

A Camel through a Needle

Grades
1-2

POSSESSIONS • LECTIONARY 28 • YEAR B

MARK 10:17-31



28

What's happening in this story?

As Jesus is setting out on a journey, a rich man runs up and asks the kind of question that is difficult to answer briefly. They discuss how to inherit eternal life and the difficulty of entering the kingdom of God. It was assumed that those who were wealthy were more favored by God. But Jesus blows that idea out of the water, giving the camel-through-a-needle analogy. In God's kingdom, everything is upside down.

What does this story mean for kids?

No matter their age, kids can begin to apply this to their lives by looking at their own materialism and that of society. They understand what it is to want things, and to want what someone else has in order to gain status. Jesus calls us to want God, not things, and our status—beloved—is determined by God. Make sure kids know that it's not how much we have, but how much we share, that matters.

What is the lectionary connection?

During the Season after Pentecost, we reflect on what it means to follow Jesus. The readings for this week in the lectionary deal with material possessions and wealth and how these things relate to faith. Discipleship requires sacrifice, and sometimes that means giving up the comforts of a wealthy life in order to serve others.

AGE LEVEL TIP

Help make your classroom a sanctuary, or oasis of peace, in the busy life of a child. Arrive early so you can welcome each kid in a friendly, relaxed manner. Setting a peaceful tone right from the beginning will help kids respond in the same way.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Markers
- Clear tape

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Dominoes (multiple sets)
- Plastic milk jug
- Clothespins
- Sticky notes

WHIRL SUPPLIES • WHIRL STORY BIBLES • DVD • WALL CHART • LEAFLETS

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Show kids how to set dominoes in a row so they can be toppled in a chain reaction. Invite kids to create their own domino rally as a class or in groups. Ask this question following the activity: **When you toppled the dominoes, which domino toppled first and which toppled last?**

Invite kids to gather near the Wall Chart.

Point out today's date, season (Season after Pentecost), color (green), and icon (footprints). **The Season after Pentecost lasts many weeks. We use the color green to remind us of this season. Where are some places you see the color green in our church?** Allow kids to respond. **Green also reminds me of something we use to go places and buy things. What is it?** (Money.) Invite a volunteer to draw a green rectangle inside the wedge. **In our Bible story, Jesus teaches us how to have a good relationship with God and our possessions.**

Have kids stand with their fists in front of them. Kids open their fists and say, **"Here are my hands to let go of my things."**

Pass out leaflets and markers.

We all own things that we like. Imagine that these are some things that you own. How much are they worth

to you? Invite the class to identify each object and write on the price tag how much money they think each item is worth. **Some of these things might mean more to you than they do to your neighbor. That's okay. Now, imagine someone asked you to sell all of these things and give the money to the poor. How would you feel? Jesus asks a man to do that very thing in our Bible story.** Collect their leaflets until Respond.

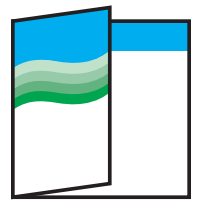
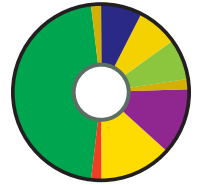
Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

Clara has brought some toys to Sunday school. Let's see how that goes.

View Episode 5, "Chromo-Bots," on the Whirl Year B Fall PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **What special toys did Clara bring to Sunday school?**
- **Why do you think Otto, Victor, and Monty began playing with Clara's toys?**
- **Have you ever felt like Clara? When?**
- **How might Clara have responded differently in this situation?**
- **What question did Ada ask Clara about her Chromo-Bots?**



Pass out Whirl Story Bibles to kids.

Let's find our story today! Help kids find "Everything's Possible for God" on page 290. Start by pointing out the graphic that shows the footprints in the green circle for the Season after Pentecost. Before you read, invite kids to look for the man talking to Jesus, the man walking away, and the camel next to the eye of a needle.



Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- What did the man ask Jesus?
- What do you think the man was thinking about when he hung his head and walked away?
- What did Jesus say about a camel and the eye of a needle? Why?
- Do you think people need to sell *all* of their things in order to love God? Why or why not?
- What do you think this means: "With God, the first will be last and the last will be first"?

Play together!

Jesus said, "It's easier for a camel to fit through the eye of a needle than for people to enter God's kingdom if they love their possessions and their money." We're going to try to put something large into something small too.

Put an empty milk jug on the floor. Kids stand with their toes touching the jug. Each kid gets five clothespins to try to drop inside of the jug. For an extra challenge, have kids begin by holding the clothespins at nose height, then waist, then knees. **Which is easiest? Which is most difficult?**

Sometimes it's hard not to get distracted by our possessions. But with God, *all* things are possible.

BIBLE BIT

- Men in Bible times did not run. Running would have meant hiking up your tunic and exposing your legs—embarrassing! This man's question must have been very important.

WATCH IT AGAIN

- **Victor makes a good statement about bringing toys to Sunday school.**
- **What does Victor tell Clara?**
- **Why did Clara bring the Chromo-bots to Sunday school in the first place?**

OUR CHURCH

- Encourage kids to consult with their families about contributing some of their possessions to a church-sponsored garage sale.
- Where will the proceeds from the sale go?

TODAY'S READINGS Job 23:1-9, 16-17 🇺🇸 • Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 🇵🇮 • Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets, markers, and sticky notes.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. Invite kids to describe what they see on the leaflet.
2. **Imagine you are stranded on a deserted island. You have brought only one thing with you.** Have the kids find a separate place in the room to be “stranded.”
3. **Without talking to anyone or looking at your neighbor’s leaflet, draw the one thing you would bring in the blank space on the bag.**
4. Give each kid a sticky note to cover their drawing.
5. Have kids gather somewhere in the room, pretending they are on the island together.
6. One by one, have each kid reveal what they brought and how it might be helpful to the group. **Why did you choose to bring what you did? Are some things more important than others? Why? What things would be hard to leave behind? Why? Sometimes we like the things we have so much that we can’t imagine living without them.**
7. **Jesus said, “You have to love God more than you love your things.” Don’t let your possessions distract you from God.**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

We began by thinking about selling our things and giving the money to the poor. How did the man in the Bible story feel about that idea? Allow kids to respond. We pretended to be stranded on a deserted island and talked about what’s really important. Don’t let your possessions distract you from God.

Pass out leaflet panels, markers, and tape.

Write or draw one way you can spend more time with God. (Pray, listen to worship music, take part in a service activity, etc.) **Fold the panel into a triangle, tape, and stand on end as a table-tent reminder!**

Send kids out.

Have kids stand with their fists in front of them. Kids open their fists and say, **“Here are my hands to let go of my things.”**

Pray together: **Dear God, I am so happy to be your child! Show me how to love you more than my possessions. Thank you for helping me. Amen.**

Thank kids for participating in class. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.