



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus wants us to love him more than anything.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that we should be willing to give everything to follow Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 18:18-23, The Rich Young Ruler

MEMORY VERSE:

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

The rich young ruler was willing to follow Jesus to a certain point but decided to stop when things got uncomfortable. In order to ride with Jesus, we must be willing to follow Him completely and not just "hop off" when things are difficult.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help us to always put you first in everything.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6 (NIV)

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6 (NIV)

"Jesus told him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6 (NLT)

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Read the verse in a normal speed with the kids. Then read it super slow. Then read it super fast!

SMALL GROUP:

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

SKIT

STAY ON BOARD

ITEMS NEEDED:

A train conductor's uniform

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

1M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

George - A train conductor

Doris DeLeo - A sophisticated lady and passenger

George is standing in the engine compartment of the train. Doris enters.

DORIS: Good morning, Mister Conductor!

GEORGE: Well, good morning, Ms. DeLeo. How did you sleep?

DORIS: I didn't sleep! Not at all! Did you know that there's a polka band staying in the sleeper car with me?

GEORGE: I certainly did, Ms. DeLeo. I listened to the happy hum of the accordion and the oompa of that tuba all night long.

DORIS: So did I. And I did not sleep a wink!

GEORGE: Quite a concert, wasn't it?

DORIS: I can't stand polka music! Why the only thing lower is rockabilly.

GEORGE: What a coincidence. We have a rockabilly in sleeper 3.

DORIS: Well it won't be a problem for me. I intend to step out and buy some ear plugs when we pull into the rest station this afternoon.

GEORGE: Plan to do a little shopping?

SKIT

DORIS: I do!

GEORGE: Okay, Ms. DeLeo, have it your way. But you'll have to give up on that idea if you want to get to Heaven.

DORIS: Heaven? Don't you mean Cucamonga?

GEORGE: Oh dear. Did I say Heaven again?

DORIS: Why can't I get off at the next stop? I can get on another train, right?

GEORGE: I suppose you could, Ms. DeLeo, but if you're off and on the whole way there, you might never arrive where you're going.

DORIS: Then what do you suggest I do?

GEORGE: You want to get to heaven?

DORIS: Cucamonga!

GEORGE: Then you'll give up all the things that keep you from getting there. You stay on the train all the way to the end through thunderstorms and polka concerts and train robberies.

DORIS: Train robberies?

GEORGE: A little train humor, Ms. DeLeo. I don't expect us to get held up. But I do expect if you get off at the next station, you might never get back on. And I don't want you to miss your chance to get to Heaven.

DORIS: Heaven?

GEORGE: I mean... Cucamonga.

DORIS: Very well. I'll stick it out. But I must ask you one more thing.

GEORGE: You want to know if we have another room you can take?

DORIS: If you don't mind.

GEORGE: The good news is we do have another room.

DORIS: Wonderful.

SCREEN TIME: GET OFF AT THE NEXT STATION

SKIT

GEORGE: The bad news is it's in sleeper 3.

DORIS: With the rockabilly band?

GEORGE: No fooling you there, Ms. DeLeo?

DORIS: I'll ride it out with the polka band, thank you.

GEORGE: Enjoy, Ms. DeLeo. I hear they're taking requests tonight.



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Brochures for “tourist trap” destinations

If you’ve ever taken a restroom break at a highway rest stop, you’ve probably seen racks and racks of these brochures inside the visitors center. Depending on where you are in America you may find brochures for wax museums, animal parks, mini-golf, dinner theaters, and even the SPAM Museum. Yes, there really is a SPAM Museum. You could certainly take the time to have a lot of fun at these places, but if you take too long and stop at every cool place you pass on the way to the beach, you might never reach the beach!

Jesus asks a lot of us when we follow Him. He wants us to dedicate our lives to Him, to give up everything except doing His will. Sometimes we may be tempted to hold back, to step off at the station, and not give our all. It may seem easier to side step some of the challenges that come our way, but if we stick with Jesus, we will find that His blessings are far greater than any sacrifice we make.

What is Jesus asking you to give up? If there’s something holding you back from a closer walk with Jesus, give it up to Him today. You will never regret anything that you give up for Jesus.



