

"I am a servant of _____."

Bible Passage: Matthew 19:16-17, 20-22, Luke 16:13

MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 9:11

What you'll need:

Bible
Verse slides
Dry erase board
Worship songs

Teacher Tip: *This week's lesson is all about the story of the rich young ruler that Jesus tells his followers about. The young man's refusal to sell his possessions and give to the poor indicated that he put his faith and trust in his stuff, rather than in Jesus. In light of Luke 16:13, he was a servant of his money. Your challenge as the teacher is to communicate the importance that Jesus places on servanthood. "You cannot serve both God and money." It's pretty simple, but incredibly challenging. As you prepare to teach this lesson, ask yourself "am I a servant of God or of money?" Don't be afraid to articulate how difficult this can be to the kids. Giving up what we have earned is not easy, but holding onto it too tightly is much worse.*

Large Group:

Teacher Tip: *Open large group time by welcoming the kids. Large group should be a time of both fun and learning. As the teacher, you set the tone for the whole experience. Be sure to exude excitement as you open the large group time.*

Say: **“Let’s review our Memory Verse!”** (verse on screen) **“Let’s say it together...”**

MEMORY VERSE: *“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”*

2 Corinthians 9:1

“BREAK THE ICE”

Teacher Tip: *“Break the Ice” is a great way to build community among your kids. Encourage them to find three or four other kids and ask them the following question. Once a few minutes have passed, and if time permits, spend a few moments dialoguing with the group about their answers.*

“Break the Ice” Question

What is the one thing you have that you’d never want to give up?

Worship Song: “Every Move I Make”

(🔊) *(Tech cue worship video)*

Large Group Lesson: "I am a servant of _____."

Teacher's Tip: *Set up the verse slides and set out the dry erase board*

Does anyone remember what we talked about last week? (give a few seconds for answers) **That's right, we talked about how God is a generous God. He gave us His one and only Son. We learned how Jesus showed generosity by laying His life down. And we learned how God gave us another generous gift by sending His Holy Spirit to earth to guide us. God set the ultimate example of what generosity should be!**

Today we're going to talk more about how God wants us to live and how He wants us to give. Jesus told a story in the book of Matthew about a rich young ruler who was seeking eternal life.

Let's turn together to Matthew 19:16-17 and find out what happened. (give the kids a few seconds to find it in their bibles)

(☺) (on the screen) **"Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, obey the commandments."**

Okay, so this rich young man comes up to Jesus and asks Jesus how to get eternal life. He does the right thing here, right? He definitely went to the right person to find out how to live forever! He knew that Jesus would have the answer! Let's continue reading to see how Jesus answered his question.

(☺) (on the screen) **"All these I have kept," the young man said. "What do I still lack?" Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth."**

Why do you think Jesus gave him that answer? Because Jesus knows all things, he knew that this young man was serving his own money; he was more concerned about his stuff and his lifestyle than anything else. In other words, he was serving his possessions above all other things.

So Jesus told the rich young man that he must do what? (allow children to answer)
Why do you think the rich man was so sad when Jesus answered him? (allow

children to answer) **That's right! The young man had lots of stuff and he didn't want to give it up! He probably had a brand new camel with leather seats, air conditioning and cup holders, maybe even a CD player. He probably had really sweet clothes, maybe the cool new tennis shoes that all the other kids wanted. And he was putting all his trust in the things he had.**

Just like the rich young man, it's easy to put our trust in the things we have, isn't it? We trust in our houses, our cars, our clothes, our games and our toys. What are some other things we put our trust in? (allow children to answer) The bible tells us that putting our trust in anything but Jesus Christ is very dangerous. Luke 16:13 says, "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." In other words, in order to fully serve God, we must fully put our trust in Him, not in things or money. We must be willing to give it all up in order to please God.

The rich young man was a slave to his possessions, his money and things were his masters. So, how does God want us to live today? What are some ways that we can show that we serve God and not money or things? (invite ideas from the children, add them to the dry erase board as they come in). Those are great answers!

You see, kids, freedom can only be found in giving up! Let's say that together. "Freedom can only be found in giving up!" One more time, "freedom can only be found in giving up!" We must be willing to give up everything to follow Jesus. If we have that kind of attitude, we will be more generous and more like God! Many times giving up our stuff isn't easy. (Tell a story of a time you gave something up because you felt God had called you to)

WHAT NOW?

Teacher Tip: *"What Now?" is an opportunity for the kids to reflect and respond to the teaching time. Spend as much or as little time as you need here.*

Today, God might be calling you to respond by giving some things up or by asking Him to help you serve his completely, with your whole heart. We're going to take a few moments to quietly pray and ask God what He might be calling us to do.

First let's go back and read Luke 16:13 together. (on screen)

(🔊) (on the screen) **Read the verse aloud.**

Luke 16:13 says, "No servant can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money."

Now I'm going to ask you to close your eyes and ask God to speak to you. Ask for His Holy Spirit to show you what He wants you to do. We're going to be silent and think about that verse. How is the Holy Spirit leading you to respond to that verse? (allow an appropriate amount of time to pass before moving on)

Let's head back to our small groups and talk about the things we just learned.