

The Parable of the Rich Man – School age
Luke 16:19-31
September 25, 2022

Opening Arrival Activity and prayer

As the kids arrive, give them different pieces of paper to fold. Challenge them to fold the paper in half repeatedly. How many folds can they make? Collect the folded papers when kids are done.

Say: Hey everybody! Give me five! Now pass it around. Make sure you get everybody. *(Allow time for high-fiving)* When you give five you have a nice open hand, right? Keep your hands open and let me give you some of these wonderfully folded papers. *(Hand out a piece of folded paper to each kid. If there isn't enough, give remaining kids unfolded paper and place it in their hands)* I can give this to you because your hand is open and ready to receive it. *(Once everyone has a paper, review the activity)* How many folds were you able to make? Which paper worked best? Who made the most folds? *(Allow time for sharing)* Now close your first around the paper you're holding. Try giving it to someone else without opening your hand. Now open your hand to do it. To receive and to give we must have open hands. And since we're talking about opening, how about an opening prayer?

Prayer:

Say: Stand up. Everybody crouch down and touch the floor. We're going to open our bodies up as we pray. As I pray, slowly unfold with me. We'll end with our hands up stretching high. Let's pray.

Dear Jesus, Open our hands, hearts, eyes, ears, voices and lives to you. Amen.

Open the Bible

– The Parable of the Rich Man Story

Say: We're going to read today's Bible story (You can watch a Share Faith version here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FH0y-mSI0k>)

(After you read/watch, hand out one piece of paper for each character – Lazarus, rich man, Abraham – and assign a group of kids to each character) Each group is going to tell us about one of the characters. We want to know what they were called in this story, how you would describe them based on this story, and what they did or what was done to them in this story. Name, description, action. (Allow kids to work in their groups for a few minutes and then invite each one to share about their character. What characters in this story would you describe as open?).

Say: I wonder what it's like to be carried by angels. I wonder what happened to the rich man's brothers.

Object Lesson on the parable (this gives a good visual example for the kids. Follow [this link](#) to read about it).

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Other musings to discuss:

1. What did Jesus teach us about how we should behave towards each other? (“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” “Do unto others”, etc).
2. Jesus loves us so much! He does not want anyone to die without knowing Him. But it is our choice.
3. Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for all the bad things we have ever done. Maybe you have been selfish in the past, but Jesus can come into your life and change your heart. He will give you eternal life

Activate Faith – Game

Supplies: copies of leaflet and scissors

Follow the directions for Open Heart then continue with this game.

Gather all the hearts in a pile. Kids close eyes and pick two. Once they pick two, they can look at the names but should keep them hidden from others. There are two ways to trade hearts. The goal is to get two hearts with the same name.

1. Say something kind to someone. It could be a compliment, an observation, or an encouragement. The person receiving the kind words will then trade a heart of his or her choosing.
2. Describe the person whose heart you’re looking for, but only by how they act, not by any physical description. Keep in mind, just because the person fits the description doesn’t mean you’ll get the heart you’re looking for. Other people may fit that description as well!
3. Game continues until all the pairs have been made.

Say: In this game, we had to open our hands to share our hearts with one another. What are some of the ways you “open your hands” to people you don’t even know? How does this also open your heart?

If there is more time:

Topsy-Turvy Crossword Puzzle or Word Search

Brainstorm Jesus centered behavior/actions; we can do while here on earth. How can we help someone in our church family? How can we make a difference for someone in need?