

# A Camel through a Needle

Grades  
**3-4**

**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

Kids this age have certainly *experienced* selfishness, but they may not have named it yet. Help them identify when they may be prioritizing possessions over people.



### GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Markers
- Permanent Marker
- Glue sticks

### LESSON SUPPLIES

- Craft sand (several colors)

**WHIRL SUPPLIES • WHIRL NRSV BIBLES • DVD • WALL CHART • LEAFLETS**

## Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Write a different color (red, green, blue, orange) at the top of four sheets of paper. Ask kids to list things of each color that they have.

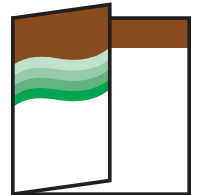
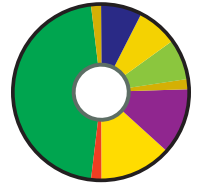
## Invite kids to look at the Wall Chart.

Point out today's date, church season, color, and icon. **Today we're in the twenty-eighth week of the church year, deep in the Season after Pentecost. This season represents a time to grow! Today we'll be talking about how our stuff can get in the way of that growth. You'll hear Jesus talk about a camel trying to get through the eye of a needle. Let's mark the chart today with a drawing of a needle.**

Kids circle up and repeat after you: **All we possess/ gives us the opportunity/ to share God's love/ with people around us.**

## Pass out leaflets and markers.

On the door on your leaflet, write or draw two things you own that you would *never* share with someone. What makes you unwilling to share the things you named?



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

Our possessions can sometimes get the better of us without us even realizing it! Let's watch Ruby and Leo wrestle with that in today's video.

View Episode 5, "Miss Bumpy," on the Whirl Year B Fall Grades 3–6 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- Why do you think Jesus told parables, or stories, to teach people a message?
- Why is Ruby working so hard to shrink the camel? What does she accomplish if she succeeds?
- What do you sometimes do to dodge things you know you're supposed to do?
- How did Mimi and Leo's perspective help Ruby?
- How would your life change if you didn't have the things you wrote on the door on your leaflet?



## Pass out Whirl NRSV Bibles and help kids find Mark 10:17-31.

Do the Lectionary 28 Preview Activity together on page 1171 and compare responses.

Read Mark 10:17-31 in this creative way together: Using one Bible, let kids take turns reading verses out loud. As each new kid receives the Bible, they should yell, "MINE!" and clutch it to their chest before reading. If the yelling is too distracting, read it out loud yourself again at the end.



## Ask these questions after you read the story:

- What did the man want from Jesus?
- What set of rules did Jesus mention to the man?
- If a parent or other adult tells you to "be good," what does that mean to you?
- What is the big deal with possessions? Are they bad? Why does Jesus tell the man to get rid of his possessions?
- What things in your life distract you from living like Jesus?

### BIBLE BIT

The kingdom of God isn't just in *heaven*, though sometimes we live like it is. We're called to live in a way that brings God's kingdom of love *here*.

### WATCH IT AGAIN

What is Ruby's motivation for trying to shrink the camel? Mimi's? Leo's?

### OUR CHURCH

Sometimes churches keep stuff that's no longer useful. Take kids to look in "hiding places" such as attics, closets, vestibules, and more. Is it time for a church yard sale?

**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

## Open leaflets and pass out markers, glue sticks, and craft sand.

Tear off leaflet square.

1. Ask kids to think about the stuff they use every day—not just toys—and then imagine they’re trying to carry it somewhere. **If you could keep only what you could carry in one trip, what would you bring?**
2. **You already identified two things you’re not willing to share; write those in the sandbox labeled “Things I Won’t Share.”**
3. Have kids write or draw at least two possessions in each sandbox. **You can’t write the same item in two different boxes.**
4. Choose one box (not “Won’t Share” or “Might Share”), and ask kids to talk about things they wrote. Then spread glue over that box and cover it with craft sand. Repeat for the other boxes, except “Won’t Share” and “Might Share.”
5. **You only have two boxes left! What would have to change for you to be willing to share your “Won’t Share” items? What’s keeping you from sharing your “Might Share” items?**

# LAUNCH 10

## Circle up with kids for a quick review.

**Have you changed the way you think about any of your stuff—possessions—today?** Take time to hear kids’ responses. **Anything that takes our focus away from following in the footsteps of Jesus needs serious attention. It’s especially easy to let possessions get in the way of loving others.**

## Return to the leaflet panels and pass out markers.

Invite kids to create a camel spectrum. **Assign a “camel-value” to your possessions. Write “Won’t Share” stuff by the largest camel, “Might Share” next, ending with stuff you willingly share near the camel that goes through the eye of the needle. What can you do this week to reduce the camel size of your possessions?**

## Send kids out.

Kids circle up and repeat after you: **All we possess/ gives us the opportunity/ to share God’s love/ with people around us.**

Pray together: **God, help us always be grateful for what we have and be ready to share it with anyone in need. Amen.**

Thank kids for working toward ways of loving others by sharing what they already have. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.