Lesson 13
Parable – Rich Man & Lazarus

Objective
Study Luke 16: The parable of the Rich Man & Lazarus. Learn that the wise decide in this life to follow Christ and repent. We are blessed when we do.

Supplies
Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print From the Site:
- Rich Man & Lazarus Visual Aid – one for class
- Rich Man & Lazarus Activities – one per student

- Bibles – enough for everyone to have one
- Pens/Pencils/Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Stickers (for attendance)
- Attendance Chart – one for class
- Songs about Parables Sheets – one per every 2-3 students and for teacher

Optional Supplies
- Small Bag of Potato Chips – for class to share in game
- Two Pieces of Paper – Write GOOD on one, EVIL on the other.
- Tape – for teacher to hang papers
- Snack: Your choice or Marshmallows with Strawberries cut into heart shapes
- Napkins – one per student

Teacher Tips
★ See Lesson One to Review

1) Introduction to Lesson

***NOTE: Today's topic is about heaven and hell, paradise and torment. If you have any students who are too immature for this topic you can still discuss the parable but do not print or give page 2 of the activity sheet. Instead do page 1 only and then do

the optional games and activities. Students need to know there is a heaven and hell but a simple knowledge is sufficient if such is the case.

As students enter, welcome them and thank them for coming. Take attendance.
We are studying parables that were taught by Jesus. Parables are a simple story with a spiritual meaning. Jesus used these simple stories to help teach people about the Kingdom of God and other spiritually important topics. Today is our last class that we will be discussing parables. Next time we will look at how we can prove the Bible is real and true!

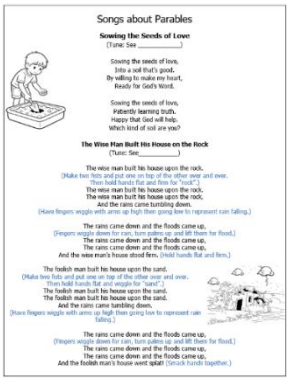
Can anyone remember the main point of the parable of the Counting the Cost that we studied last time? Let students answer.

We saw that Jesus says the wise are committed to God and willing to put Him first. They are committed to building a life with Christ and even though it will be hard and take lots of effort, they do so knowing the benefit is heaven and so much more!

Have you ever seen someone in need and helped them? Let students answer. You can share your own story if students need help coming up with an example.
How does it feel when we do good and help? Let students answer.

Have you ever done right things and yet bad things still happened? Example have you ever tried to help someone and then they yelled at you? Or you needed help but no one helped you? Let students answer.

It hurts when others see us in need or aren't happy when we do good. We will read about a man who did the right things and needed help but no one helped him! But God saw and rewarded him for being right with God even though bad things happened to him. We still should do right even if we aren't rewarded and we should still choose to follow God even if bad things happen. The wise follow Christ no matter what!


Songs about Parables

Sowing the Seeds of Love
(Tune: See _____)

Sowing the seeds of love,
Into a soil that's good,
By willing to make my heart,
Ready for God's Word.

Sowing the seeds of love,
Patiently learning truth,
Happy that God will help,
Which kind of soil are you?

The Wise Man Built His House on the Rock
(Tune: See_____)

The wise man built his house upon the rock,
(Make two fists and put one on top of the other over and over.
Then hold hands flat and firm for "rock".)
The wise man built his house upon the rock,
The wise man built his house upon the rock,
And the rains came tumbling down.
(Have fingers wiggle with arms up high then going low to represent rain falling.)

The rains came down and the floods came up,
(Fingers wiggle down for rain, turn palms up and lift them for flood.)
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
And the wise man's house stood firm. (Hold hands flat and firm.)

The foolish man built his house upon the sand.
(Make two fists and put one on top of the other over and over.
Then hold hands flat and wiggle for "sand".)
The foolish man built his house upon the sand.
The foolish man built his house upon the sand.
And the rains came tumbling down.
(Have fingers wiggle with arms up high then going low to represent rain falling.)

The rains came down and the floods came up,
(Fingers wiggle down for rain, turn palms up and lift them for flood.)
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
And the foolish man's house went splat! (Smack hands together.)

Let's sing a song to get us started! Let's sing: The Hidden Treasure and Baa Baa Good Sheep.
Hand out one Songs about Parables. Sing songs once or twice.

