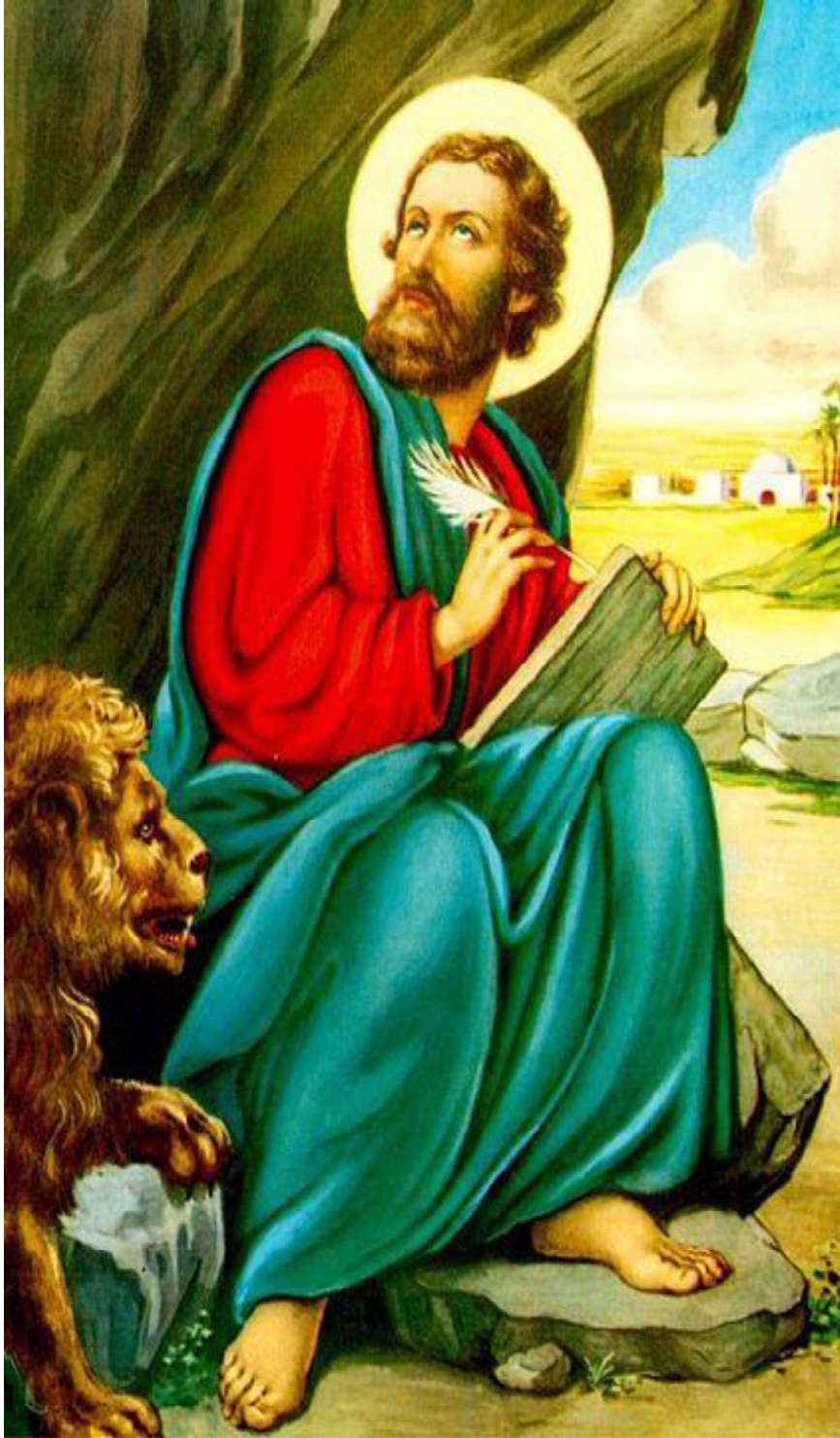


The Gospel According to St. Mark
Bible study Curriculum for Elementary Ministry



Contents

Introduction.....	3
Servant’s preparation:.....	3
1- Unit 1: Getting to Know Christ	7
His Ministry in Galilee.....	7
Chapter 1	7
Chapter 2.....	12
Chapter 3.....	17
Chapter 4.....	22
Chapter 5.....	28
Chapter 6.....	32
2-Unit 2 His Retreat from Galilee	50
Galilee (Chapters 7 to 9)	50
Chapter 7.....	50
Chapter 8.....	53
Chapter 9.....	57
3-Unit 3: His Service in Judea –.....	64
Chapter 10:.....	64
Chapter 10.....	64
4- Unit 4: Crucifixion and Resurrection	80
Chapters 11 to 16	80
Chapter 11.....	80
Chapter 12.....	84
Chapter 13.....	91
Chapter 14.....	97
Chapter 15.....	102
Chapter 16.....	107

Introduction

The 4 Gospels comparison

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
To whom it was written	Jews	Romans	Greeks	Christians
Subject	The Messiah the king	The Messiah the conqueror of Satan	Christ the lover of mankind	Christ the Incarnate Word
Main message of Jesus	Fulfills the Law	Performs wonders	Saves mankind	Dwells among us
Gospel content	Focuses on prophecies	Focuses on deeds	Focused on history	Focused on theology
Symbol	The human face	The lion	The Ox	The Eagle



An 8 minutes illustrative video that could be used by servants to prepare or to show the kids a part at the beginning of each unit. Use only till minute 8:20, as the last part is not verified.
<https://youtu.be/HGHqu9-DtXk>

Servant's preparation:

A link to the whole series of 22 sermons covering the whole book of St. Mark's gospel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibq9HrbU1b8&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy>

An introductory sermon to the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibq9HrbU1b8&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy>

Who is St. Mark?

- ❖ He was born in Libya near Egypt to Jewish parents.
- ❖ He is a relative to St. Barnabas and to St. Peter, the disciple.
- ❖ He moved to Jerusalem with his family while Jesus was preaching.
- ❖ His house was the first church where Jesus instituted the Eucharist with His disciples.
- ❖ His Jewish name is "John" while his Roman name is "Mark".

