

# GENEROUS HEART KIDS

## THE RICH YOUNG RULER

This session centres on Jesus' encounter with the rich young ruler as depicted in Mark 10:17-22.

Based on Session Two of *The Generous Heart* Bible study.

See the *Rich Young Ruler Shopping List* for the resources required for this session.

### Aims:

- To encourage children to consider how to follow Jesus by giving and sharing things such as their time, talents and treasures.



All-ages



Younger children



Older children

Look for these icons to help select the activities for your age group.

## STARTERS

Select one of the following activities.



### 1. DESERT ISLAND

Ask the children to throw and catch a ball between themselves to help them take turns speaking and listening to each other's responses. Only the person holding the ball can answer a question. You may want to share your own examples before you begin.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **If you were** alone on a desert island and you could bring only one thing, what would it be?
- **What is a** favourite thing that you own and why is it a favourite?
- **What would you** do if someone asked to borrow or use your favourite thing?



### 2. FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE ...

Work your way through the list of questions below, asking each child one question. Feel free to come up with more questions or start again from the top. If you have more time available, you may be able to go around the group again; however, make sure that you ask each child a different question. (You may want to have your own answers ready!)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*If you could only:*

- *eat at one restaurant for the rest of your life, where would you choose?*
- *listen to one song or piece of music for the rest of your life, what would it be?*
- *read only one book for the rest of your life, what would it be?*
- *watch only one film for the rest of your life, what would it be?*
- *take part in one sport for the rest of your life, what would it be?*
- *live in one place for the rest of your life, where would it be?*



### 3. ROYAL ROLES – REAL OR FAKE?

Read out the following statements describing different job profiles and see if the children can guess whether these roles are real or fake.

1. *Grand Carver of England – Do you come from a prestigious family? Are you a dab hand with a carving knife? Then this is the job for you. Applicants must have impressive meat-carving skills and be available for royal dining events. Is this job real or fake? (REAL)*
2. *Master of the King's Music – The exact job description is sketchy! Applicants must be able to create a musical masterpiece on demand that is pleasing to the royal ear. Is this job real or fake? (REAL)*
3. *The Folder of the Garments – Do you like to keep things neat and tidy? Do you find sock folding fascinating? Then this is the job for you. Applicants must be able to organise and coordinate the royal sock collection, ensuring that the right sock is available with the right outfit. Is this job real or fake? (FAKE)*
4. *Official Harpist to the Prince of Wales – Since biblical times, royals haven't been able to get enough of the harp. If you can play the heavenly harp, then the Prince of Wales needs you. Applicants must be available to attend royal events, playing beautiful music at the request of the Prince. Is this job real or fake? (REAL)*

(It may be useful to check who holds the real roles at the present time.)

## MAINS

Read Mark 10:17-22.

**Tip:** You could make puppets using the *Puppets* sheet – attach to a stick/pencil and hold up while reading the story.

Alternatively, let the children watch a video of the Bible story:

-  • *The Rich Young Ruler* by Wondermore Kids (5:30)
-  • *Jesus and the Rich Man* by PersueGOD Kids (2:43)

Explain to the children that the man who came to ask Jesus the question was a rich young ruler (like a local leader or a governor) and he had faithfully followed God all his life since he was a boy.

*He asked Jesus what must be done to have eternal life, and Jesus says that the only thing left for him to do is to sell his belongings and follow him. But this is too much for the young man, and he walks away feeling sad because he had so much wealth.*

*Sometimes in order to follow Jesus, and to do what he does by helping people, means that there may be times that we have to give up our own time, talents (skills/abilities) and treasures (finances) and share them with those in need or someone who may have less than us.*

*Ask the children the following questions, giving them a chance to share their thoughts and ideas with each other if they wish to. You may want to give examples of your own to kickstart the discussion.*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **How did you** think the rich young ruler felt after speaking to Jesus?
- **How does** sharing your things with others make you feel?
- **Can you think** of any examples of how we can use time for Jesus?
- **Can you think** of a special talent/skill you have that you can use to help others?
- **How can you** share your treasure (finances) or favourite thing that you own?

Select one of the following activities.

#### 1. SHOW AND SHARE

Hopefully children will have brought a favourite toy or book, but have some spare in case a child forgets to bring their own or wants to borrow for the game.

Explain that you are about to play a musical game of *Pass the toy/book*. Ask the children to sit in a circle holding their toy/book. Go around asking each child to show and tell everyone about their favourite thing.

Let the children know about what is to happen next, and first check that they are all OK with passing around and sharing their toys. They don't have to participate if they are uncomfortable with sharing their favourite toy, and it's OK for them just to watch.

Play some lively and upbeat music and tell the children to keep passing the toys/books over to the child on their left until they hear the music stop.

When you stop the music, allow the children to have up to a minute to interact with someone else's favourite toy/book that they are holding. Remind them that it's important to take care when handling or playing with someone else's favourite thing.

Do this as many times as you see fit, then have them return their toys/books to the owners.

Ask the children how sharing their favourite thing made them feel, and how handling or playing with someone else's special thing made them feel.



## 2. SWEET EXCHANGE

**May not be suitable for very young children. Check for allergies beforehand.**

Give out two sweets to each child (not chocolates!), instructing them not to open or eat them but to hold one in each hand, keeping their hands closed the whole time.

