

Sunday between October 9 and 15 – year B

Thanksgiving Sunday

Preparation

Read the Gospel [Mark 10:17-31](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/properb23.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/god-of-the-impossible.html>

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pen18kles.htm>

<http://sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/richrulr.htm>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/richyoungruler.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/28-b/K-28-b.html>

<http://www.fao.org/getinvolved/worldfoodday/en>: *World food day* is October 16th;
the subject fits with today's gospel and with the theme of Thanksgiving.

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Small votive candles

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Then have each child place a small votive candle by the large candle. As you light their candles say, *We are so happy that (name of child) is with us today.* Pray the following prayer together:

For a time to learn and grow, thank you God.

For friends to share and love, thank you Jesus.

For the time to pray and listen, thank you Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blow out the candles. Put up the newsprint and print across the top of the page with the marker "**Rules**". Get the children to list all the different rules that they can think of in 5 minutes. Now ask them what they the most important rule is that you have listed on the newsprint. What happens if any of the rules are broken? Wait for their responses. Pick up the Bible from the worship table and ask the children if they know about the rules that are in it. Wait for their responses and then tell them that God's people have listed lots of different rules to follow in

the Bible and the most special of those rules are called the commandments. Explain to the children that in today's story they are going to meet someone who had always followed God's commandments and came to Jesus with a difficult question.

Story Time

Materials needed

- Question mark poster made with previous lesson
- Kingdom image at end of lesson
- Scissors, glue stick

Instructions

Copy the kingdom image from the end of the lesson and cut it out. Set it with the glue stick near the poster. Place the question mark poster where the children can see it through the lesson.

Jesus and his friends were going on another journey. As they were getting ready to leave a man came running up to them. He knelt in front of Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what I must I do to become part of God's kingdom?"

Jesus was a bit shocked by this and answered him by saying, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God. You know God's rule, the commandments – You shall not kill anyone. You shall stay faithful to your husband or wife. You shall not take anything that doesn't belong to you. You shall not lie about anyone or anything. You shall not cheat anyone. You shall honour your parents."

The man looked at Jesus and told him, "I have kept all of these rules since I was a boy."

Jesus looked at the man and loved him. Then Jesus told him, "You have one more thing that you need to do. You need to sell everything you own, give it to the poor and then come and follow me."

When the rich man heard this he went away feeling sad and desperate. He knew he couldn't do what Jesus asked him to do for the man owned a lot of things.

Jesus looked very sadly as the man walked away. He said to his friends, "How hard it will be for someone with lots of things to get into God's kingdom."

When Jesus' friends heard this they were very confused. They asked Jesus, "What do you mean? Who then can get into God's kingdom?"

Jesus looked at his friends and said, "Have you not learned yet? Remember that this may be impossible for you and others but with God nothing is impossible. To get into God's kingdom you must not let money or possessions get in your way. If you have left your family or your land for the sake of this good news then God will reward you with the gift of a place in the kingdom. Remember that those who want to be first in God's kingdom must be the last and those who will be the first must be last."

Question Mark Poster

Direct the children's attention to the question mark in the middle of the poster. Ask someone to remember why they put up a cross, the welcome sign, the jug & cup and the blessing images from the previous weeks. With the children think about all the questions that were asked in today's story – what do we need to do to become part of God's kingdom? Ask them what the

answers to the questions were - to follow Jesus. Show them the kingdom image. Have one of the children glue it into the fifth space. Explain that for the next few weeks they will be adding something to the poster to help them remember each week's story.

Response

Project Idea 1: Food Box Decorating

This response will connect the children directly with a community response to share the wealth with those who do not have it and will encourage the church community to join them.

Materials needed

- large cardboard box
- newsprint
- strong tape
- markers
- food stickers
- construction paper
- magazines
- scissors, glue sticks

Instructions

Cover the outside of the box with the newsprint, making sure that the edges are secured with the tape. Place the box in front of the children. Explain that they are going to decorate this box to help the rest of the church community to collect food for those who do not have enough. Ask the children to look through the magazines for pictures of food that they can cut out and then glue onto the side of the box. While they are doing that print "**Community Food Box**" on the side of the box. Have the children glue their food pictures on to the side of the box – they may want to glue them onto construction paper and cut around that to make a frame around it. Invite them to use the food stickers to decorate some other spaces on the box. They may also want to print encouraging words on the box as well such as, 'Care for Everyone', 'Food for All, and 'Love one Another'. With the children place the box where the rest of the congregation see it and encourage the children to bring some food next week for the box. Make sure that the parish leadership knows what you have done and make arrangements for the food to get taken to a local food bank or cupboard for distribution.

Project Idea 2: Generosity Booklets

Generosity is a habit that we all need to develop and this response will be helpful to that end.

Materials needed

- "Generosity" sheet at the end of the lesson
- construction paper
- fine line markers
- scissors
- stapler with staples
- stickers

Instructions

Make a copy of the 'Generosity' sheet at the end of the lesson for each child. Cut up the construction paper so that it slightly bigger than one of the rectangles in the table. Make two per child. Give each child one of the copies. Read over with the children the phrase printed in the each rectangle. Invite them to remember that Jesus told us that we need to be generous towards others to show the world that we are part of God's kingdom (*give away gently, used toys, clean up without being asked, take care of younger child for free are just a few ideas*). With the children come up with some ideas that they could write for themselves. Have them write up their ideas and then cut up them apart. Then have them make a booklet using the construction paper as the front and back. Staple them together. Have the children decorate the front of their booklets with the markers and stickers. Encourage them to use the generosity coupons over the next few weeks to show generosity to others as Jesus wants us to.

Project Idea 3: World Food Day Activity

The children will learn something about World Food Day and prepare an activity that they can do with their families at home. This will be a good project for older children.

Materials needed

- [website](#) (the last reference at the beginning of the lesson)
 - If you don't have internet access at church, you may do a local copy of the welcome page with your favourite browser (Firefox, Explorer, Chrome...); Click on "Save as...", then chose "complete web page" at the bottom of the dialog box.
 - You may also use a website copier like [HTTrak Website Copier](#) (free – available for Windows and Linux) to get a local copy of the entire website. It will take 1-2 hours, but you will get a complete copy of the website.
- newsprint
- markers
- writing paper
- pens or pencils
- envelopes

Instructions

Take a look at the World Food Day website. Think about food security in your own community and in your country. What issues or concerns can you think of that you can bring to the children's attention? Put up the newsprint and print the following words in three columns on the page – **Food • Concern • Action**.

Under each column print what the children suggest – so for food, print all the foods that they can name – for concern, print all the concerns that they can name about the food that we eat (you may need to help them with this from the research that you have done) – for action, print all the actions that they, the church community, the town or city you live in or the nation can take to meet the concerns that they have listed. Now give them some writing paper or pencil and invite them to write a letter to their families expressing their concerns about food and what actions they think their families can do together about this. Help them with wording or spelling as needed. If you have time invite the children to share their letters with each other. Get them to put their letters into envelopes and then give them to their families when they get home.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles.
Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Loving God surround us with your care,
Friend Jesus be with us each day,
Holy Spirit move us to show your love,
Amen.**

Kingdom Image



Generosity

<p>Today, I will be generous by</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>and will do it for the following people</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Today, I will be generous by</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>and will do it for the following people</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>Today, I will be generous by</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>and will do it for the following people</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
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