- ❖ He was chosen among the 70 apostles.
- ❖ He was with Jesus at Cana of Galilee wedding, Passover and when Jesus was arrested, he was the young follower who left his garment and ran away.

Why do we see a lion in his icon?

- ❖ St. Mark attracted his own father to Christianity when he struck two hungry lions dead with the sign of the cross.
- ❖ He started his gospel by describing John the Baptist as a lion roaring in the wilderness and he also portrayed Jesus as the Divine Master serving with power like a lion.

The message of the Gospel:

- ❖ He began his preaching with St. Peter in Jerusalem then joined St. Paul and St. Barnabas on their first missionary journey. But he left them and returned to Jerusalem. Later he traveled with St. Barnabas to Cyprus. Afterwards, St. Paul needed St. Mark with him and they both preached in Colosse (Col 4:10), Rome (Phil 24; 2 Tim 4:11) and perhaps in Venice, from which St. Mark proceeded to Libya his homeland.
- ❖ In 61 A.D. he went to Egypt and established the church of Alexandria which we all belong to. Then he preached in Rome with St. Peter.
- ❖ It is believed to be the oldest of the four Gospels written between the years 65 to 70 A.D.
- ❖ While in Rome, the people asked him to write a summary of what they had received by word of mouth, so he wrote it to the Romans after the death of St. Peter and inspired by his teachings.
- ❖ Since he wrote his gospel to the Romans, he did not include many prophecies from the Old Testament as opposed to the gospel of St. Matthew which was written for the Jews and which therefore included many of those prophecies. St. Mark also explained in his gospel to the Romans many popular Jewish words and traditions.
- ❖ The Romans believed in authority and influence through war and violence, so he presented to them Jesus Christ as the true ruler over devils 1:27, disease 1:42, nature 4:41, plants 11:12-20, and the temple 11:33. Angels minister to Him 1:13, He is Lord of the Sabbath 2:28, He knows what's in the heart and mind of people 2:8, He speaks with authority 1:21, He feeds the multitude 6:30-44, and He is the destroyer of death 5:21-43. His authority is evident through love, service, humility, and through pain.



