

# The Law and the Heart

**OBJECTIVE:** *To encourage each other to "store up treasures in heaven" by setting our hearts on things of eternal value.*



## WORSHIP

Sing praise and worship songs as well as songs about commitment to the Lord that are familiar and meaningful to your group. Here are some suggestions.

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

"Change My Heart, O God"

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

"Into My Heart"

"Jesus in the Morning"

"Jesus, Name Above All Names"

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

"More Love, More Power"

"Pure and Holy"

"This Is My Story"

## STORY

The Rich Young Ruler, Matthew 19:16-26

- A rich man asks Jesus what he should do to have eternal life.
- Jesus tells him to sell his possessions, give to the poor, and follow him.
- The man goes away sad.

Choose someone to represent the rich man. Let each person give him an object of some kind. Try to fill his arms with lots of stuff. Give another person a piece of paper or poster board on which is written *eternal life*. Read the story and ask the person holding the stuff to face the person holding the poster. When you tell about the young man going away sad, the person holding the stuff should walk away. Point out how the choice he made showed what he really valued most.

## MEMORY VERSE

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21).

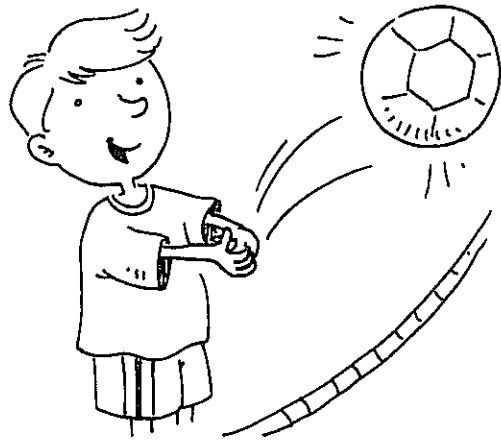
Help the children learn the verse by singing it to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."



## ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to support the story and to provide a springboard for discussion.

**VOLLEYBALL.** Play volleyball. You can use a beach ball or other soft, large ball. For a net, tie a sheet or length of yarn or string between trees or other uprights. Ask: "Does everyone know all the rules? Does everyone agree on all the rules? If you play the game well, does that mean you know the person who first invented it? If you do all the things you know Jesus would want you to do, does that mean you know Jesus? What's the difference?" Talk about the young man keeping all the laws but not giving his heart to Jesus.



**COIN RUBBINGS.** Give each person a piece of plain white paper. Place a variety of coins under the paper. Have each person rub over the coins with a crayon to reveal the image on the paper. Discuss the story. Talk about people trusting money instead of trusting Jesus. Ask: "Is money something you can trust?"

**DESIGN-A-COIN.** Give each person a small Styrofoam picnic plate. Let him turn the plate over and cover it with foil. Using pencils, everyone draws a design on the foil as if he is designing a coin. Discuss the story and questions from the previous activity.

**IDOLS.** Ask everyone to look through magazines and cut out pictures of things that people might make idols (something more important than the Lord to them, something they put their hope and trust in). Glue these on paper to make a montage. Discuss things that people value above the Lord. Talk about why we can't rely on those things.

## QUESTIONS

1. What was the rich man's treasure? Where was his heart?
2. Why do you think Jesus asked the rich man to sell what he had?
3. What do you think Jesus meant when he said that it's hard for a rich man to get into God's kingdom?

## KIDS' COUNCIL

### BRING IT HOME

- What are some things that kids might trust in? Are these things worth trusting? Why or why not?
- If you asked Jesus the same question the rich man asked, what do you think Jesus might tell you? What heart treasure would he ask you to give up for him?
- How can you show that you think God is the most important?
- How will you put God first this week?

### SHARE AND PRAY

- Ask the children to share their concerns and pray for each other.
- If there are children who have not put Jesus first in their hearts, but would like to, encourage them to tell that to God in prayer.
- Thank God for giving them eternal life.

## ADULT STUDY QUESTIONS

- How did the rich man think he could get eternal life? How can we get eternal life?
- What are some things that could be idols today? Are these things worth trusting in? Why or why not?
- If you were to ask Jesus the same question the rich man asked, what might Jesus ask you to give up for him?
- What do you think Jesus meant when he said that it's hard for a rich man to go into the kingdom of heaven? Are we rich? What could keep us from going into the kingdom of heaven?

## SNACK AND FELLOWSHIP

Ask someone to bring cookies or muffins for a snack, but don't let anyone know who baked them. Talk about the rules of good table manners. Ask: "Even though you enjoy these treats and follow all the rules of good table manners, does that mean you know the cook?" Talk about how the rich man knew and followed all the rules but didn't really know Jesus. There were other things that were more important to him than Jesus and eternal life.