

Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21:28-32) Lesson for Lent

 ministry-to-children.com/the-parable-of-the-two-sons

Written by Nicole VanderMeulen Last updated March 13, 2019 [Leave a Comment](#)

February 2, 2010

This lesson is part **1 of 5** in our study called "[Walk His Ways](#)" based on the parables of Jesus. They were prepared for the Lenten season, but could be used anytime of year.

Bible Story: The Parable of the Two Sons

Scripture: [Matthew 21:28-32](#)

Target Age Group: Age 3 – 12 (U.S. preschool – 6th Grade)

Time: 45 Minutes

Learning Context: Children's Church or Sunday School

Learning Objectives: Children will experience the Parable of the Two Sons story, discussing the difference between saying you'll do something and actually doing it and begin exploring how we can serve Jesus and each other by "walking his ways".

Items Needed:

- Shoe picture on heavy paper
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Hole Punch
- Yarn or String
- Puppets (2 female/1 male)
- Garbage Bag
- Pink Balloon
- Tack
- Puppet Curtain/Stage (optional)
- Paper
- [Walk His Ways Kids' Guide PDF](#)

Introduction: Begin by inviting each child to create a shoe nametag. Provide the outline of a shoe on heavy paper or cardstock. Instruct children to decorate, cut out, and write their name on the shoe. The shoe nametags may be hung around the child's neck by adding holes with a hole punch and tying on a piece of yarn or string. Discuss these questions: ***What shape is your nametag? What do we need shoes for? "Walk His Ways" is our Lent theme. Who is "his" talking about? What are some things we can do to "Walk His Ways"?***

Game: "Shoe Are You?" Each child removes one shoe and they are tossed into a big pile. Everyone picks a shoe that is not their own, finds the owner, learns their name, and shares the answer to a question given by the leader like, "What's your favorite color?" or

“What grade are you in?” etc. Several rounds may be played. After last round, have children sit in a circle and put the shoes in a pile again. The object this time is for everyone to find their own shoe and put it back on, but they CANNOT TOUCH their own shoe. Debrief/discuss.

Story: The parable story is taught in this lesson using the following puppet script. You may also want to read Matthew 21:28-32 from the Bible. Use these follow-up discussion questions after the puppet show: **What happened? Which daughter did the right thing? Is it better to say you’ll do something or to actually do it? I wonder how the father felt? Do you ever say you will do things and not do it? What do you do to help your family? How do you feel when you’re helping others?**

Parable Puppet Show: The Two Daughters

Matthew 21:28-32

Materials: *two female/one male puppet, puppet curtain, trash bag, gum or balloon, tack*

Dad: *(holding garbage)* uh. Ugh UGH!?!?!? This garbage smells horrible and it weighs a ton! Did something crawl in here and die? P.U.!!!! Jenna? Julie? GIRLS! Where are you?

Jenna: Here I am, Dad! Wanna hear my new song? *(sings obnoxiously and loud, something like “Tomorrow” from Annie or another song...)*

Dad: *(interrupts the singing)* Jenna, Jenna, JENNA!?!?!? Your song is um...ah.....beautiful honey, but I need your help.

Jenna: Help? What is it, Dad?

Dad: I’m running late for my meeting, but we have to get this garbage out of here before our whole house starts smelling like a toxic waste dump. Could you just take the bag out to the garbage can in the backyard?

Jenna: What are you, crazy? Future singing stars don’t do garbage, Dad. Ewww! What would that do for my image? I can’t touch that smelly stuff. No way! Besides, I can’t take even a second away from my practice, not even a second! *(begins singing again and goes behind curtain)*

Dad: OH for crying out loud! Julie, Julie, JULIE!?!?!? Get in here please! Where are you?

Julie: *(pops up with a big bubble, either gum or a balloon, and we can’t understand her words because of her bubble)* sdakjkdffl;aksdjfjakl!

Dad: What?

Julie: *(still can’t understand here)* arfjdlskafjsdklfj

Dad: *(pops the bubble)* Enough nonsense! I need your help. I'm super late for my meeting, this garbage smells just horrible, and your sister is too wrapped up in her silly singing to be helpful, so would you please just take this outside for me? I have to go!

