

# CONNECTING FAITH AND LIFE

KIDS & YOUTH STUDY GUIDE | MARCH 17

## SHARE

Highs & Lows

## READ

Luke 16:19-31 (Storybook Bible p. 386)

*Chasm Definition: deep fissure in the earth, rock, or another surface or deep division between ideas/viewpoints/feelings*

### Younger Students.

- At the beginning of the story, which character was living a good life?
  - *The rich man.*
- At the end of the story, which character was living a good life?
  - *Lazarus.*
- How do you think the rich man felt at the beginning of the story?
  - *Happy, joyful, special, good, etc.*
- How do you think he felt at the end of the story?
  - *Sad, angry, scared, etc.*
- How do you think Lazarus felt at the beginning of the story?
  - *Sad, hurt, alone*
- How do you think he felt at the end of the story?
  - *Happy, loved, special, etc.*

**Say:** The rich man and Lazarus lived very different lives. Many people, including the rich man, ignored Lazarus and did not help him. However, God knew Lazarus and loved him. By the end of the story, God brings Lazarus comfort and reminds him that God loves him.

### Older Students

- What words would you use to describe the rich man at the start of the story?
  - *Extravagant, rich, powerful, wealthy.*
- What words would you use to describe Lazarus at the start of the story?
  - *Poor, sad, sick, ignored, etc.*
- What happens to Lazarus after he dies?
  - *Angels carry him away to be with Abraham; he experiences a good life with comfort.*
- What happens to the rich man after he dies?
  - *He does not experience a good life with comfort; he faces torment.*
- What does the rich man ask Abraham to do?
  - *Send Lazarus to comfort him. Send Lazarus to go to his father's house and to warn his brothers.*
- How does Abraham respond?
  - *He says no to both requests. The man lived comfortably while Lazarus suffered. There is a great chasm. His brothers should listen to Moses and the prophets.*

**Say:** In this story, Lazarus lived a difficult life. He was an outcast who many people in society rejected and ignored. On the other hand, the rich man lived a very comfortable life. The twist in this story comes after both characters die. We see that Lazarus is the one who is cared for and comforted! God loves and cares for those who other people ignore or mistreat. We should love those who are ignored by others, too.

### (Optional) Going Deeper:

- What does fairness look like?
- Do you think what happened in this story is fair? Why or why not?
- Why does God care about people who are poor and forgotten?
- What do you think happened to the rich man's five brothers? Do you think they changed their ways or kept ignoring those in need?

## ACTIVITIES

See below and the attached sheets for activities

## PRAY

Dear God, thank you for loving everyone, especially those who other people ignore. Thank you for bringing comfort to everyone who needs it. Help us remember to love and care for everyone every day. Amen

## BLESS

Mark the sign of the cross and say "Jesus loves you!"



## KEY POINT

God calls us to care for those others do not. (Note: This story is an illustration of the great reversal that is part of God's kingdom. Those who are poor and oppressed-- not the rich and the powerful-- are the ones to whom God turns and listens.)



### **Game: Trading Places (Younger Students)**

Supplies: None

**Say:** By the end of today's story, the rich man and Lazarus switch places. At the start of the story, the rich man was the person living a comfortable life. By the end of the story, Lazarus is the one living a comfortable life. Let's play a game to remember the story.

**Do:** Split students into two teams. Instruct each team to stand in a line on opposite sides of the room.

**Say:** You will point to one student on each team. Ask them to switch places with the person on the other team by walking or moving to their spot in a particular way (for example, walking, skipping, jumping, walking on tiptoes). Then after the students have switched places, I will point to two different students. Ask them to switch places with the person on the other team, in a different way. We will continue asking pairs to switch in different ways.

**Do:** Play the game until you run out of time.

### **Prayers for Those in Need**

Supplies: Mural Paper, Band-aids, Markers, whiteboard/marker

**Do:** Invite the class to sit in a circle. Place the mural paper in the center.

**Ask:** What are some things people need to live their best life? Give students a moment to think of some necessities of life. Then, invite students to share their ideas. *Guide them to: healthy food, clean water, safety, shelter, education, meaningful work, medical care/health, supportive community, freedom, even play. Use the marker to write their ideas on the whiteboard.*

**Say:** Today, we are going to pray for healing for the pain we see in the world around us.

**Do:** Give each student three band-aids and marker.

**Say:** Open an individual bandage, and write on it only the first name of someone that needs healing. It may be someone you know personally, and you can pray for them specifically by first name. It may be someone you see on a street corner, or someone or someplace that you have heard about on the news. On each bandage, write a different person or group of people. When you are done, put your bandages on the mural paper and stick them to it.

**Pray:** Use the following, or pray your own: Dear God, thank you for loving and caring for all people. Please bring comfort to everyone in the world who does not have the things they need for a healthy life. Help us love and serve each other, just as you loved Lazarus. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **Game: Telephone - Listen to the Prophets (Older Students)**

Supplies: None

**Do:** Have students sit in a circle.

**Say:** The prophets talked to people about how we should care for those who are in need. Let's find out what some of those prophets said.

**Do:** Whisper one of the following verses into the ear of the person sitting to your right:

- "...learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed..." (Isaiah 1:17);
- "For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers..." (Jeremiah 20:13);
- "...to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8)

**Do:** Have the person to your right to whisper what they heard into the ear of the person to their right. Have students continue whispering the verse around the circle. When it comes to the final person in the circle, ask them to say the verse aloud.

**Do:** Tell the group the original verse aloud and compare it to the final message.

#### **Game Wrap-up | Ask:**

- What lesson do the prophets try to teach us through this verse? [*We should help those who are in need, God cares for those who are abandoned, we can care for those who are abandoned.*]
- What are some ways in which you can follow the words of the prophets? [*Pray for those in need, do an outreach or service project that helps someone, tell others about the needs of the world.*]

# CONNECTING FAITH AND LIFE

HIGH SCHOOL GUIDESHEET | MARCH 17



## KEY POINT

God calls us to care for those others do not.

(Note: This story is an illustration of the great reversal that is part of God's kingdom. Those who are poor and oppressed-- not the rich and the powerful-- are the ones to whom God turns and listens.).

## SHARE

Highs & Lows

## OPENING PRAYER

God, caring for others seems like such a simple principle, yet we need your help to fully understand how to care for those others who are least cared for by humanity. Amen.

## READ

Luke 16:19-31

*Chasm Definition: deep fissure in the earth, rock, or another surface or deep division between ideas/viewpoints/feelings*

## DISCUSS

*Use the following questions to discuss the day's Bible passage and how it relates to your lives.*

### Understand

- What was the rich man's biggest flaw?
- What was Lazarus' greatest need?

### Wrestle

- When is it possible to have a lot of wealth and still live a God-honoring life?
- How do you think God responds to someone who is least cared for by humanity who also rejects God?
- Why do people not follow God even after they have enough information, like those who had Moses and the prophets, and even those who lived when Jesus walked the earth?

### Share

- Share, write, or draw about an experience when you have seen someone in need. Express what you felt at that time.

### Apply

- Take time to make sure your focus is on God, not on things or on the wealth of this world.
- Pray for God to give you opportunities to care for those in need.

## ACTIVITIES

*Use the attached activities to have a hands on way of sharing the message of this week's lesson.*

## PRAY

Dear God, thank you for loving everyone, especially those who other people ignore. Thank you for bringing comfort to everyone who needs it. Help us remember to love and care for everyone every day. Amen

## BLESS

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