

Beatitudes – Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness (The Rich Young Man)

Theme: God blesses you when you want to do what God wants.
God will be everything you need. (Matthew 5:6)

Games:

Jumble Sale: Organise a table of 'jumble' items (*hats, books, brushes, pencils, scarves etc*) at one end of the room. Play some music to dance to; when the music stops everyone rushes to the table to grab one item. Each subsequent time the music stops one item will have been removed so one player will be out each time. Continue to play until only one player is left holding the last object.

Through The Eye Of A Needle: Organise the group into teams for a relay race with a hoop placed in front of the team and another hoop placed about 8 metres further on. Each player must climb through a hoop at the beginning **and** end of the running area (*i.e. climb through two hoops each*) before running back to the team. Don't let players just put the hoop over their head and drop it; they must actually climb through the hoop without letting it go.

Introduction: Play a quick, traditional game of Pass the Parcel with just a few layers (e.g. six). Make sure you have a packet of sweets in the centre and a distinctive layer of paper covering the final prize of sweets. When you get to that layer pause the game and explain the theme of today's session before introducing the story. (*See Story for the next stage.*)

Story: Taken from either Matt 19 v 16-26, Mark 10 v 17-31 or Luke 18 v 18-30. This is such a simple story you could read it straight from the Bible text, possibly with a leader acting in response to the reading at the same time. At the end of the story, reiterate the rich young man's need to give away his possessions to those around him and encourage the Pass the Parcel winner to share the prize out, giving nothing to themselves! (*See Application for the next stage.*)

Memory Verse: Seek first God's kingdom and what God wants. Matthew 6 v 33
Make two or three sets of the verse cut up as a puzzle on different coloured card. Each team needs to find pieces of the other teams verse and give it to them; teams cannot collect their own pieces of the verse.

Application: Encourage the children to think about things they need (*e.g. food, water, clothing*) and other things they have (*e.g. smart trainers, Xbox, iPod etc*). If they put themselves in the shoes of the rich young man would they be able to give up something they are holding onto in order to be part of God's Kingdom? Encourage them to think about giving up some of the time spent with the items they are holding on to and spend more time doing things God wants them to do. At the end of the application, remind everyone how generous our game winner was in giving away all their sweets; then remind the winner that 'God blesses you when you do what God wants' and give them a very special sweet treat as their reward.

Prayer: Encourage the group to think about things that they are holding on tight to and pray that they will learn to let those things go so they can have a better relationship with God.

Song: 'Here I Am, Lord' (*Track 14, Great Big God 3*) You might like to use the song to introduce your prayers.

Resources: funsheet