LARGE GROUP GAME

ONE FOOT WONDERS

ITEMS NEEDED:

None

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose as many kids as you like for this game. In fact, the whole group can play, if there is room. On your signal, the kids will lift one leg in the air and stand on one foot as long as they possibly can. The kid who can stay on just one foot the longest is the winner!

VARIATION:

An alternate game would be to have kids hula hoop or jump rope and see who can go the longest.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Jesus wants us fully committed to Him, to love Him more than anything!



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus wants us to love him more than anything.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that we should be willing to give everything to follow Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE:

Luke 18:18-23, The Rich Young Ruler

INTRO:

When you travel by train, you're stuck on that train from one station to the next. If you have a noisy neighbor, if the train compartments are too hot or too cold, if there are any problems at all with the journey, there's no hitting the brakes and getting off. Not until you reach the next station.

Getting off at the next station solves one problem, but it creates a host of new problems. When is the next train coming? Are there tickets on that train available? Where will you stay and what will you do while you wait for that train? And worst of all – what if the problems you had for the first train are even worse on the new one?

Sometimes as followers of Jesus, we face times that are difficult. We might be rejected by friends and peers because of our faith. We might go through a hard time because we chose to do something God's way instead of our own. Or maybe Jesus asks us to give something up that we'd rather not give up. In those times, it's tempting to get off the train. We want to keep following Jesus, but we also want to continue doing our own thing. The problem is when we hop off at the station every time things get tough, we risk being delayed – or never getting where we're going at all!

Jesus wants us to love Him enough, we would be willing to leave everything behind. That's the challenge He lays down for a young man who wants to be a disciple in today's scripture. It's a challenge that, at least for this one man, proves to be too much to ask.

READ LUKE 18:18-23

MAIN POINT:

The young man saw something special in Jesus.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

He wanted it for himself, and he seems sincere in asking how he can receive it for himself. He was a religious man who knew the scriptures and the law of Moses. He kept the law as best as he could, and he hoped to find favor in Jesus.

Jesus knew the man better than he knew himself. And Jesus knew the man had one weakness: his great wealth. The man wanted Jesus, but he wanted Jesus in addition to everything else. That's why he went away sad.

Jesus wants nothing to stand between Him and us. He gave up his throne in Heaven to become our Savior. He wants us to be willing to give up everything to follow Him!

DRIVE IT HOME:

The problem the man had was not wealth. As we've said in past weeks Jesus loves everyone no matter how poor or how rich, and anyone who loves Jesus can ride along with Jesus. The man's struggle wasn't money but the love of money. He loved his wealth and possessions too much to part with them. He loved them so much, he chose earthly wealth over heavenly treasure.

We don't know what happened to this young man in the long run. Perhaps he changed his mind and decided he did love Jesus more than his money. What we do know is this: the money he loved so much was not going with him when he died. All the money and treasure he collected would be left behind, and it would be the last treasure he would never know.

How sad to think that this young man chose the temporary over something that would last forever. Jesus doesn't want us to love earthly treasure more than Him. He wants to give us the treasure of heaven, a treasure that is eternal and will never, ever fade. That is why Jesus asked the man to sell everything he owned and follow Him.

Jesus gave up Heaven for us. He gave His life so that we would not die an eternal death. He held nothing back because He loved us so much. How can we not respond by giving Jesus everything?

Let's let go of the things that hold us back. Let's love Jesus so much we would give up everything to ride along with Him. Let's give Jesus all of us so that we can enjoy all of His blessings for eternity.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Jesus,

Help us to always put you first in everything.

In Jesus' name, Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What's your all-time favorite place to go on a trip?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

John 14:6

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a few rounds of Simon Says. If someone messes up, they sit down. Can you get all the way down to just one player?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 18:18-23

Who came to ask questions of Jesus?

What did the man want?

What was the one thing Jesus said the man lacked?

Why did the man walk away?

Why should we love Jesus more than anything?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Let nothing come between us and you, ever!

In Jesus' name,

Amen



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What's your all-time favorite place to go on a trip?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

John 14:6

Go around the group in a circle and have each kid read one word of the verse until the whole verse has been read. Do it two or three times, see how fast you can go.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a few rounds of Simon Says. If someone messes up, they sit down. Can you get all the way down to just one player?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Luke 18:18-23

What did the rich young ruler want from Jesus?

Why did the man end up walking away?

Why would it be hard for some people to receive Jesus?

