

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 3 • Unit 7 • Week 3

RICH YOUNG RULER

OBJECTIVE:

To teach the children that obedience to God is a requirement for all those who want to be like God and to receive the gift of eternal life. Obedience to God teaches us to love God and our fellow man, to be concerned about the welfare of others, to have trust in God and to become like God.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Say: Think of yourself having your own little ice cream sundae business in a small shop at the mall. Children and teenagers come by every day and purchase the many varieties of fresh fruit ice cream sundaes. Your business makes \$600 every week. After paying your expenses and tithes, you put \$100 in the bank every week. After one year you have \$5,200 in the bank and after two years you have \$10,400 in the bank. You are a very rich person compared to other children of your age.

One day a very wise businessman comes to your shop. He talks about a very large business that makes millions of dollars. He tells about the people in this business that are very happy and are filled with great joy. Everyone in that business loves each other very much and they are a big family.

You ask that wise businessman how you can become a partner in that wonderful business. He replies that there are certain rules you must obey to become a partner:

Rule number one: You must be honest.

Rule number two: You must serve your customers very well.

Rule number three: You must not be greedy.

Rule number four: You must not be selfish.

Rule number five: You must have respect for everyone.

You tell this very wise businessman that you practice all of these rules in your small business. You have obeyed those rules as long as you have had a business. The wise business-

man says that is very good, but you must do one more thing to become a partner in this fantastic, wonderful large business. You must sell all your ice cream freezers and machines. You must take all this money and all the money in your bank account and give it to those people who are poor and sick and without food and homes.

After you have given away all your money, you must follow the wise businessman for many years, learning from him all the important business rules of the very large business. When you have fully learned to obey those rules then you can be a partner in the wonderful big business.

BIBLE LESSON:

Ask: Do you think it would be possible for a person to give away all of his possessions to gain a great and rewarding gift that may be many years off in the future?

What kind of person would give all he has to others who are in need?

Would that person be selfish and greedy and uncaring about other people and their problems?

Would that person who trusts and follows the teachings and advice of an older and experienced person be called an obedient person?

Say: We can find a similar story to the one above when Jesus was a human on the earth. We can read that story in Matthew 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-22; and Luke 18:18-23. Each of these writers heard the same story and gives additional facts to it. So we have put the three stories together to get a more complete story.

From Matthew, Mark and Luke we read:

"As He was going forth into the way, a certain young ruler ran to Him and kneeled to Him asking, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said, "Why do you call Me good? Only one is good and that one is God."

Jesus asked, "Do you know the commandments?" The young man said, "Which commandments?" Jesus said, "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, do not be deceitful by cheating and you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

And he answered and said, "Master, all these things I have done from my youth. What do I yet lack?" Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing. If you wish to become perfect, go and sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor and you shall have treasure in heaven. After you have done that, take up your burden and follow me."

When the young man heard that, he went away very sorrowful and deeply grieved for he had great possessions and was very rich.

The rich young ruler had been listening to Jesus talk about the Kingdom of God and being obedient to God and the opportunity to receive eternal life. Later after Jesus had finished teaching the people, the rich young ruler came to Him asking how he could receive eternal life. Eternal life means that a person could live forever and never die. The rich young ruler very much desired to live forever.

Ask: Does anyone have any thoughts about eternal life and what it would be like to live forever and never die?

Say: God has told us that we cannot earn eternal life by our actions, because it is a free gift from Him. But God has also told us that a Christian is required to follow and live by rules called commandments that show love to Him and love to our fellow man.

When we obey God's rules during our lifetime, they become habits. By our obedience to these rules or commandments all our life, we build the very character of God in us. That character is love. We actually become like God by being obedient.

God loves all people and desires to give them all the necessary things of life. He wants people to have food and clothing and a home with happiness. Jesus wanted the rich young man to learn some valuable lessons about obedience to God. Being obedient to God is to have trust in God. This trust in God is to believe that He will supply all our needs. Those needs are food and clothing and a home to live in.

Think about yourself as owner of the ice cream sundae business. If you become greedy for money and riches, your heart would be lacking in love for God and His way of life and you might miss being in God's wonderful kingdom and having eternal life. You could be like the rich young man who came to Jesus.

The rich young man had obeyed the commandments of God, but he really did not have the true love in his heart for God and his fellow man. He trusted in and loved his money more than God's promise to take care of him.

Jesus wanted the rich young man to change the values in his heart. Jesus wanted him to have sincere love and genuine concern for his neighbor in his heart. When we are obedient to God and His commandments we learn to love as God loves. When we are obedient to God we are changing the values in our heart and becoming more like God.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Play the following word guessing game (similar to hangman or the TV show Wheel of Fortune).

Supplies: Chalkboard or whiteboard
Chalk or whiteboard markers

Directions: Tell the students that you have a word or phrase that comes from the lesson (see below for a list of possibilities). Put down blanks on the board, one blank for each letter in the word or phrase. Let children take turns guessing whether a particular letter is in the word or phrase. If it is, write the letter in the appropriate blank(s). If the letter is not in the word, draw one element of a sad face. The sad face can have seven elements: circle to represent face, two eyes, two eyebrows, one nose, one mouth. (If you think your students might need more guesses, you can add elements, such as hair, ears, etc.) Allow students to guess the puzzle if they raise their hands. If the students can guess the puzzle before the sad face is completely drawn, they win! If the sad face is drawn before they guess the puzzle, have them try again with another word or phrase.

Note: It's helpful to write the alphabet at the bottom of the board and put a slash through each letter as it's asked.

Puzzles: Ten Commandments
Give to the poor
Kingdom of God
eternal life
obey God
love others

Music:

Sing the following song about trusting and obeying God. Think of the words and how we can more carefully trust and obey our great God.

"Trust and Obey"

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Trust and obey for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 19:16-17 "'Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?' '...But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.'"

family activity

THE POINT:

To teach the children that obedience to God is a requirement for all those who want to be like God and to receive the gift of eternal life. Obedience to God teaches us to love God and our fellow man, to be concerned about the welfare of others, to have trust in God and to become like God.

ASK ME...

- What is eternal life?
- What did the rich young ruler desire from Jesus?
- What did Jesus tell him to do?
- Did the rich young ruler do as Jesus suggested?
- Was there a reason why the rich young ruler did not obey?
- Is it possible for rich people to enter the Kingdom of God?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Talk about God's plan to have everyone to be in His Kingdom and have eternal life. Discuss ways and methods that God uses to help people grow in character to be like Him. Show how obedience to God's commandments teaches us love and concern for others.

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 19:16-17 "'Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?' '...But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.'"