouraging his disciples to invest in people, in preparation for the coming age.
- Jesus contrasts the rich man and Lazarus.
- Jesus challenges his disciples about temptation and forgiveness.
- A Samaritan leper is healed and thanks Jesus.
- Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus teaches about persistent and humble prayer.

**Today: Worldly Wealth and the Kingdom of God**

**Read Luke 18:15-30**

## **The Children 15-17**

Why do you think the disciples wanted to keep the children away from Jesus?

Why did Jesus tell the disciples to allow the children to come to him?

Given the low status of children in that culture, what do you think was Jesus' main teaching here?

## **The Rich Young Ruler 18-30**

What does the man's question tell you about him?

Do you think the man truly believed he had kept all of the commandments? Why doesn't Jesus call him on that?

What "one thing" does Jesus say the man lacks?

Jesus actually gives the man three steps.

What is the significance of each part in his response to Jesus:

1. Selling everything he owns:
2. Distributing his wealth to the poor:
3. Following Jesus:

How does the man respond to Jesus?

Why does he respond this way?

What did Jesus mean when he said it is difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God?

Does Jesus' parable about a camel and the eye of a needle illustrate difficulty or impossibility?

What is the response of those who heard this exchange?

Why do they respond this way?

How does Jesus respond to them?

**Read Luke 12:21, 33-34; 16:13**

What do these verses tell us about earthly treasure vs. heavenly treasure?

**Read John 3:1-15**

What do we learn about Nicodemus?

What insight does Jesus give him?

How does Jesus respond to Nicodemus' confusion about being reborn?

What is Jesus claiming about himself in verses 13-15?

How does this story relate to what Jesus said in Luke 18:27: "*What is impossible with man is possible with God*"?

### **Reflect**

What defines you?

Are you more like the ruler or the children in how you approach God?

What has helped you understand the impossibility of earning the kingdom?

As a result, have you experienced the gift of the kingdom?

How would you answer the rich young ruler's question?

### **Next Steps**

- I will contemplate "what defines me" and make sure it doesn't prevent me from following Christ.
- I understand that entrance into the Kingdom is impossible on my own effort, but made possible by Jesus Christ.
- Rather than having an attitude of my own "bigness," I will strive to live a life of humility and "littleness."

### **Memory Verse – Luke 18:26-27**

*Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?"  
But he said, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."*