2) Class Time – The Rich Man & Lazarus 15-20 minutes

Prep
Gather Bibles and Visual Aid. Hand out Bibles as needed.

Class
Ask students to turn to **Luke 16**.

Show visual as you or volunteers read:
Luke 16:19-21
The rich man was so rich he wore purple, which was a very expensive color to make back then. Only the very rich or royalty wore it. Even though he was rich, what did he do to help Lazarus? Nothing!

Let's read Luke 16:22-23.
What happened to the rich man when he died? Was buried and went to torment – a place that is full of fire, pain and eternal punishment. This is a decision he chose which we will see soon.
What happened to Lazarus when he died? Angels came to take him to Paradise to be comforted!
Abraham's side is a term to represent God's care, comfort, and control when we go to Paradise. Not literally that Abraham was welcoming all the Jewish people to Paradise and was responsible for them. God is in control of Hades, not Abraham.

Even though Lazarus suffered all his life on earth, he remained faithful and committed his life to God and was rewarded with eternal life. God recognized him and Jesus called him by name, whereas the rich man was not given a name. Jesus says He does not know those who refuse to follow Him. This is shown by Him not calling the rich man by name.

Let's read Luke 16:24-26.
Abraham tells the rich man there is a great chasm or gulf that separates them. This shows us a few things about the difference between those who follow Jesus and those who don't.

Once our life on earth is over, the decision we make will affect the rest of our eternity. And someone can't cross over to the other side. But those who didn't follow Christ it seems will be able to see those in Paradise. They will see them being comforted while those in Torment are suffering. What a sad place to be! Let's make sure we all chose in this life to follow Christ and be comforted one day as Lazarus was!

Now let's finish with Luke 16:27-31.

Abraham told the rich man that God does not allow the dead to come back to warn others. The Bible is the book they need to listen to, not dead people who come back to life. The Bible even has real events of people coming back from the dead, including Jesus! Yet, even when Jesus did, not everyone believed. We need to believe the Bible and not wait for some miracle to happen.
Back when Jesus was telling this, only the Old Testament had been written, and they called it the books of Moses and the Prophets since Moses wrote the first five books and the prophets wrote many of the others.

Now let's consider a few things:
It wasn't because the rich man was rich, it was because he did not repent or show mercy to others. Instead like the rich farmer from the story two week's story, he was selfish. We learned when counting the costs that we have to put God first. This rich man was not willing to do that. That was his problem. See in verse 30 and 32. The rich man admitted that he and his other 5 brothers had not repented – that means change from doing evil to wanting to follow God. Also Abraham tells the rich man that "If they do not hear…" The rich man didn't change his heart when he heard the Old Testament and the things God said were needed like kindness, mercy, and sharing. So the issue was the rich man did not repent when he heard of the God's Words. It wasn't just because he was rich.

Something else to consider:
Some people say this is a parable, others say it is a real story. We are not 100 percent sure, but what we are 100 percent sure of is that Jesus always talked about real things and always told the truth. If he says there is heaven and

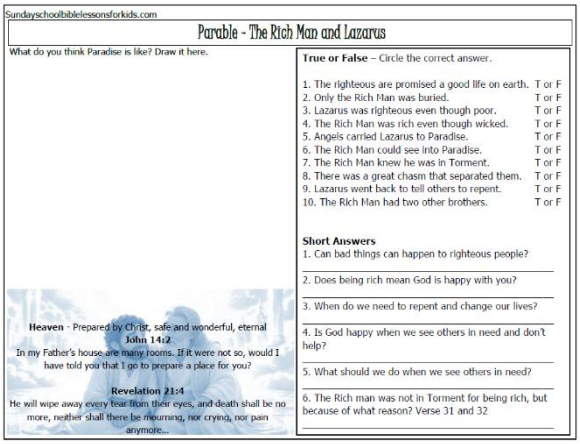
hell, paradise and torment, good and evil, and a chasm that separates the wicked from the good, we know all of this is true. He wouldn't tell stories about things that were not real. He always told stories of fishermen, farmers, masters, owners of land, in real places doing real things. He never mentioned aliens, pretend animals, fantasy lands that don't really exist etc. So we can trust and know that regardless if this is a parable or true story, the things within it are about real situations that could happen.

To help us understand, we are going to do an activity sheet! During that time you can ask questions about today's story.