1- Unit 1: (Chapter 1-6)

Getting to Know Christ: Chapter 1:1-11

His Ministry in Galilee: Chapters 1:12-6:30

- 1) In chapter 1, St. Mark begins by describing Christ as a servant to mankind, sacrificing Himself, aiming to deliver us. That is why he does not detail the birth of Christ but rather focuses on His ministry.
- 2) John the Baptist prepares the road for Christ the Servant (Chapter 1)
- 3) Jesus served in Galilee, prayed for us in the desert, healed many on the Sabbath, in the house, by the sea, and wherever He went.
- 4) Jesus called others to preach with him (the disciples)
- 5) Resistance of His service (Chapter 2)
- 6) Jesus continued His preaching (Chapter 3)
- 7) The people marveled at His parables despite resistance from the scribes (Chapter 4).
- 8) He commanded the evil spirits, death, and disease (Chapter 5).
- 9) Strange behavior towards this Servant who is unique in His love and work (Chapter 6)

2-Unit 2:

His Retreat from Galilee (Chapters 7 to 9)

- 1) Jesus left Galilee not to avoid trouble but to prepare his disciples' minds to accept the cross. He fed the multitude, healed whoever touched Him, comforted even the Gentiles.
- 2) St. Mark recorded many conversations and questions that revealed Jesus's person and mission in chapters 8 to 10.
- 3) Through His transfiguration, He acknowledged His kingdom.

3-Unit 3:

His Service in Judea chapter 10:

In this chapter, he provides us with life examples for the path of the cross.

- A. The difficult commandment (no divorce)

- B. Accepting children with love
- C. Wealth
- D. Leaving all to take up the cross
- E. Discarding the love of higher positions.

4- Unit 4:

Crucifixion and Resurrection Chapters 11 to 16

- 1) The events of the passion week,
- 2) His entry into Jerusalem (Chapter 11).
- 3) Resisting Him in Jerusalem (Chapter 12).
- 4) The cross and the signs of the end (Chapter 13).
- 5) The preparation for the cross (Chapter 14).
- 6) The events of the crucifixion (Chapter 15).
- 7) His resurrection declared the glory of this unique Servant, who is capable of rising from the dead.
- 8) The One who rose from the dead is still serving us, as He sent His disciples to preach and He is still serving His church.
- 9) He ascended to heaven so that our hearts may ascend with Him also.



3-Unit 3: His Service in Judea – Chapter 10:

In this chapter, he provides us with life examples of the path of the cross.

- A. The difficult commandment (no divorce)
- B. Accepting children with love
- C. Wealth
- D. Leaving all to take up the cross
- E. Discarding the love of higher positions.

Chapter 10

Servant's preparation:

A sermon about Chapter 10 explaining the Gospel of St. Mark by Abouna Daoud Lamei in English
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XY2GCp3BhRo&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=11>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ShZR5oylO8&list=PLvMAQ886ucetCnNPq4ft5YY0dujWRuADy&index=12>

Brief introduction:

At the beginning of each lesson, please review book overview questions.

- ✓ Who is St. Mark? He was one of the 70 apostles whose house was the 1st church Jesus used and who later preached in many countries including Egypt where our Coptic church originated.
- ✓ Who did he write his gospel to? The Romans
- ✓ What is the main message of the book? To show the great power of Jesus Christ who through His amazing actions demonstrated His Divine power.

Remember:

Last lesson, we learned about the transfiguration of Jesus and His talk to His disciples about how to define the greatest among them. The greatest is the one who serves the others. Jesus also healed a mute boy. There, we learned from the boy's father that our faith needs to constantly grow and that fasting and praying can do miracles when combined.

Main points in the Chapter:

1. Marriage and Divorce
2. Jesus Blesses Little Children
3. Jesus Counsels the Rich Young Ruler
4. With God All Things Are Possible
5. Jesus a Third Time Predicts His Death and Resurrection
6. Greatness Is Serving
7. Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus



Lesson overview:

In a few minutes, briefly explain the main events of the chapter with a picture for each event, reading parts of the chapter.

In this chapter, Jesus explains to us how a Christian family should look like. There is no divorce unless in special cases because the married couple are made one through marriage. Jesus showed how He loves children and that He wants everyone to accept faith like a child with simplicity to get to heaven. When Jesus talked to a rich man, He explained that people who rely on and love their money more than God cannot enter heaven, just as a camel cannot pass through the eye of a needle. However, everything is possible with God who can change the hearts and draw people to Him.