Julie: No prob, Bob! I mean...Dad! Get outta here. I'll take that smelly stuff to the garbage can. You can count on me.

Dad: Thanks, Dear! You're the best! I'll leave the bag by the door. *(goes behind curtain)*
Seeya later!

Julie: Whatever...Now where was I? I have to top the world's largest bubble record. I just have to! *(makes blowing noises, as she disappears behind the curtain)*

Jenna: *(returns, carrying garbage)* Ewwww! What is this still doing in here? Maybe I can sing and take care of this smelly garbage at the same time. Garbage can, here I come! *(sings song about garbage maybe? and moves behind curtain).*

THE END

Art Activity: Help children write and draw coupons to give to family members, redeemable for caring, helpful things like: a hug, setting the table, folding laundry, reading a story, etc. It may be helpful to brainstorm ideas for the coupons as a group before you begin the project. While working on the project, discuss how these coupons could be walking his ways. Ask whether the children think it's more important to give someone a coupon or to actually fulfill what the coupon offers.

Prayer: Consider using a "repeat after me prayer" to close each of the Lent lessons. Pause between every few words, allowing the children to echo what you have said. Dear Jesus,/You are/so good./Help us/to walk/your ways/and serve others/as you would serve./Amen.

This lesson is by contributing writer, Nicole VanderMeulen, Children's Ministry Coordinator at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Renton, Washington.

Good Samaritan Bible (Luke 10:25-37) Lesson for Lent

 ministry-to-children.com/parable-of-the-good-samaritan

Written by Nicole VanderMeulen Last updated March 13, 2019 [Leave a Comment](#)

February 10, 2010

This lesson is part **2 of 5** in our study called “Walk His Ways” based on the parables of Jesus. They were prepared for the Lenten season, but could be used anytime of year. This lesson explores neighbors with the story of The Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Bible Story: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Scripture: [Luke 10:25-37](#)

Target Age Group: Age 3 – 12 (U.S. preschool – 6th Grade)

Time: 45 Minutes

Learning Context: Children’s Church or Sunday School

Learning Objectives: Children will experience the Good Samaritan story, exploring the questions, “Who are our neighbors?” “How can we serve our neighbors?” and “How is this ‘walking his ways?’”.

Items Needed:

- Shoe nametags & extra supplies
- Magazines
- Poster Board
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- “Our Neighbors” sign
- [Walk His Ways Kids’ Guide PDF](#)
- 4 puppets
- Headphones
- Puppet Curtain/Stage (optional)
- [Leprechaun Kisses Poem \(Word Doc\)](#)
- Green Tulle
- Green Ribbon
- Shamrock Stickers
- Shamrock Glitter/Confetti
- Crayons
- Hershey’s Kisses Candies

Introduction:

- **Nametags:** Children find their shoe nametag that they made during the first lesson and put it on. If there are children without a nametag, provide materials and allow them to make one.

- **Discuss:** *What is a neighbor? Who are your neighbors? Why? I wonder if I am your neighbor? Are you my neighbor? Etc. Who does Jesus say are our neighbors? How does he want us to treat them?*
- **Check in about the “Walk His Ways” challenges if you are using the guides.**

Neighbor Collage: Children cut out pictures of people (neighbors) and work with their table to glue them on large pieces of poster board to make a large collage. Hang up posters under a sign labeled, “Our Neighbors”.

Game: “You are my neighbor if...” Standing in a circle, each person removes one shoe to mark their place. One person is in the middle and is “It”. This person says something like, “You are my neighbor if...you are wearing blue jeans...you are a boy...you have a pet, etc.” If what the person says is true about you, you must leave your shoe, and find another shoe spot in the circle. “It” tries to find a shoe spot, leaving someone else in the middle to start another round. **Discuss: Who are your neighbors? What does it feel like to be included? Left out? How should we treat our neighbors? How can we take care of our neighbors?**

Story: The parable story is taught in this lesson using the following puppet script. You may also want to read Luke 10:25-37 from the Bible. Use these follow-up discussion questions after the puppet show: **What happened? Who did the right thing? The wrong thing? Who was the lost boy’s neighbor? Are the other puppets neighbors? Who are our neighbors? How does God want us to treat our neighbors? Even if we don’t like someone...are they our neighbor?**

Parable Puppet Show: The Long Way Home

The Good Samaritan

Lost Boy: *anxiety grows throughout the following*

Uh oh...how come none of these houses look familiar? I just went to the store for a pack of gum and I guess I...oh no! I musta made a wrong turn somewhere! This isn’t my neighborhood! I’m...I’m...(completely loses it) I’m LOST!

