Preschool–Grade 6

The Rich Young Ruler

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Love God more than things. Following Jesus is worth more than anything we own.
Bible passage: Mark 10:17–27. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible." *Mark 10:27 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, a pile of blocks, paper cups or small toys (about five for each child), 6 paper strips, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 paper strips (see part 4). Put bookmarks in your Bible at Mark 10:21 and Mark 10:27.

1. Opening game: Full Hands (5 minutes)

Give each child about five blocks, cups or toys to carry in their arms. Say, "Hold on to all of it, and don't drop anything! Now follow me!" Walk around the room, then do harder things: hop, clap your hands, wave, touch your toes. The kids will drop things or stop. Then have everyone put everything in a pile and play again with empty hands. Ask: *Was it easier to follow me with full hands or with empty hands?* Say: "Today we will meet a man who had so many things that he went away instead of following Jesus."

2. Bible story: The Man Who Went Away Sad (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Mark 10, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

One day Jesus was walking on the road. A man came **running** to Jesus. He **kneeled** down in front of Him (Mark 10:17). That means he got down on his knees. He asked Jesus a big question: "Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" (10:17). **Master** means teacher. **Eternal life** means living forever with God.

Jesus talked with him about God's commandments, God's rules, like "Do not steal" and "Honour thy father and mother" (10:19). The man said, "Master, all these have I observed from my youth" (10:20). That means, "I have kept these since I was a boy."

Read Mark 10:21 from your Bible: "Then Jesus beholding him loved him." Say: "**Beholding** means looking at him. Jesus looked at this man, and Jesus loved him!" Then Jesus told him, "One thing thou lackest." That means, "There is one thing you are missing." Jesus said, "Sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me" (10:21).

The story continues: The man was sad when he heard that. He **went away** grieved, which means very sad, "for he had great possessions" (10:22). He had lots and lots of things. So he walked away from Jesus.

Jesus looked around at His disciples, His helpers. He said it is hard for people who trust in riches to come into the kingdom of God (10:23–24). Then Jesus said something surprising: "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God" (10:25). A camel is a very big animal. The eye of a needle is the tiny hole at the end of a sewing needle. A camel can't fit through there!

The disciples were amazed. They asked, "Who then can be saved?" (10:26). Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible" (10:27). We can't save ourselves, but God can do anything!

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. How did the man come to Jesus? *(He came running and kneeled to Him, Mark 10:17)*
2. When Jesus looked at the man, what did Jesus feel? *(Jesus loved him, 10:21)*
3. What did Jesus ask the man to do? *(Sell what he had, give to the poor, and come follow Him, 10:21)*
4. Why did the man go away sad? *(He had great possessions, 10:22)*
5. What is possible with God? *(All things, 10:27)*

4. Memory verse: Possible! (5 minutes)

Tape the 6 strips up in order: *And Jesus looking upon them saith, / With men it is impossible, / but not with God: / for with God / all things are possible. / Mark 10:27.* Explain the words: **saith** means says, and **impossible** means it can't be done. Read the verse together. Every time you read "possible," everyone jumps up and throws their arms high. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The man asked Jesus, 'What shall I do?' Jesus loves you, just like He loved that man. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! Later, other people asked the same question: 'What shall we do?' (Acts 2:37). Peter told them: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.

This week: share one of your things with someone. When you want something very much, say, "I love Jesus more!"

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **rich young ruler word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/rich-young-ruler-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/rich-young-ruler-craft), or **Follow Me:** the kids line up behind you. Walk around the room and do a motion for them to copy (march, tiptoe, hop, take big giant steps). Stop and ask a question from part 3. After each right answer, a new child gets to lead, and everyone says, "Come, follow me!"

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that You love us, just like Jesus loved the man who ran to Him. Help us love You more than any of our things, and help us follow You. Thank You that with You all things are possible. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks whether having toys or money is bad: answer simply. Jesus didn't say things are bad. He loved this man, and He told him the one thing that kept him from following (Mark 10:21). Jesus said the danger is to "trust in riches" (10:24). We can enjoy what God gives us, as long as we love God most.

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