Preschool–Grade 6

The Rich Young Ruler

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: I love Jesus more than my things.
Bible passage: Mark 10:17–27. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "With God all things are possible." *Mark 10:27 (KJV)*. The old word **possible** means it can be done.
You need: a Bible, a pile of blocks or small toys (about five for each child), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Mark 10.

1. Opening game: Full Hands (5 minutes)

Give each child a few blocks or toys to hold in their arms. Say, "Hold on tight! Now follow me!" Walk, then clap, then wave. Things will fall. Then put everything in a pile and follow you again with empty hands. Say: "It's easier with empty hands! Today we will hear a true story about a man who held on to his things."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 10. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus was walking on the road (Mark 10:17). *(Walk in place.)*
A man came running to Jesus (10:17). *(Run in place.)*
He kneeled down in front of Jesus (10:17). *(Kneel down.)*
He asked how he could live forever with God (10:17). *(Hold out open hands.)*
Jesus looked at him. Jesus loved him (10:21). *(Hug yourself.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus loves me!"
Jesus told him to give his things to the poor, and come, follow Him (10:21). *(Wave "come here.")*
But the man had lots and lots of things (10:22). *(Stretch your arms out wide.)*
He was sad. He went away (10:22). *(Make a sad face. Turn around.)*
Jesus said, "With God all things are possible" (10:27). *(Jump up and lift your hands.)*
Say it with me: "God can do anything!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who came running to Jesus? *(A man, Mark 10:17)*
2. Did Jesus love the man? *(Yes! Jesus loved him, 10:21)*
3. Why was the man sad? *(He had great possessions, lots of things, 10:22)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'With God all things are possible.' Possible means it can be done. God can do anything!" Teach the motions: point up for "With God," spread your arms wide for "all things," and jump up for "are possible!" Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Mark 10:27" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Sharing Hearts (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big heart and color it. Inside the heart, they draw something they can share with someone this week. While they color, ask: "Who loved the man? Who do we love more than our toys?" Kids who finish early can play Full Hands again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, Jesus, for loving me.
Help me love You more than my things. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let them run, kneel and turn around with you. If they get wiggly, do the "possible" jump again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks whether toys are bad: answer simply. Toys are not bad. God gives us good things. We just love God most of all.

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