Allow for questions during the next activity. You can contact Sundayschoolbiblelessonsforkids@protonmail.com if you need help.

3) Rich Man and Lazarus – Activity Sheet 15-30 minutes

Hand out sheets to each student along with pencils. As a class read directions aloud and help as needed. Define any words they may need help with. At the end, if time, hand out pencil crayons for them to draw and color what they think Paradise will look like.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Parable - The Rich Man and Lazarus

What do you think Paradise is like? Draw it here.

Heaven - Prepared by Christ, safe and wonderful, eternal
John 14:2
In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?

Revelation 21:4
He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore...

True or False – Circle the correct answer.

1. The righteous are promised a good life on earth. T or F
2. Only the Rich Man was buried. T or F
3. Lazarus was righteous even though poor. T or F
4. The Rich Man was rich even though wicked. T or F
5. Angels carried Lazarus to Paradise. T or F
6. The Rich Man could see into Paradise. T or F
7. The Rich Man knew he was in Torment. T or F
8. There was a great chasm that separated them. T or F
9. Lazarus went back to tell others to repent. T or F
10. The Rich Man had two other brothers. T or F

Short Answers

1. Can bad things can happen to righteous people?
2. Does being rich mean God is happy with you?
3. When do we need to repent and change our lives?
4. Is God happy when we see others in need and don't help?
5. What should we do when we see others in need?
6. The Rich man was not in Torment for being rich, but because of what reason? Verse 31 and 32

Answers:

True or False

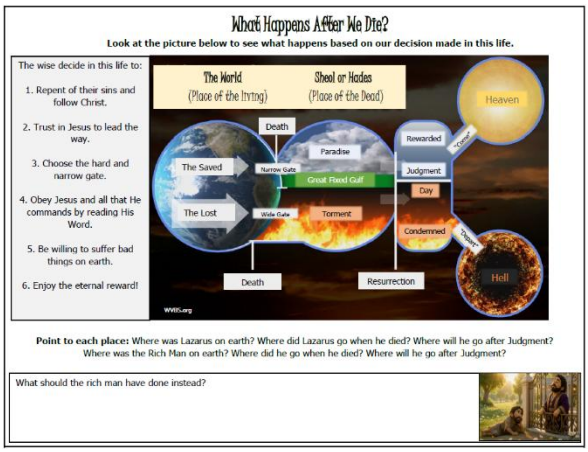
1. F – No such promise is given and Lazarus though righteous suffered a lot on earth.
2. T – It seems Lazarus was not given a burial but that doesn't determine where we go when we die. The rich man was.
3. T
4. T – Money doesn't tell us if someone is following God or not.
5. T
6. T – It never says Lazarus could see into Torment, only that he was constantly comforted, but those in Torment could see into Paradise. They were also aware of their family still on earth.
7. T
8. T
9. F – Abraham told the rich man that was not possible.
10. F – The rich man had 5 other brothers.

Short Answers

1. Yes, just like Lazarus, our suffering doesn't mean we are not loved by God.
2. No, just like the rich man.
3. While we are still alive!
4. No!
5. Help as we can, at least listen to them and pray for them if we can't physically help them at the time.
6. Because he did not repent and listen to God's Words.

What Happens After We Die?

Go through the picture on page 2 showing the different ways a person who is saved starts out.



Follow along as we look at the picture together. When someone is saved, it means he or she hears about Jesus, believes, repents and is baptized. They go through the "narrow gate" and follows Jesus even though at times it will be very hard. Then once they die, angels will take them to Paradise (unless Jesus comes back first and takes all the saved home to heaven at the same time.)

On Judgment Day those who followed God, the saved, will be rewarded with heaven forever.

Now let's look at the person who is lost and doesn't believe or follow God. They go through the wide gate like many, many people, including the rich man. Then once they die, they go to Torment in Hades. On Judgment Day they are judged guilty and spend eternity in Hell. We don't want ANYONE to have that happen but it is each person's choice. But we can and should tell those whom we know and meet about Jesus so they have the chance to learn about Him and make their own choice.

Now read the words on the left of the picture with the class. Then ask them to point to each location mentioned near the bottom of the page.

Answers:
Lazarus was the "Saved" on earth. He went to Paradise when he died and after Judgment will go to Heaven.
The rich man was the "Lost" on earth. He went to Torment when he died and after Judgment will go to Hell.