LOST *cries uncontrollably for a moment. Then starts to try to calm down.*

LOST: *sniffing intermittently* Okay...gotta get a grip. Maybe I can get someone to help me.

PASSERBY 1 *enters stage near the edge wearing headphones*

PASSERBY 1: *doing best (worst?) Brittany Spears imitation* Oops...I did it again...

LOST: Oh, maybe they’ll help me. (To PASSERBY 1) Hey, could you help me, please?

PASSERBY 1 *totally ignores* LOST and passes by to the other side.

LOST: *louder* Excuse me? (Practically shouting) Hey!

PASSERBY 1: *whirling around* What is your problem?

LOST: Well, I'm on my way home from the store and I guess I took a wrong turn...

PASSERBY 1: And I care because?

LOST: I just thought maybe you could...

PASSERBY 1: Well, you thought wrong so, buzz off!

PASSERBY continues toward other side and exits during next line.

LOST: Sorry. I'm not sure I'm the one with the problem. (*Pause. Anxiety growing again*) Now what am I going to do? I couldn't get help and I'm still...LOST!

LOST cries uncontrollably for a moment. Then starts to try to calm down.

LOST: *sniffing intermittently* All right. Maybe all is not...lost. Maybe I can find someone else who will help me.

PASSERBY 2 enters the stage in a hurry near the edge

PASSERBY 2: *looking down as if at a watch* I've only got a few minutes...

LOST moves into the path of PASSREBY 2.

LOST: Excuse me?

PASSERBY 2 practically runs over LOST.

PASSERBY 2: Hey, kid! Watch were you're going!

LOST: I'm sorry. I'm lost and I was hoping...

PASSERBY 2: Can't you see I'm in a hurry here? I don't have time to be helping lost kids. Now, if you'll excuse me?

LOST: Hmm? (*LOST catches on and moves out of the way.*) Oh, sorry.

PASSERBY 2 continues on toward end of stage and exits.

LOST: Now what? (*Anxiety growing again.*) That's two people who wouldn't help me? (*Pause. Thinking*) Oh no! What if nobody will help me? Then I'll be lost...FOREVER!

LOST cries uncontrollably for a moment. PASSERBY 3 enters lower stage from stage edge. Sees LOST and crosses stage to LOST.

PASSERBY 3: Hey, what's the matter?

LOST: *trying to regain control* What?

PASSERBY 3: I said, what's wrong?

LOST: *sniffing intermittently* I went to the store to get a pack of gum and, on my way home, I guess I made a wrong turn because now I'm...LOST.

LOST *cries uncontrollably.*

PASSERBY 3: Whoa! Calm down! Everything will be okay. I'm sure we can get you home.

LOST: *calming down; sniffing intermittently* You mean, you're gonna help me?

PASSERBY 3: Why wouldn't I?

LOST: Well, somebody else passed by, but they didn't seem to think it was their business to help a lost kid. Then someone else passed by, but they were in too much of a hurry.

PASSERBY 3: Well, don't you worry cause I'm here now and we're gonna get you home. Do you know your address?

LOST: Yeah. It's 2121 Pine Street.

PASSERBY 3: Pine Street? Oh, I see what happened! You made a right when you came out of the store when you should have made a left. You're taking the long way home! Pine Street is just on the other side of Jackson Boulevard.

LOST: You mean, you know how to get me home?

PASSERBY 3: Sure do. It's right his way.

PASSERBY 3 *and* LOST *begin to walk to edge of stage.*

LOST: Thanks. Thanks a lot. You saved the day!

THE END.

Art Activity: Children make a bundle of leprechaun (chocolate kisses), placing shamrock stickers on the bottom of each kiss, tying them together with a piece of green tulle and green ribbon, and include glitter shamrocks. Each child colors a tag with this poem and their name to attach to the bundle. Explain that children should give them away to a neighbor.

