

**SERIES: WHAT'S YOUR STORY**  
**LESSON 3—THE RICH RULER**

**Bible Reference:** Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:17-22

**Key Verse:** 2 Timothy 1:7-8—For God didn't give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-control. Therefore don't be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord...

**OVERVIEW**

- Opening Activity
- Bible Story
- Testimony Training
- Key Verse
- Small Group Activities

*(NOTE: We are using a different order today.)*

**ITEMS NEEDED:**

- Signs that say: *Fear, Power, Love, Self-Control*
- Items for your choice of the craft activities.

**OPENING ACTIVITY:**

*Tell your group that you are going to give them a series of timed challenges. You will tell them what to do and then when you say, "Go" the timer will begin. (NOTE: If you have a really large group, divide them into boys vs. girls.)*

SAY: Stand up and close your eyes.

Challenge #1-When I say, "Go" line up from tallest to shortest. Go!

Challenge #2-Without talking, line up in order of Birthday, from January to December. Go!

Challenge #3-Without talking or using your hands, line up in order of biggest foot to smallest foot. Go!

*After each challenge check to make sure they are in the right order. When you are finished, tell your class to sit down.*

SAY: You had to help each other during the game.

**ASK: What are some ways you can help people in everyday life?**

SAY: Let's look at a story where Jesus helped someone.

*Tell your students that while you read, "Have mercy on us,"(this phrase may differ due to the translation) they are to run and touch two walls in the room and come back to their seat as fast as they can without hurting themselves or others.*

READ Matthew 20:29-34 from your Bible.

**ASK: How did Jesus help?**

SAY: Jesus showed compassion by healing their physical blindness. He loved them. He touched them. He fixed them and they followed Him.

**ASK: But who are people who are “spiritually” blind?** (These are people who don’t know Jesus. They need Jesus to touch them and to forgive their sins.)

SAY: Because they are not saved and don’t know God, they won’t see things the way we see them. And like a blind person, they need someone to show them the way.

**ASK: How can you help people who are “spiritually” blind?** (Tell them about Jesus, share your salvation testimony with them, invite them to church, live for Jesus every day.)

SAY: Listen while we take a look at someone who didn’t know Jesus...

### **BIBLE LESSON**

*(Based on Mark 10:17-22)*

SAY: We’re going to play the opposite’s game again. I’m going to say a word and if you know the opposite of that word, stand up and say it. Then sit back down. I’m looking for who can be the fastest.

High (Low) / Up (Down) / Hold on (Let go) / Climb (Fall) / Live (Die) / Healthy (Sick) / Happy (Unhappy) / Clean (Dirty) / Go (Stop) / Love (Hate) / Mean (Nice) / Good Choice (Bad Choice)

SAY: Let’s take a look at a man who made a Bad Choice...

SAY: Let’s say that you are in a crowd. This crowd has been listening and following Jesus. When, suddenly, a man runs up to Jesus. He has a question...

**ASK: What do you think he wants to know?** (He’s not asking Jesus to do something, like to heal him...he wants to know something.)

**ASK: If you could ask Jesus any question, what would it be?**

SAY: This man wants to know how he can have eternal life.

REPEAT after me—What must I do to have eternal life?

SAY: He wants to know how to live forever, how to go to Heaven, how to have eternal life?

**ASK: Do you think this is a good question or a bad question?**

SAY: This is a GREAT question and one that you might want to ask too—Do you know for sure that you’re going to Heaven? (Just think about it.)

SAY: This man is spiritually blind. He knows *about* God, but he doesn’t *know* God. There’s a big difference. Lots of people know about God. But not everyone has been saved, which is the only way to know God. Watch what happens...

READ Mark 10:17-21 from your Bible. (Don't give away the ending yet!)

SAY: Jesus is NOT (*have the kids say "NOT!"*) saying that being good will get him to Heaven.