Jesus reminds His disciples that He will die and rise again and that the more important person among them is the one who serves others. We talked about that in a previous chapter.

Goal we learn:

For delivery Idea 1: In this chapter, you can focus on the structure of a Christian family. Marriage is a blessed bond between a man and a woman that they share in raising kids according to God's will. These days we hear about people who say families do not have to have a man and a woman but can be made of two men or two women. Remember that this is not what God intended families to be like, so He isn't pleased with those deviated concepts. A family built the way God intended will raise kids in God's love and faith. Jesus calls all children to Him to bless them as He wants adults to learn from them the simple faith they have. "As a little child" means humble, trusting dependence, and the recognition of having achieved nothing of value or virtue. That is what we must do. We must humble ourselves and realize that we must depend entirely upon the Lord to make it to heaven. The simplicity of children's faith is what we must have. We must not complicate our lives with things of the world, but must receive Jesus as our Lord, as well as our Savior.

For delivery idea 2: In verses 17-31, Jesus explains how hard it is for those who depend on their richness to go to heaven but yet all things are possible with God. Let us explore how we can allow God to change us so that we can do the impossible and get to heaven by changing wrong habits that seemed hard to stop or change.

Being rich will not stop you from going to heaven, but if you put money before God, that is what will stop you from going to heaven. Jesus did not say a rich man could not be saved. He said that it would be hard. God looks to the heart. Both the rich and the poor who have pure hearts and who depend on Jesus Christ as their Savior will be saved.

Lesson delivery idea 1

A great delivery idea is through this attached Bible fun lesson

<https://documentcloud.adobe.com/link/review?uri=urn:aaid:scds:US:83bc4090-be25-4f27-97c3-69668d62c4b3>

Lesson

8

All-in-One

BIBLE

ELEMENTARY

FUN

Jesus and the Children

Bible Verse

Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.

Mark 10:14

Bible Story

Mark 10:13-16

This favorite Bible passage tells the story of Jesus' love and acceptance of children. Parents were bringing their children to be blessed by Jesus. The disciples tried to stop the children from bothering Jesus, but Jesus told the disciples to "let the little children come to me" (Mark 10:14).

Jesus was indignant when he stopped his friends from sending the children away. His attitude must have been hard for his friends to understand. Children, like women, had few personal rights in Bible times. Jesus' friends probably thought the children were not important enough to interrupt Jesus. After all, crowds of adults had come to hear Jesus teach. But Jesus had a way of turning around common practices. He must have surprised

everyone when he stopped what he was doing to spend time with children.

Jesus told the crowd gathered to hear him teach that the kingdom of God belongs to children. He wanted the people to realize that the characteristics of children—their sense of wonder, their innocence, their ability to forgive quickly—were characteristics that everyone needed in order to be part of God's kingdom.

Jesus welcomed the children and showed them what God's love was like by touching them and blessing them. As teachers you have the opportunity to show the children you teach what God's love is like. When you are patient, kind, consistent, and respectful with your children, you are modeling God's love.



We know Jesus loves us and that we are important to God.

If time is limited, we recommend those activities that are noted in **boldface**. Depending on your time and the number of children, you may be able to include more activities.

ACTIVITY	TIME	SUPPLIES
Welcome All God's Children	10 minutes	Reproducible 8A, construction paper, scissors, crayons or felt-tip markers, glue, tape
Jesus Loves...	10 minutes	Reproducible 8B, white crayons, watercolor paints, brushes, cups of water, paint smocks, table covering
Obstacles	10 minutes	items to create an obstacle course, such as tables, chairs, sheets or fabric, boxes, crepe paper streamers
Sing Jesus Loves Me	5 minutes	None
Bible Story: Jesus Says Yes	10 minutes	copies of the story, poster-board, marker, Bible-times costumes
Chant the Story	5 minutes	None
Loving Hands, Loving Hearts	10 minutes	construction paper, scissors, crayons or felt-tip markers, large piece of paper, masking tape, glue
Important Prayers	5 minutes	None

JOIN THE FUN

BIBLE STORY FUN

LIVE THE FUN

JOIN THE FUN

Supplies

Reproducible 8A, construction paper, scissors, crayons or felt-tip markers, glue, tape



Welcome All God's Children

Photocopy the welcome sign (Reproducible 8A) for each child.