Prayer: Consider using a "repeat after me prayer" to close each of the Lent lessons. Pause between every few words, allowing the children to echo what you have said. Dear Jesus,/You are/so good./Help us/to walk/your ways/and serve others/as you would serve./Amen.

This lesson is by contributing writer, Nicole VanderMeulen, Children's Ministry Coordinator at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Renton, Washington.

Parable of the Great Feast (Luke 14:12-24) Lesson for Lent

 ministry-to-children.com/great-feast-lesson

Written by Nicole VanderMeulen Last updated March 13, 2019 [Leave a Comment](#)

February 26, 2010

This lesson is part **3 of 5** in our study called "[Walk His Ways](#)" based on the parables of Jesus. They were prepared for the Lenten season, but could be used anytime of year. This parable is sometimes called the parable of the great banquet. This lesson explores including and inviting others with the story of The Parable of the Great Feast.

Bible Story: The Parable of the Great Feast

Scripture: [Luke 14:12-24](#)

Target Age Group: Age 3 – 12 (U.S. preschool – 6th Grade)

Time: 45 Minutes

Learning Context: Children's Church or Sunday School

Learning Objectives:

Children will experience the story of The Great Feast, exploring how it feels to be left out and included and discovering how Jesus might want us to welcome others.

Items Needed:

- Shoe nametags & extra supplies
- Cone Shaped Party Hats
- Decorations (stickers, sequins, feathers, foam pieces, etc.)
- Glue Sticks
- Markers
- [Walk His Ways Kids' Guide PDF](#)
- Chairs
- Music
- 6-8 Hula Hoops
- 4 puppets (2 male, 2 female)
- Streamers
- Balloons
- Party Hats
- Paper
- Crayons
- Paper Lunch Bags

Lesson Introduction

Name tags: Children find their shoe nametag that they made during the first lesson and put it on. If there are children without a nametag, provide materials and allow them to make one.

Check in about the “Walk His Ways” challenges if you are using [the guides](#)

Party Hat Decorating: Provide the necessary materials including cone shaped party hats (plain colors work best) and items for decorating like stickers, sequins, feathers, foam, and markers. Assist the children as they each decorate their own party hat.

Discussion Questions: *What do you think these hats are for? Where would Jesus have a party? Who would Jesus want to invite to his party? When was a time you’ve felt left out? Who are people that often are excluded? What should we do for them?*

Game “Left Out Welcomed In”

Children play traditional game of [musical chairs](#). Then, play a second time with hula hoops on the floor. When the music stops, children find a hula hoop to stand in. We will keep taking hoops away each time and the kids will have to fit more and more people in each hoop. No one is left out!

Discuss: What does it feel like to be included? Left out? Who should we include? How do we do that? What people often are excluded? How can we help them?

Bible Story “Jesus’ Parable of the Great Feast”

The parable story is taught in this lesson using the following puppet script. You could also act out this script with kids or adult volunteers. You may want to read Luke 14:12-24 from the Bible aloud to reinforce the story. Use these follow-up discussion questions after the puppet show:

Discussion: What happened? How did Billy feel when none of his friends came to his party and made excuses? Then what did he do? Have you ever made excuses or not included people? Who gets left out the most? How can we help them? Who does Jesus want to include? Where will his party be? Are we all invited?

Parable Puppet Show: Everyone’s Invited

An Adaptation of the Parable of the Great Feast

Materials: *(two female puppets and two male puppets, streamers, balloons, party hat)*

Mom: *(tossing balloons over the curtain and straightening the streamers hanging from it)*
Wow! These decorations look great! Billy is going to have such a great birthday party!

Billy: Hey Mom! Whoa...this is awesome! This is going to be the best birthday ever! Thanks for putting up all the decorations and buying the big Spider Man cake, and getting goody-bags for

all of my friends. It's going to be so great!

Mom: I'm so glad your entire class from school will be coming to celebrate your sixth birthday with you.

Billy: *(looks down and up and turns away from Mom)* Well, um, ahhhh...I don't think EVERYBODY in my class is coming.

Mom: What do you mean, you don't THINK...I thought we talked about that you should invite EVERYBODY if you were going to hand out invitations at school. It should either be everybody or nobody.

