

Ordinary Time, Proper 23



The Children's Illustrated Bible
page 247

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—Mark 10:17–22 adapted

Leave _____ and Follow

Tell the story of Jesus talking with the rich young ruler from Mark 10:17-31 and *The Children's Illustrated Bible*.

This story is not really about wealth preventing us from following Jesus but about what we hold as more important than Jesus—what we are attached to. It is about priorities in life. Sometimes we want things more than we want to be close to God or do what God wants. Jesus knew the young rich man inside and out. He knew the man valued his riches more than he wanted to follow Jesus. That is why Jesus challenged him to sell all his things. He might say something different to each person. What do *we* need to leave behind to follow Jesus?

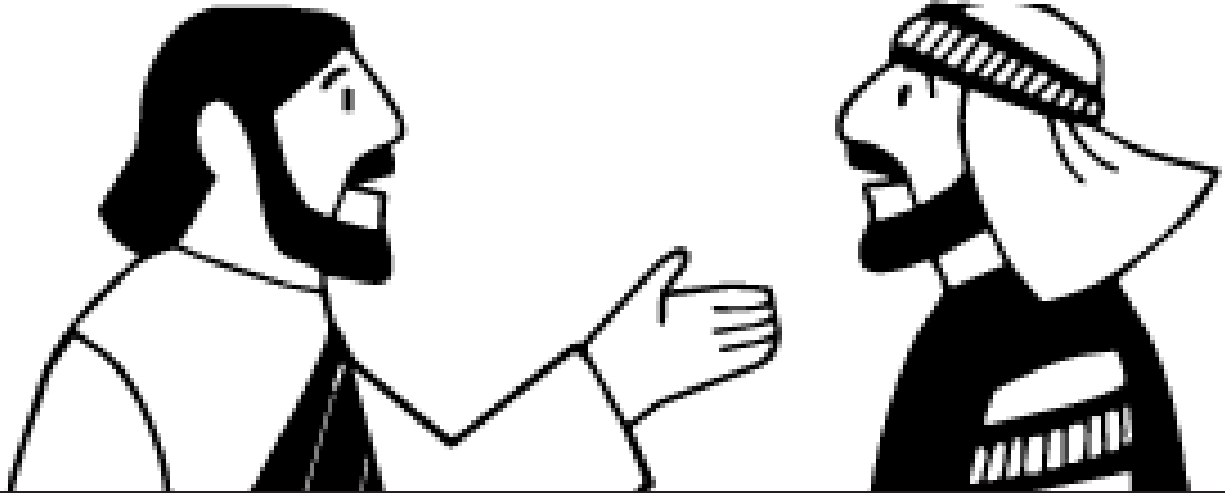
God knows us inside and out. Read Hebrews 4:13. Each person is unique, special. Your name is something that makes you special. What is your name and what does it mean? On poster paper, have kids write their name vertically. Have them use the letters of their name to describe who they are. At the bottom of the paper, have them write their full name (first, middle, last). Display all the name posters and discuss each one. Ask each kid if they are named after someone special: a relative, etc. Ask all members of the class if they can think of other words to describe each of them.

Consumers of Cool

Discuss with kids: What is your most important "stuff"? Why is it so important to you? What made you interested in having this stuff in the first place? Most answers will reveal the kids' gifts and talents—the things they own often times represent where their interests and skills lie—skateboards, musical instruments, science experimenting equipment. But other items may reflect what is the most popular today. As they are discussed, kids may realize they only own them because they are popular.

Have kids write their top five favorite things on five different index cards and lay them on a table or the floor in front of them. Tell them when you say "go," they are to pick the top two favorite things and tape them to a sheet of newsprint on the wall. After kids have their favorite things taped up, discuss them: Why are they favorites? What would you choose if you could only keep one favorite thing? Who would you be if you couldn't keep any favorite things?





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Write a word to describe Jesus using each letter in his name like your did with your name in class.

J _____

E _____

S _____

U _____

S _____