

Sunday between September 25 and October 1 – year C

Preparation

Read [Luke 16:19-31](#). 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/yearc/properc21.htm>

<http://children.calvarychapel.com/site/pdf/New/Curr211.pdf>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/richman_lazarus.htm

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pen17les.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/25-c/A-25-c.html>

<http://www.ebibleteacher.com/children/lessons/richmanlazarus.htm>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Domino game pieces

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Set up the domino game so that when you push one piece all the rest will fall down. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

Loving God, creator of us all, be with us today.

Loving Jesus, friend of us all, show us the way.

Loving Spirit, helper of us all, stir us with love everyday. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children what happens when they do something wrong at home or at school. (*Wait for their responses.*) Explain that everything we do has consequences – that is, if we do something good for someone it will bring more good and if we do something wrong we will end up getting punished. Tell the children that you will show them what you mean.

Push the end domino piece over and have the children watch all the rest come down.

Tell them that it only took one action for all the pieces to fall down. Tell them to look for the one action in the story that Jesus tells that brings someone down.

Story Time

Instructions

- Get settled together in a comfortable way to hear and tell today’s story.

Jesus was teaching his friends and the other people who were following him by telling them stories. Special stories that are called parables. They are stories that tell us something by pointing to something else. Listen and you will hear.

He told them this story:

There once was a rich man who dressed in the best clothes. He had the best people to make them for him. Everyone knew him by the clothes that he was wearing. He liked to eat very, very well every day. He had the best food on his tables. People were always wanting to come and have dinner with him.

At the gate to the rich man’s house lay a very poor man named Lazarus. Now Lazarus was poor and he was very ill. His whole body was covered with sores. He just wanted to have the leftovers from the rich man’s table and then he wouldn’t be hungry anymore. Lazarus the poor man died. He was carried by the angels up to be with Abraham.

The rich man also died and he was buried. He went to the place where people are tormented for all the bad things they have done in life. He looked up and he could see Lazarus with Abraham. He called out, “Father Abraham please have mercy on me. Please send Lazarus with a drink of cool water for me.”

Abraham said, “My son, you have to remember that when you were alive you were given many good things. Lazarus was given evil things. He is now given good things here and you are being tormented. There is also a great space between us which we cannot cross.”

The rich man then said, “Please, please Abraham send him to my brothers and to their homes. Lazarus needs to tell them what is waiting for them when they die if they do not change their ways.”

Abraham shook his head sadly at the rich man. He said, “They have had Moses and all the prophets. They should have listened to them.”

The rich man said, “They haven’t and I didn’t. If someone goes to them from the dead then they will listen. They will repent and change their ways.”

But Abraham said to him, “If they won’t listen to Moses and the prophets then they won’t listen to someone who rises from the dead.”

Ask the children if they can name the action that brings the rich man down – he didn’t look after Lazarus when they were both alive. Ask them to think about loving actions they can do each day that will show Jesus’ love in the world.

Response

Project Idea 1: Puppets

This response will be a good one to use with children who like to retell the Bible story with their own words and their own actions.

Materials needed

- small plastic lids (like those off small margarine tubs)
- craft sticks
- construction paper
- yarn
- tissue paper
- strong clear tape
- glue, scissors and markers

Instructions

For younger children trace and cut out three circles, each, that will fit into the plastic lids. Let the older children do this themselves. Give each child three lids and the construction paper circles (have the older children trace and cut out their own). Have them glue the circles onto one side of the lids. Ask them to create three different puppets: Lazarus, the rich man and Abraham. You may need to tell them that Abraham was the person God came to long, long ago and with who God started the whole journey of faith. Let them use the yarn, other construction paper, markers, and tissue paper to create the three faces. When they are done help them to tape the craft sticks with the strong tape to the back of the puppet's face. Have the children try acting out the characters from the story with their puppets. Invite them to share today's story with their families with their puppets.

Project Idea 2: Loving Action Cards

This response will help the children see the connection between today's story and our loving actions every day that work with God to bring about the kingdom.

Materials needed

- card stock
- "Loving Action" list at the end of the session
- scissors
- glue and markers
- stickers

Instructions

Make a copy of the 'Loving Action' list at the end of the lesson for each child. For younger children cut apart the cards and let the older ones cut their own apart. Read the list over with the children. Have them glue them onto a piece of card stock and then cut them apart into separate cards. Invite the children to decorate them as they wish with the markers and the stickers, just so long as they or someone else can read the words. As the children are working remind them that one of the reasons that the rich man didn't end up with Abraham like Lazarus did was because he forgot to do acts of loving kindness. Ask the children to think about how they can use the loving action cards at home with their families. Encourage them to share them with their families.

Project Idea 3: Art Response

Sometimes a complex story, such as today's, needs a relaxed way for the children to respond. This free art response will allow them to explore and express their thoughts and feelings about today's story.

Materials needed

- tissue paper
- pipe cleaners and craft sticks
- construction paper
- stickers
- yarn
- fabric pieces
- cotton balls
- card stock and poster board
- glue sticks and scissors
- any other craft materials that you have on hand

Instructions

Lay out the craft materials on the table. Ask the children to think about the story that they have just heard. Ask them to think about the characters in the story and what Jesus was trying to teach us with the story (that our actions have consequences). Now ask them to look at all the craft materials laid out and invite them to create an art response that shares what they felt and thought about during the story. Let them work on their projects for as much time as you have. When they are finished invite them to share their projects with each other by saying a short sentence that describes it.

Closing

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

**Thank you God for loving care;
Thank you Jesus for loving choices;
Thank you Spirit for loving ways. Amen.**

Loving Action Cards

<p>Action 1</p> <p>With my family I will call a family member who we haven't talked to in a long time.</p>	<p>Action 2</p> <p>With my family we will make a homemade card or gift to give to someone who can't get to church anymore.</p>
<p>Action 3</p> <p>I will find one nice thing to say about each person that I spend part of today with and I will give thanks to God for them.</p>	<p>Action 4</p> <p>I will pray for all those that I know are sick or need God's help.</p>
<p>Action 5</p> <p>With my friends I will go around my neighbourhood and pick up all the trash and dispose of it properly.</p>	<p>Action 6</p> <p>With my friends I will find someone who needs to have some people to play with and we play with them.</p>