Billy: Awww...come on, Mom! I don't want the smelly kid, and the fat girl here, and Juan can't even speak English, so what fun would he be?

Mom: *(sighs)* Well, what's done is done, but I'm really disappointed in you, Billy.

Jenna: *(make noise: knock, knock, knock)*

Billy: I'll get it! *(look like opening door/turn to side)*

Jenna: Hi Billy! How's it going?

Billy: Hey Jenna! Thanks for coming. This is going to be the best birthday party ever!

Jenna: Um, actually...I can't stay. Sorry Billy, but we always have dust bunny hunts at my house on Sunday afternoons. I can't miss out on the cleaning fun!

Billy: You would rather stay home and clean than come to my party?

Jenna: Yep! Sure would! Sorry about that...seeya at school tomorrow! Bye!

Billy: Bye. *(mumbles)* Gee...thanks for nothing, Jenna.

Jason: *(make noise: knock, knock, knock)*

Billy: Hello? Welcome to the best birthday party ever!!!

Jason: Hiya, Billy! Happy Birthday, Buddy! I just came to tell you that I hope you have an awesome party, but I gotta go. I have to clip my toenails tonight. My Mom has the clippers and the nail file and the lotion and everything all ready to go!

Billy: What!?!? Ewwww! Is this a joke? You're going to go clip your toe nails instead of coming to my party? That's crazy!

Jason: Sorry, Billy! I'm outta here! Catch ya later.

Billy: Awwww, man! This is horrible. First Jenna couldn't come, and now Jason isn't staying either. This stinks. My party should have started half an hour ago and nobody is here. I thought they were my friends! It's NOT going to be the best birthday party ever...it's the WORST!

(begins to cry and sob)

Mom: What's the matter, Billy? Don't cry! You are the birthday boy!

Billy: It's my party and I'll cry if I want to! Nobody is coming to the party. It's the worst birthday ever. Jason and Jenna were both here, but they gave me lame excuses and left. Now I won't have a party at all. Everything will be wasted! What are we going to do with the cake and prizes and decorations?

Mom: Well...it would be a shame if it went to waste. Maybe...I have an idea! I could call your teacher and ask if we could bring the party to your classroom at school tomorrow afternoon. It would be a little late...but better late than never! Now EVERYONE can be included and invited to your birthday party after all!

Billy: Um...Ok, Mom. That would be ok...in fact, that would be great. Thanks, Mom. You are the best.

THE END

Lesson Reflection

Art Activity "Inviting and Including "

Engage children in a service project or craft that involves inviting and/or including others. One idea would be to help the children create invitations to give to use to invite someone to an event at your church, maybe Easter Sunday activities or worship. A second option would be to decorate paper lunch bags and donate them to a feeding program that provides sack lunches for homeless or hungry people. Use your imagination and feel free to do any activity that is relevant to the life of your church and teaches about inviting and including others in some way.

Closing Prayer: Consider using a "repeat after me prayer" to close each of the Lent lessons. Pause between every few words, allowing the children to echo what you have said. Dear Jesus,/You are/so good./Help us/to walk/your ways/and serve others/as you would serve./Amen.

Parable of the Lost Coin (Luke 15:8-10) Lesson for Lent

 ministry-to-children.com/parable-of-the-lost-coin

Written by Nicole VanderMeulen Last updated March 13, 2019 1 Comment

March 30, 2010

This lesson is part **5 of 5** in our study called "Walk His Ways" based on the parables of Jesus. They were prepared for the Lenten season, but could be used anytime of year. This lesson explores losing and finding God, connecting with prayer, and reinforces the idea that God NEVER loses us with the story of The Lost Coin.

Bible Story: The Parable of the Lost Coin

Scripture: [Luke 15:8-10](#)

Target Age Group: Age 3 – 12 (U.S. preschool – 6th Grade)

Time: 45 Minutes

Learning Context: Children's Church or Sunday School

Learning Objectives:

Children will experience the story of The Lost Coin, exploring how we might lose God and how we can find him again.