Greet each child as he or she arrives. Give each child the welcome sign. Let the children decorate the signs with crayons or felt-tip markers. Encourage each child to sign his or her name on the sign.

Let each child choose a favorite color of construction paper. Have the children glue the signs onto the colored paper.

Say: Today our Bible story is a well-known story about how Jesus welcomed the children. Jesus' friends thought that children were not important enough to see Jesus. But Jesus showed his friends that children were important to God and important to him. Let's place our signs around our church to welcome everyone — men, women, and children.

Take the children to post the signs around your church.



We know Jesus loves us and that we are important to God.

Supplies

Reproducible 8B, white crayons, watercolor paints, brushes, cups of water, paint smocks, table covering



Jesus Loves...

Photocopy Jesus loves... (Reproducible 8B) for each child. Use a white crayon to write the child's name in the heart, pressing hard.

Cover the table. Have the children wear paint smocks to protect their clothing. Set out watercolor paints and cups of water.

Give each child the paper with his or her name printed in white crayon. Let the children paint over the page with water colors. The paint will not cover the crayon writing, thus revealing each child's name.

Say: Our Bible story tells us that Jesus thought children were just as important as adults. We know that Jesus loves each one of us. Each and every one of us is important to God.

Obstacles

Help the children create an obstacle course that they must cross in order to get to the Bible story area. They can crawl under tables, over chairs, around bookcases, under sheets or fabric, or through boxes or crepe paper streamers.

Be sure that the obstacle course is safe and can be completed by every child.

Once they have created the obstacle course, have the children move to the beginning of the course.

Say: We must all get through the obstacle course successfully before we can hear today's Bible story.

Encourage the children to help one another get through the course safely.

Ask: What was the hardest part of the course? What was the easiest? Was going through the course fun? Why did you want to get to the end of the course?

Say: In today's Bible story the children wanted to go to Jesus, but they found an obstacle in their way.

Sing Jesus Loves Me

Divide the children into two groups. Have the groups stand at opposite ends of the room and face each other.

Have the groups alternate singing the phrases of the song.

For example:

Group 1 - Jesus loves me! This I know,

Group 2 - For the Bible tells me so.

Teach the children a simple body rhythm. Sing the song again and have the children repeat the rhythm throughout the song.

Text	Action
Jesus	stomp twice
Loves me!	pat thighs twice
This I	clap twice
Know	snap once

Supplies

items to create an obstacle course, such as tables, chairs, sheets or fabric, boxes, crepe paper streamers



Supplies

None



Jesus Says Yes

by Sandy Mabry and Sally Johnson



Make two signs for the prompter. Sign 1: Yeah! Sign 2: Boo!

Photocopy "Jesus Says Yes" for the children. Choose children to play these roles: Jesus, parents, 2 or 3 children, 3 disciples, and prompter. Children without specific parts will be the crowd.

Have Jesus, the parents, children, and disciples wear costumes if desired.

Give the prompter the signs made earlier.

(Parents and children are gathered on one side of the stage area. The disciples are on the opposite side.)

Disciple One: I'm so tired.

Disciple Two: Me too. Traveling from town to town is hard work.

Disciple Three: Even though it is great to be with Jesus, I'm so tired. I need a long nap.

(Jesus Enters)

(Prompter holds up sign: Yeah!)

Jesus: Hello, my friends. What a great day we've had! *(Disciples nod their heads.)* It makes me

happy to see people hearing God's Word.

(The children rush over and surround Jesus.)

Child One: Hello, Jesus!

Child Two: I love you, Jesus!

(Prompter holds up sign: Yeah!)

(The disciples rush to the children and send them back to their parents.)

Disciple One: Stop crowding around Jesus!

Disciple Two: Can't you see he is too tired to mess with you?

Jesus Says Yes

by Sandy Mabry and Sally Johnson

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(The children rush over and surround Jesus.)

Child One: Hello, Jesus!

Child Two: I love you, Jesus!