The rich man admitted that he did not repent or listen to God's Word when he talked about his brothers. He knew what was necessary but chose not to do it.

What should the Rich Man have done instead? Students can list some of these ideas for example: Repented, listened to God's Word, shown mercy, been kind to Lazarus, etc.

Optional: Which Side Game? 5-10 minutes

Have students stand in the middle of the room with space for them to run to one side or the other. On one side have the paper with the word "GOOD" taped up and the other wall have "EVIL" taped up.

Tell students: **We are going to play a game. When I call out something, I want you to run to the wall that matches the phrase or word best, ok?** For those who make a mistake, gently explain why they should be on one side rather than the other. **Let's start:**

1. Lazarus - Good
2. The Rich Man - Evil
3. Heaven - Good
4. Hell - Evil
5. Torment - Evil
6. Paradise - Good
7. Those who don't share - Evil
8. Angels in Heaven - Good
9. Those who don't repent - Evil
10. Those who repent and say sorry to God - Good
11. Those who share - Good
12. Those who ignore others who are in need - Evil

Where do you want to be? Go or remain on the side you want to be. Hopefully "Good". If any do go to the evil side, tell them you would like to talk with them after class. Then please gently ask them why they chose that side and see if it is because they were just being silly or wanting attention. If so, help them realize you love all the children in the class and the best way to get attention is to do good, not be silly. And if they say they don't think they deserve heaven or being good, explain that no one is good or deserves heaven, that is why Jesus came to save us. But if we are willing to try and follow Jesus and ask Him for help – He is happy to help us get to heaven!

When done have the students sit down.

4) Optional: Share the Potato Game 5 minutes

Using the open bag of potato chips, pass it around allowing each student to take one and eat while you sing the songs you sung earlier today. Continue to have them pass the bag around as quickly as possible. When you say "stop!" the person holding the bag has to mention one thing they remember about today's parable. Then they can have a chip. Continue playing until all the chips are gone or until time runs out. Any remaining chips can be shared during snack time.

Explain that: **Jesus wants us to share what we have! This game reminds us of the joy of sharing! Let's do good to others and follow Jesus in this life so we can enjoy the reward of heaven and God's love and comfort. When we trust in Jesus it means we will do what He says including showing love to others and sharing.**

5) Optional: Memory Verse 5 minutes

Matthew 25:34-36, Luke 12:15, and **Luke 14:27,33.**

Practice the verses by going through them a few times out loud as a class. *If you choose bring treats for those who remembered the verses. This is our last week.

6) Closing Prayer

**Before the prayer, make sure the activities have been cleaned up. Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share and if so write them down.

Thank You God for all You provide. May we be wise and repent and follow Christ in this life. May we look for ways to share and not be selfish, even when it is inconvenient. Help us to remember that doing good, sharing what we have, and loving others is always the right thing to do. Help us not to be greedy, proud, or selfish, but generous, humble, and thoughtful towards others. We pray that we will use the gifts and material things You have blessed us with wisely. Comfort us when bad things happen.

Thank You for Your Son who teaches us the right way, through the Bible. Be with those who were not able to attend today. Be with the sick, the weak, and the suffering. Be with our families, friends, and those in the church. In Jesus' name, Amen.

7) Optional Snack: Heavenly Snack 5 minutes

Prep
*Check for allergies. You can choose a snack that all can share to show the importance of sharing, which is what the rich man should have done. Or you can bring mini marshmallows and strawberries cut into heart shapes to symbolize heaven. Provide napkins.

You've all done a great job learning that the wise commit to God in this life.

Hand out snack.
These symbolize what many think of when they think of heaven. White, light and bright and full of love. While we snack let's discuss:

What was wrong with the rich man in today's parable? He didn't share, he was greedy, selfish and did not repent and follow God.
Even though Lazarus was a good man, bad things happened to him. Does God promise our life on earth will be perfect? No!
But will heaven be perfect? Yes!
Let's remember to be wise and follow Christ through the narrow gate. Let's remember to choose to follow Him in this life so we can be with Him in heaven forever.

Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss and review questions while snacking if there is any time left.

What was the parable about today? Let students answer.
What can we learn from Lazarus?
Any questions about today's parable?
What was a favorite thing you learned or did today? Why?

8) Things to Remember

Thank students for coming.
Remind them to take their activity sheets home.
Make sure students leave with a responsible person.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!