Items Needed:

- Shoe nametags & extra supplies
- Search & Find Picture Books (I Spy, Where's Waldo)
- Large Paper or Poster Board
- Crayons/Markers
- Glue
- Plastic Eggs with Candy/Prizes
- [Walk His Ways Kids' Guide PDF](#)
- Puppets
- Bag of Coins, Ticket, Random Collection of Stuff
- Plastic or Wood Cubes
- Prayers

Introduction:

- **Nametags:** Children find their shoe nametag that they made during the first lesson and put it on. If there are children without a nametag, provide materials and allow them to make one.
- **Search & Find Picture Books:** Provide a stack of search and find picture books. Two popular series are "Where's Waldo?" and "I Spy". Your local library should carry many of these books! Children, most likely in pairs, search the picture books to find the things that are "lost" or hidden.
- **Pray Big:** Provide large poster board or mural paper and markers or crayons.

Children can write words or draw pictures of things or people they want to pray for, inside the letters P-R-A-Y written on large paper.

- **Discussion Questions:** *What were you doing with the books? Why? Do you ever think we lose God? Does he lose us? How can we find him? What things or people can you pray for? Why should we pray?*
- **Check in about the “Walk His Ways” challenges if you are using the guides.**

Game: Lost and Found Games

– In advance, hide a plastic Easter egg with a small piece of candy or prize for each child. Children search for a hidden Easter egg.

– One child waits outside, while group agrees on a hiding place for an object (plastic egg?). After it's hidden, child comes inside and searches. The group claps louder when the finder gets closer to the hidden object, and softer when they make a wrong turn.

Discuss: *How do you find God when you lose him? Can anyone or anything help us?*

Story: The parable story is taught in this lesson using the following puppet script. You may also want to read Luke 15:8-10 from the Bible. Use these follow-up discussion questions after the puppet show: **What happened? What did Billy do when we found his lost coin? Do we ever get lost from God? Does he lose us or do we lose him? How do we find God? How does God feel about that?**

Parable Puppet Show: The Lost Coin

Materials: two puppets, bag of coins, ticket, lots of random stuff

Billy: *(holding a bag of coins, jingle pop can with coins for sound effect)* That's it! This is really it! I just earned the last dollar coin I need to go to the movies. Now I can finally go see “Monsters vs. Aliens in 3D”. Wow! All that lawn mowing and leaf raking and babysitting is FINALLY going to pay off. I can't wait to go to the movies with Jenna. I hope she gets here soon!

Jenna: Hey Billy!

Billy: Hiya Jenna. I am so super excited to go to the movies with you! Lets go, lets go, lets go!

Jenna: Hold your horses, Buddy! We'll get there. My Mom's outside waiting in the car. Here's your ticket. She bought them for us last night before they sold out. You owe me \$10.

Billy: The money is all right here. I hope dollar coins are ok. I just love saving these big dollar coins. I know I have enough because I just got the last coin this morning from Mrs. Jones after I watered her flowers. But let me count it for you, just to be sure; one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine....WHAT!?!? Only NINE!?!? There must be some mistake.

Jenna: Here. Let me try counting. Kids, will you help me? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine....Uh Oh, there is definitely only nine coins here, Billy.

Billy: *(crying/sobbing)* Oh, no! This is HORRIBLE! Now I won't be able to see "Monsters vs. Aliens" after all. This stinks. I worked so hard...and for what? NOTHING! THAT'S what!

Jenna: Don't freak out yet. Lets try to find your missing coin. Maybe it's just lost. Come on!

(Both puppets go behind the curtain, and start throwing random props over the curtain while they search for the coin...)

Billy: Oh this is horrible! A monkey, a stick, and Kleenex, but no coin anywhere!

Jenna: Here's a ping pong ball...oh, and a really pretty scarf.

Billy: JENNA! Concentrate! We need to find my coin.

Jenna: *(Jenna and Billy come back up)* Well, I didn't see it down there anywhere, Billy. Hey...maybe we should ask the kids to help us look for the lost coin. It HAS to be around here somewhere. Can you do that kids? Go! Find Billy's missing coin!

(kids look for hidden coin and when someone finds it teacher gives it to Billy)

Billy: Woohoo! Hooray! You kids are awesome! Thank you SO much. I am so excited! Now we can go to the movie after all!