(Prompter holds up sign: Yeah!)

(The disciples rush to the children and send them back to their parents.)

Disciple One: Stop crowding around Jesus!

Disciple Two: Can't you see he is too tired to mess with you?

BIBLE STORY FUN

Supplies

None

Chant the Story

Teach the words and rhythm of the story. Then teach the motions to go with the words. This is a call and response chant. You will speak the part in bold print and do the motions. The children will repeat the words and motions after you.

Say: Let's tell the story again. This time I want you to listen to me and then repeat what I say.

The children said; yes, the children said: (*Shake head, "yes."*)
Hey, Jesus! (*Raise hand in the air.*) **Hey, Jesus!** (*Raise hand in the air.*)

(*Children repeat*)

The disciples said; no, the disciples said: (*Shake head, "no."*)
Stop children! (*Hold up palm to say stop.*) **Stop children!** (*Hold up palm.*)

(*Children repeat*)

The children said; yes, the children said: (*Shake head, "yes."*)
Look, Jesus! (*Wave.*) **Look, Jesus!** (*Wave.*)

(*Children repeat*)

Jesus said; yes, Jesus said: (*Shake head, "yes."*)
Come, children! (*Motion, "come here."*) **Come, children!** (*Motion, "come here."*)

(*Children repeat*)

The children said; yes, the children said: (*Shake head, "yes."*)
We love you! (*Cross hands over heart.*) **We love you!** (*Cross hands over heart.*)

(*Children repeat*)

The disciples said; yes, the disciples said: (*Shake head, "yes."*)
Come children! (*Motion, "come here."*) **Come children!** (*Motion, "come here."*)

(*Children repeat*)

Jesus said; yes, Jesus said: (*Shake head, "yes."*)
Bless the children! (*Cross hands over heart.*) **Bless the children!** (*Cross hands over heart.*)



We know Jesus loves us and that we are important to God.

Loving Hands, Loving Hearts

Help each child trace his or her hands on a piece of construction paper. Children may help each other do the tracings.

Have the children cut out their hand tracings. Let them decorate their handprints with crayons or markers.

Draw the outline of a heart on a large piece of paper. Or use masking tape to make the outline of a large heart on the wall or door.

Have the children glue or tape their handprints on to the heart outline.

Say: Our Bible story today is about a time when Jesus showed God's love to children. Children were not very important in Bible times. Jesus showed the children that they were important to God and to him.

Ask: Have you ever felt unimportant? When?

Say: You are important!



We know Jesus loves us and that we are important to God.

Important Prayers

Have the children sit in a circle. Encourage the children to look closely at their thumbs and then at the palms of their hands. Tell the children to compare their hands with the hands of their neighbors.

Choose a child to stand up.

Say: *(Child's name)* you are important to God and to us.

Continue with each child and teacher in the circle.

Say: None of you has thumbs or hands that are just alike, but each one of you is a child of God. You are all special and you all have an important place in God's family.

Pray: Thank you, God, for *(name each child and teacher in the circle)*. Help each of us remember that we are important to you. Amen.

Supplies

construction paper, scissors, crayons or felt-tip markers, large piece of paper, masking tape, glue