Ask for one child to be the first to volunteer to give one of their sweets to another child and then return to their seat. The child given the sweet must then get up and decide which of the three sweets they now have that they would like to give to another child (it's likely that they would keep the sweets they prefer the most).

Have the children take turns to get up and give away a sweet as well as receive a sweet, making sure that everyone has a go.

At the end ask them to raise and hold out their hands, and ask if any of them have only one sweet left after giving the other away. You can give this child two more sweets, so they have one extra than the rest.

*This game is to help you learn that even though giving something away means you're left with less, you will have room to receive more with an open, giving hand, just like the child who ended up with more sweets than everyone else. God can give a lot more than we could ask, think or imagine (Ephesians 3:20) because he knows exactly what we need and what is best for us. But he cannot give to us if we are holding on tightly to what we have and don't want to let go.*

To help illustrate this, you could show the children an online illustration of Jesus saying 'Just trust me' to a little girl holding on to her tiny teddy bear, with Jesus holding a much bigger teddy bear behind his back ([sunflowermusings.com](http://sunflowermusings.com)).

## SIDES

(FOR BIGGER APPETITES)

Select one of the following activities, then do the discussion questions.



### 1. THE RICH YOUNG RULER REIMAGINED

Ask the children to draw a modern-day rich young ruler and create a character profile either as a whole group, in pairs/threes or by themselves.

*We've just read Mark 10:17-22 together. Create a modern-day version, male or female, of the rich young ruler. Consider the following questions to help you create a picture or profile of this biblical character.*

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who could** the rich young ruler be today?
- **What is their** name?
- **How old** are they?
- **Who is their** closest friend?
- **What is their** family background?
- **What was their** childhood like?
- **What is their** greatest achievement?
- **What is their** greatest regret?
- **What is their** personality like?
- **What hobbies** do they enjoy doing?
- **What is their** idea of a perfect Saturday night?
- **What must** no one find out about them?
- **What do they** dislike?
- **What are their** hopes for the future?

#### MORE DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **How do we** know that the man had tried to follow God all of his life?
- **What is the** one thing the man won't do even though he wants to follow God?
- **Why do you think** he is so attached to his possessions?
- **Is there anything** you would struggle to give up?
- **What does** generosity mean? You can turn this into a brainstorm and have the children write words on sticky notes to display on a wall, recap and discuss together.



## 2. HOW DO I SPEND ...

Ask the children how they spend their time (eg at school on weekdays, afterschool clubs, watching TV, playing video games etc); talents (eg making arts/crafts, telling funny jokes, singing, dancing, sports, playing an instrument etc); and treasure (eg saving up pocket money, spending on snacks, buying friends' birthday gifts etc).

If they are willing, ask them to share and compare their lists together after they have had some time to fill out the sections. They can take this sheet away and finish it off at home with their parents/guardians, siblings or friends who could help them identify things they may have missed or don't notice about themselves.

Ask them which items from their time, talents and treasure lists they could consider giving to God in light of the story of the rich young ruler. They can reflect in their own time and fill out the last section 'How can I be generous?'.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Learning from the** story of the rich young ruler, how can we follow Jesus?
- **What does** generosity mean to you?
- **Can you think** of a time someone was generous to you? How did this make you feel?
- **What are ways** that we can be generous and help others? Who needs our help?

## DESSERTS

Select one of the following activities.



### 1. CROSS NECKLACE OR BRACELET

As the children are considering how they follow Jesus, they can use the craft materials to make a necklace or bracelet to remind them to follow Jesus every day.



### 2. FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS

The children can make another necklace or bracelet to give away to someone else.



### 3. COLOURING SHEET

*Following Jesus means that we do what he says and try to act as he would. This means that we choose to follow him whatever happens and with whatever we have.*

To show that we want to follow him, ask the children to colour in the sheet *I'm Following Jesus* ([ministryark.com](http://ministryark.com)).



### 4. COLLABORATIVE 'GENEROUS HEART' MURAL

Have the children take turns to add their contributions to a section of the mural, adding their own unique colouring-in or collage-making styles, using all sorts of

colours/textures and writing words related to the theme of the session. Put this on display for others to see.

*No matter who we are, we all have something unique and special to share with the world, and having a generous heart is truly an important part of following Jesus.*

## WHAT NOW?

**Recap and remind the children of the moral of the rich young ruler Bible story.**

*The rich young ruler story is teaching us that we must do our best to try and put Jesus before what we have or what we own in life. We must remember that there is a lot to say thank you for, and all we have ultimately comes from him. What could this mean for you?*

Ask the children to get into smaller groups to discuss how to put Jesus first in their lives and in their treatment of their possessions. When they have finished this, gather them together and share ideas, and encourage them to choose one idea to do this week. Suggest that they keep their craft items as a reminder (colouring pages, necklace/bracelet or takeaway sheets) on display somewhere they will see it.

## PRAYER

*Thank you, Jesus, for all that we have – our time, talents (skills/abilities) and treasures (finances).*

*Please help us always to remember to put you first in our lives over what we have and love, especially when it comes to our favourite things.*

*Teach us how to follow you with a generous heart.*

*Amen.*

## TAKEAWAY

 • **Kids Activity** sheet

 • **How Do I Spend** sheet