What are some things we put ahead of God?

Why should we love Jesus more than anything?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Let nothing come between us and you, ever!

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

A rich man asked Jesus what he had to do to make more money.

FALSE

Jesus told the man He needed to keep the laws of the Bible.

TRUE

The man told Jesus he had kept all of the commandments.

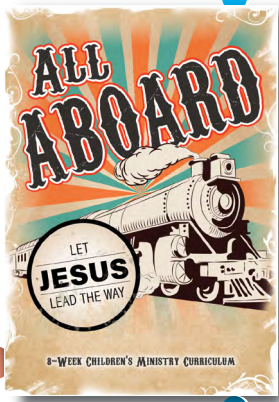
TRUE

Jesus told the man to sell all he had and then follow Him.

TRUE

The rich man did as Jesus asked him.

FALSE



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

All Aboard Lesson 3

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: GET OFF AT THE NEXT STATION



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home: The rich young ruler was willing to follow Jesus to a certain point but decided to stop when things got uncomfortable. In order to ride with Jesus, we must be willing to follow Him completely and not just "hop off" when things are difficult. Luke 18:18-23, The Rich Young Ruler



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids to name some of their favorite things, whether it's toys, activities, or places to go. Ask them why Jesus wants us to love Him more than anything, including the things they just named.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What did the rich young ruler ask Jesus?
- Why did the young man become sad?
- Why should we love Jesus more than anything else?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'" John 14:6 (NirV)

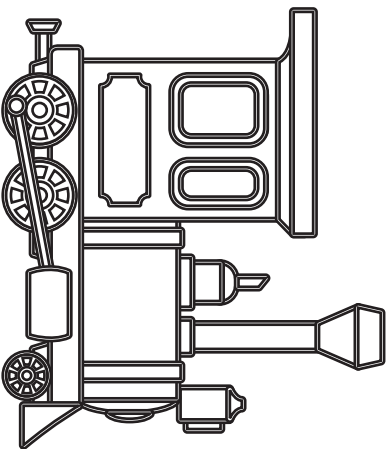


PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

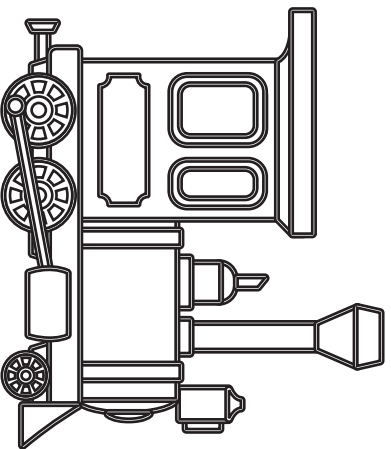
Jesus wants nothing to come between us and Him. Only Jesus can save our souls and give us eternal life. If we love anything more than Him, can we truly call ourselves His disciples?

SCREEN TIME: GET OFF AT THE NEXT STATION



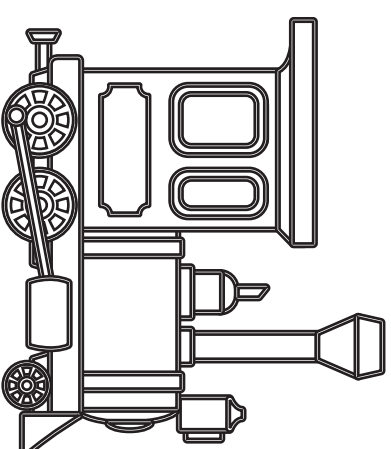
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- John 14:6 (NIRV)



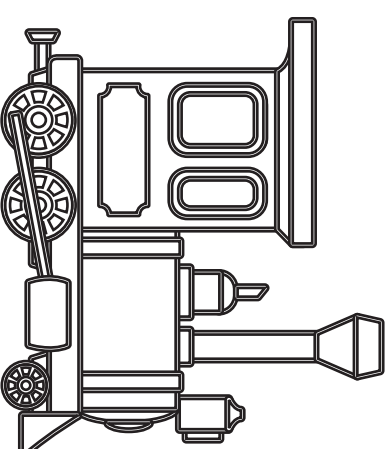
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and the life. No one comes to the Father
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- John 14:6 (NIRV)



CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids draw a comic strip or comic book page, showing the story of Jesus and the rich young ruler.