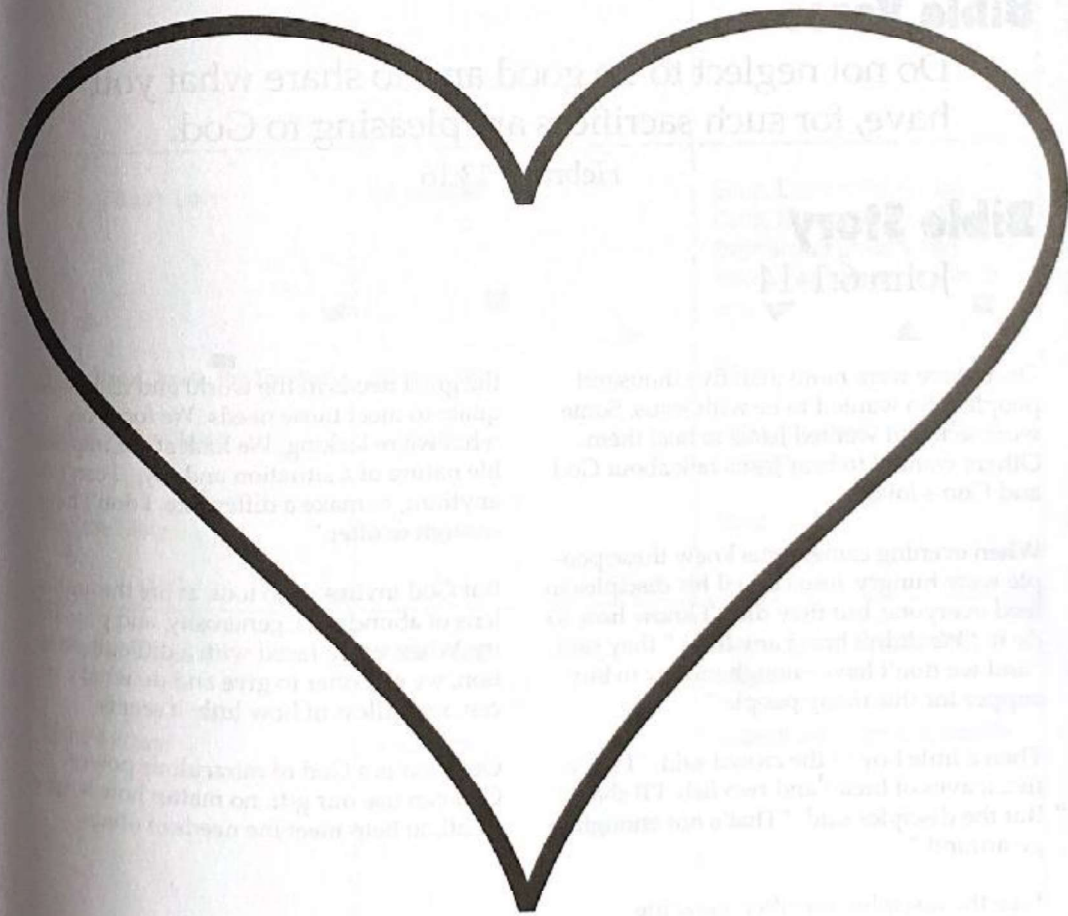
Supplies

None



WELCOME
to the
Family of God

Jesus loves



REPRODUCIBLE 8B

89

Lesson delivery idea 2

This lesson is based on Mark 10:17-31 when Jesus speaks about the rich.

Opening Activity – Through the Needle’s Eye – Can It Fit?

Supplies – dry ingredient measuring cup (any size), clear containers with water, large tray or bin

Pre-Class Prep – Fill your clear containers with water. Use the measuring cup to fill a few so they will be an exact fit, then fill others with a little bit less, a little bit more, a lot less, and a lot more. Try to use different types of containers so the kids can’t simply compare the waterline. Place your supplies on a table so everyone can see. Then, choose one container of water and a volunteer. Ask the volunteer whether or not they think the water will fit in the measuring cup, or if it will be too much, or too little, and ask the rest of the class if they agree. Then, ask the volunteer to hold the measuring cup above the tray or bin, and slowly pour the water into the measuring cup. Continue until you have made it through each container of water. Raise your hand if you got all of them right. Raise your hand if you got most of them right. Raise your hand if you got half of them right. I think all of you did a fantastic job!

Lesson – Through the Needle’s Eye

Supplies – sewing needle, thread, thick yarn, small piece of woven cloth with raw edges

When we were guessing to see what would fit, it was hard to tell on a few of those. It would look like it was going to be a perfect fit, then it spilled over.

But a few of those were really easy to figure out. Those cups had a TON of water in them, and there was absolutely no way it was going to fit.

I want to try a few more of these, but they are going to be a little bit different. This time we have a hole, and we need to guess if an object can fit through that hole.

Are we ready to play “Can It Fit?”

Before we can begin guessing, we need to have our hole. And here it is, our hole! Can you see it? This hole is really teeny tiny. All the way on this end of the needle there is a little hole. It is so small you probably can’t see it, but I promise you it’s there.

First up, I have a piece of thread. What do you think, can it fit?

It fits! Thread is exactly what this hole is made for, so it is a perfect fit.

