**1. Motivate**

What is something you committed to but you wish you hadn’t?

* car payments

A video introduction is available. View it at <https://watch.liberty.edu/media/1_yqpjaigm> If you don’t have Wi-Fi where you teach, best to download to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/y6xs666k>

* take that online class
* build that boat in the garage
* promise to take the kids camping
* bet on the Cowboys to win the Super Bowl
* go on a vacation with the in-laws
* painting the house
* building a cabin in the woods
* give up my pickup truck
* home-school drivers’ ed for the kids
* car pool with the neighbor

**2. Transition**

Some commitments are worth it, some maybe not so much.

* Committing your life to Jesus is totally worth it.
* We are challenged to commit our whole life in trust and obedience to Christ.

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Childlike Faith

Listen for what aggravated Jesus.

Mark 10:13-16 (NIV) People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. 14 When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. 15 I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." 16 And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.

What is the tender picture presented in these verses?

* people approaching Jesus with their children
* little kids, babies brought to Jesus for a blessing
* maybe like we like to see baby dedications in church

How was that picture distorted? What kinds of things do you think the disciples might have said?

* the disciples telling them, “Shoo”
* they were like an officious office manager, “Don’t bother the important man”
* “Get lost, we don’t have time … can’t you see we’ve got more important things to do than fool around with little kids”
* “We’re doing critical spiritual business here … it’s no place for kids”
* “Children should be seen and not heard”

Contrast how the disciples felt about children and how Jesus felt.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Disciples | Jesus |
| * rebuked people who brought children
* Children were not important
* Jesus’ time more important
* Children insignificant
 | * Let the children come to me
* Children’s attitudes are similar to how everyone enters the kingdom of God
* if you do not receive a child, then you are not received into the kingdom of God
 |

Why do you think that Jesus is described as being displeased or indignant?

* He was a person of love for all people … young or old
* the disciples were just throwing their weight around
* there was an important lesson to teach here

What truth did Jesus teach through the children about kingdom citizenship?

* we come to Jesus with simple faith
* children have that kind of simple faith
* the Kingdom/Rule of God belongs to such as these
* children are used to submitting themselves to their parents, their teachers, etc.
* they are used to depending on their parents
* we should depend on God the same way, fully expecting Him to take care of us

What does it look like to receive the kingdom of God like a little child?

* total dependance on God
* total submission to God
* expecting God to provide, protect, love
* in a loving family, it’s a given that the parents care for and watch over their children
* God is a loving God and does the same for those who come to Him in faith

How can we have the same attitude toward God that children had toward Jesus?

* give up our independent streak
* depend on God more and more
* trust Him, believe what God tells us without doubting
* we have to learn how much God loves us
* we need to realize (and relearn) God’s power and authority to meet our needs and deal with the problems that we experience

3.2 Strive for Obedience

Listen for a bold claim.

Mark 10:17-20 (NIV) As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" 18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.'" 20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy.".

What words or statements support the understanding that the man who came to Jesus was a decent man making a sincere inquiry of Jesus?

* ran to Jesus (not typical of male behavior at that time)
* bowed down on his knees
* acknowledged Jesus’ teaching ability, His authority
* different from the “suck up” attitudes of some of the others who questioned Jesus to try to trick Him

What was the man seeking who came to Jesus?

* how to obtain eternal life
* how to live forever
* how to earn favor with God

Where is the flaw in his question?

* he didn’t realize we don’t earn our relationship with God
* we are saved by God’s grace, not by works
* it’s not what *we* do, it’s what *Jesus* has already done

What was the first part of Jesus’ explanation of the way to inherit eternal life?

* obey the commandments
* He listed mainly the commandments dealing with our interaction with other people

Why do you think Jesus quizzed the man about his commitment to the commandments?

* the man was fixated on what he needed to *do*
* the commandments are specific behaviors that speak to that
* Jesus wanted to contrast obedience to a bunch of rules with submission and faith

What does the rich man’s answer to Jesus tell us about his spiritual state?

* was a religious person
* had been raised in a good Jewish home
* knew the commandments
* had made every effort to obey the commands

What might be significant about the fact that Jesus had not yet addressed the first four commandments … those which deal with our relationship with God?

* the first commandment is “No other gods … “
* second is “No graven images”
* apparently Jesus knew these were issues in the man’s life
* an idol in our lives won’t necessarily be carved wood or stone to which we bow down
* it can be our “stuff” or our desires to be rich, powerful, influential

3.3 Follow Jesus Wholeheartedly

Listen for why the man goes away sad.

Mark 10:21-22 (NIV) Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." 22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

What further requirement did Jesus pose?

* then suggested the man sell all his possessions and give to the poor
* then said he would have treasure in heaven

Why do you think Jesus called for the man to sell his possessions and give to the poor?

* Jesus seemed to know that material goods and wealth were important to the man
* they had become supreme objects of dedication and love in his life
* they had taken the place of God
* his wealth was basically an idol … not a carved image, but a substitute for God

How can wealth interfere with a person’s Christian faith?

* people who pursue wealth are usually quite driven
* it is an all-consuming passion
* not only do they work hard to gain it, but must invest time and energy in keeping and protecting it
* not only can one’s faith suffer, family relationships are often strained, even ruined

What other kinds of things can become substitutes for God in our lives? What might Jesus ask us to set aside?

* expensive pastimes
* hobbies or jobs which become all consuming
* TV
* video games
* excessive time spent in entertainment
* extensive social media usage
* certain friendships or relationships (especially for singles or for young people)

So, how do you think God does want us to use the material wealth He has given us?

* for the furtherance of His kingdom
* support our families
* involvement in outreach ministries

How can we prevent ourselves from allowing wealth to interfere with our faith?

* faithfully tithing and even offerings beyond our tithe
* careful budgeting so as not to overspend or over indulge
* ask God for guidance
* tithe *first* … before anything else

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Trust.

* If you’ve been trying to be good and moral in order to gain a good standing with God, acknowledge the futility of it.
* Trust Christ and be obedient to His Word as a response to His grace in your life

Examine.

* Examine your heart and see if, like the rich young ruler, you have things that sit on the throne of your heart other than the Person of Christ.
* Maybe it’s money, power, comfort, control, safety, approval, or recognition.
* Ask Him to reveal those things to you and give Him His rightful place on the throne of your life. `

Renew.

* If you’ve lost your first love for Christ and are not coming to Him on a daily basis like a little child, rekindle that relationship with Him.
* Write down some of the ways or things that have kept you from a childlike faith in God and ask Him to help you return to that place again.

Fallen Phrase Puzzle

These jumbled letters hide an important concept. They fell straight down in columns. Work on the two and three letter words first to see what letter combinations make sense. Then figure out the longer words. Watch out for any punctuation points in some of the squares. If you get stuck find help at <https://tinyurl.com/y6xs666k> (nothing significant about the 666!). There are other instructive Family Activities there also.