ASK: **Can being good get you to Heaven?** (*Everybody say, "No way!"*)

SAY: Jesus is NOT (*have the kids say "NOT!"*) saying that giving all his wealth away will get him to Heaven.

ASK: **Can giving your stuff away get you to Heaven?** (*Everybody say, "No way!"*)

ASK: **Can being good get you to Heaven?** (*Everybody say, "No way!"*)

SAY: This is a good man and he even believes in and knows about God. But being good can't get you to Heaven. Knowing about God with your head can't get you to Heaven. Praying to God when you go to bed every night can't get you to Heaven. There's only ONE way.

ASK: **So how does a person go to Heaven?** (Let your kids tell you—It's only by giving your life to Jesus, by surrendering to Him and allowing Him to be the Lord and Boss of your life.)

SAY: Jesus knew what was holding this man back from totally surrendering to Him—It was his wealth. He had a lot of stuff and that stuff was more important to him than God was.

ASK: **What do you think this man did?**

SAY: He made the worst decision of all. Listen to what the Bible says...

READ Mark 10:22.

SAY: He chose his stuff over knowing and following Jesus. Not everyone you meet will want to give their lives to Jesus. Some people will say no because they have sin in their lives or because they have other things in their lives that they aren't willing to surrender to God. But no matter what people say or do, our job is to keep sharing what we know and to keep telling people about Christ.

CHALLENGE REPORT: Last week I challenged you to ask someone in your family to share their salvation story with you. How did it go?

CHALLENGE: This week I challenge you to share your salvation story with an adult at your school. It might be your teacher or even your principal or maybe even a cafeteria worker but first we want to show you a few easy things to help you.

## TESTIMONY TRAINING

ASK: **What is a salvation testimony?**

SAY: It's your story about how you were saved. And if you don't have a salvation story because you've never been saved, feel free to talk to any of your leaders. We'd love to show you how Jesus made a way for you to be forever with Him in Heaven.

SAY: Listen to my Salvation Testimony

***Leader's Salvation Testimony** (preferably a leader who hasn't shared theirs yet)—Share your salvation testimony about how and when you were saved. This needs to be no longer than a few minutes and the point needs to be focused on how you became aware that you needed Jesus, what you did about it and how you gave your life to Christ. Avoid mixing in ideas of being good or being baptized, things that many people confuse with the real way a person is saved, and stick to your salvation story about how you came to Christ.*

ASK: **Would someone else like to share their salvation testimony about how they came to Christ?** (Take only one or two volunteers. If no one volunteers, that's okay too.)

SAY: Some of you might not have a salvation story because you've never given your life to Jesus and that's okay. Don't be embarrassed if you're not saved yet. Just realize that Jesus is the only way to be saved and the only way to go to Heaven and we're always available to talk with you about it.

SAY: Now I want to show you a few easy things to help you in sharing your story. Let's say there's a friend at school that you want to share with but you just don't know how to start the conversation. What do you do? Try this...

REPEAT after me: **Can I tell you about the greatest thing that ever happened to me?**

SAY: Anytime you want to tell someone about Jesus, just ask them this.

REPEAT it again: **Can I tell you about the greatest thing that ever happened to me?**

SAY: If they say, "yes," then share with them your salvation story. If they say, "no," then maybe it's a bad time and there will be a better chance later. Most people are willing to listen.

SAY: Then share your salvation testimony but the reason you're sharing this story isn't to talk about you. You want to find out where they stand with God. So, at the end, just ask them.

REPEAT after me: **Because of this I know for sure I'm going to Heaven. What about you?**

SAY: Then listen to their answer. If they say that they do, then ask to hear the story about when they were saved. If they say no, tell them what you know about how Jesus died and rose again to make a way to save them. Remember, they're spiritually blind, so you get to show them the way—Help them to understand what it means to give their life to Christ.

ASK: Now, let's practice sharing our salvation testimonies again but this time **we'll each begin by saying what?** (Can I tell you about the greatest thing that ever happened to me?)