Next up we have this piece of yarn. It’s a little bit bigger, but it’s still pretty small. So, can it fit?

Nope. It won’t fit. It’s just a little bit too big.

And last up, we have this piece of fabric. What do you think, can it fit?

I try, and try, and try, but there is NO WAY this is ever going to fit. It’s just too big.

Jesus actually talked about this in the Bible, only instead of trying to fit yarn and fabric through the hole, He talked about something MUCH bigger.

A rich man came to Jesus one day and asked what he needed to do to be able to get to heaven, and Jesus said he needed to follow the 10 Commandments.

The rich man told Jesus he already did that, so Jesus asked him to do one more thing. “Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor.”

The rich man wasn’t ready for that answer. Maybe if Jesus wanted him to give a little bit to the poor he would do it, but all of it? Everything he owned and worked so hard for? Then he would be even poorer than the poor. The rich man couldn’t do it, and he left sad and upset.

Then Jesus turned to His disciples, who had all seen what had happened. Jesus told them that it was easier for a camel to fit through the hole of a needle, than for a rich man to make it to

heaven. A camel! The huge, tall, animal that likes to spit and lives in the desert. A camel, through this teeny tiny hole. What do you think, can it fit?

Do you want to know why Jesus said it was so hard? The rich man's greed. Greed is when you love money and things more than you love God and people. And loving God and people is actually what the 10 Commandments are all about.

The disciples didn't like hearing this. How was anyone supposed to make it to heaven? Why would God want to make it so impossible?

But Jesus told them it wasn't impossible, because with God ALL things are possible. If the rich man would turn to God and allow God to change him, he would make it to heaven. No matter how greedy he was, God could make it possible.

Let's look at our fabric again. I'm going to try one more time to see if I can make this fit. I mean, didn't we just say that with God all things are possible?

Still no. It just isn't going to happen. Unless...

What did we just say about the rich man? What did he need to do in order to make it into heaven? The rich man needed to let God change him.

I wonder if that would work for this fabric. Do you think we could change it somehow and make it fit?

You know, fabric is actually just a whole bunch of thread woven together. And what was the only thing so far to fit through the hole in the needle? Thread! If we were to change it by taking it apart into individual threads, this piece of fabric should make it through that hole.

Let's try it. I'm going to start with a thread from the outside, and I'm going to smooth it out really good. (If it is frayed, dampen the ends to get the fibers to lay down.) Are you ready? Here it goes...

It worked! Let's do another one.

This is actually working! If we took this whole piece of fabric apart, we would be able to fit the whole thing through the hole in the needle. And it's still the fabric. We didn't turn it into mustard, or make it disappear; we changed it, but it's still the same piece of fabric we started with.

It's just like how God can change the rich man. The rich man is still the same man. If his name was Anthony James and he was 6 feet tall with brown hair and green eyes, even after God changed him, he would still be 6-foot-tall Anthony James, with brown hair and green eyes. God just changed his heart to make the impossible, possible.

No one can make it to heaven on their own. Even if they try hard, follow all the rules, give away their money, and preach all day every day, it is still not enough. Without God, it is impossible to get to heaven. We all have to let God change us, to turn us into who He wants us to be. We will still be the same people; we will just be the kind of person who gets to go to heaven. Because with God all things are possible.

Activity – Through the Needle's Eye – Nothing is Impossible

Supplies – plain white paper, scissors

Give each child a single piece of paper and a pair of scissors. Give them five minutes to fit their hands through the paper, keeping it a single piece and not using any tape, glue, staples, folds, etc. to hold ends together. While they are working on theirs, take a single piece of paper, fold it in half lengthwise, then alternating sides, make cuts roughly 1 inch apart, stopping roughly 1 inch from

the opposite edge. Leaving the ends intact, cut along the fold line. When the five minutes are up, stretch your paper apart to create a giant ring, and step through it. Remind the kids that nothing is impossible with God. The piece of paper is still the piece of paper, you just changed it to make it big enough to for you to step through.

Closing Prayer – Through the Needle’s Eye

Ask for a volunteer to pray for the class before leaving, and encourage them to ask God to change them, so that they can be the person He wants them to be.

Memory Verse:

¹⁵ Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”

Or “With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.”