**ASK: And at the end of our salvation stories, let's finish by asking what?** (Because of this I know for sure I'm going to Heaven. What about you?)

*Let a few students share their salvation stories, even if you have already heard them. They are also practicing how to begin and end it. Also, encourage them to do more in their testimony than to just say that they said a prayer or "gave my life to Jesus," but use this opportunity to slide the Gospel in...For example, "and my pastor told me about how Jesus died and rose again. He did this to make a way for me to be forgiven and go to Heaven. That's when I decided to give my life to Jesus and that's what I did. Because of this I know for sure I'm going to Heaven. How about you?"*

### **KEY VERSE**

SAY: By now this verse is going to seem very familiar to you but it's one that we want you to really understand. In fact, you probably know it so well that you can fill in the blanks:

SAY: The Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:7-8—"For God didn't give us a \_\_\_\_\_ (spirit) of \_\_\_\_\_ (fear), but of \_\_\_\_\_ (power), \_\_\_\_\_ (love), and \_\_\_\_\_ (self-discipline). Therefore don't be ashamed of the \_\_\_\_\_ (testimony) of our Lord..."

*Choose four volunteers*

Give the first one the sign that says, FEAR.

SAY: The Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:7-8—"For God didn't give us a spirit of fear..."

Ask the volunteer to tear the FEAR sign into as many pieces as he can in 10 seconds...ready, go!

KEY: If you have given your life to Jesus and are saved, then you have a great story to share. Your testimony is powerful, so never be afraid to share it.

*Choose two more volunteers to join the first volunteer*

SAY: The Bible says in 2 Timothy 1:7-8—"For God didn't give us a spirit of fear, but of power [*give the POWER sign to one of the volunteers*], love [*give the LOVE sign to one of the volunteers*], and self-control [*give the SELF-CONTROL sign to the last volunteer*]. Therefore don't be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord..."

REPEAT after me: Power...Love...Self-Control!

SAY: God didn't give us a spirit of fear but of power and love and self-control. Because of this you never have to be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord.

SAY: Here's our challenge again for this week...

CHALLENGE: This week I challenge you to share your salvation story with an adult at your school. It might be your teacher or even your principal or maybe even a cafeteria worker and next week we'll give you a chance to share with us what happened. I also want to

encourage you to talk with your parents about this challenge and ask them to be praying for you.

### **Dismiss to Small Groups**

SAY: Right now it is time for our small groups, so I'm going to dismiss you one row at a time.

*Dismiss rows of chairs to the tables in the rooms. Give them specific directions where to go.*

## **SMALL GROUPS**

### **Craft – Map Your Story**

SAY: When someone is blind, you need to show them the way. You don't give them a map, you are the map. Today you get to map out your story and we have two options for you.

#### *Option #1:*

You can map out your salvation story showing what helped you know your need for Christ, what you did about it, and what difference it made. You could even use this map to share your salvation story with others.

#### *Option #2 (Younger option and an option for those who don't have a salvation story):*

The other map is more about your life. What's your favorite Bible story? What do you give thanks for? It's All About Jesus and You.

### **Activity - Making Lists**

In your small group, ask your students to make a list of people in their lives who might or might not know Jesus. Then talk with them about the best time and way to share Jesus with these people both verbally and in action.

### **Discussion Questions**

*Below are questions that you can discuss with your students before, after or while participating in today's activity:*

- How did you feel when the rich ruler walked away from Jesus?
- If someone can say no to Jesus, do you think people will also say no to you when you talk about Jesus? How can you deal with these feelings? What can you pray for these people?
- How did the Bible say the rich ruler felt as he left Jesus? Why do you think he felt this way?
- Why do you think it was so hard for the rich, young ruler to let go of his wealth?
- What are things besides wealth that some people hold onto that holds them back from fully following Christ?

Listen to what the Bible says about those who are spiritually blind: Read 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 and discuss these verses with your students.

**Prayer**—Take prayer requests and pray with your students.