Jenna: That's enough dancing! We gotta go if you don't want to miss the beginning of the movie. Come on!

Billy: Seeya kids! Thanks again for your help finding my lost coin. Bye!

Art Activity: Prayer Cube Children color and decorate six paper squares, each with different prayers on them and then glue them to a large block to make a prayer dice to use to help choose a prayer to say. Consider using mealtime and bedtime sets of prayers the kids can choose from. I have found inexpensive plastic colored ABC blocks at Big Lots that work well, but you could use a wood, or any other type of cube. ***Why should we pray? How does prayer help us find God?***

Prayer: Consider using a "repeat after me prayer" to close each of the Lent lessons. Pause between every few words, allowing the children to echo what you have said. Dear Jesus,/You are/so good./Help us/to walk/your ways/and serve others/as you would serve./Amen.

Parable of Foolish Rich Man (Luke 12:16-21) Lesson for Lent

 ministry-to-children.com/parable-of-the-foolish-rich-man

Written by Nicole VanderMeulen Last updated March 13, 2019 [Leave a Comment](#)

March 9, 2010

This lesson is part **4 of 5** in our study called "[Walk His Ways](#)" based on the parables of Jesus. They were prepared for the Lenten season, but could be used anytime of year. This lesson explores needs and wants and helping everyone to have enough with Jesus' story of the Rich Fool.

Bible Story: The Parable of the Foolish Rich Man

Scripture: [Luke 12:16-21](#)

Target Age Group: Age 3 – 12 (U.S. preschool – 6th Grade)

Time: 45 Minutes

Learning Context: Children's Church

Learning Objectives: Children will experience the story of The Foolish Rich Man, exploring the difference between wants and needs and considering as God's people how we can help care for everyone.

Items Needed:

- Shoe nametags & extra supplies
- Magazines
- Scissors
- Glue Sticks
- Poster Board
- Markers
- [Walk His Ways Kids' Guide PDF](#)
- Puppets
- Cup, Lemonade Sign, Coins
- Cardboard Banks
- Fair Trade Chocolate
- Non Fair Trade Chocolate

Introduction:

- **Nametags:** Children find their shoe nametag that they made during the first lesson and put it on. If there are children without a nametag, provide materials and allow them to make one.
- **Needs vs. Wants Collages:** Children cut out magazine pictures of things and work with their table or small group to glue them on large piece of poster board divided into two columns titled needs/wants.
- **Discussion Questions:** *What is a need? What is a want? What's the difference? Is it ok*

to get things we want? Are there people who don't have their "needs"? I wonder how God feels about people's needs and wants? How can we help make sure everyone's needs are met?

- **Check in about the "Walk His Ways" challenges if you are using the guides.**

Game: This or That Hunger Awareness

Children stand along one wall, and in response to the following questions move from one side of the room to the other. Go stand by the other wall if...

- *You have eaten dessert or a sweet treat this week. (hungry people in poor countries rarely get dessert)*
- *You can drink water many times a day. (some people are hungry because they have no water to drink or to grow food)*
- *Your freezer at home has bags or boxes of food in it. (people in many places don't have refrigerators or freezers to keep food fresh)*
- *You have to walk a mile to get to the nearest drink of water. (in many countries people do, and even then the water is dirty)*
- *You ate meat today. (many people eat only grains and never get to eat fish or meat)*

Discuss each item as you come to it and end with a repeat after me prayer thanking God for food and asking to help us make no one hungry.

Bible Story: The Parable of the Rich Fool

The parable story is taught in this lesson using the following puppet script. You may also want to read Luke 12:16-21 from the Bible. Use these follow-up discussion questions after the puppet show: **What happened? What was Billy doing wrong? What does God want us to do with our money and our things? Is it fair for some people to have a lot and others to have barely anything at all?**

Parable Puppet Show: Lemonade For Sale!

An Adaptation of the Parable of the Foolish Rich Man

Materials: one boy puppet, two girl puppets, cup, lemonade sign, coins

Billy: (*shouting*) Lemonade \$.25, Lemonade \$.25, (*notices audience*) Oh! Hi kids! My name is Billy. Do you like my lemonade stand? I'm raising money for my favorite cause...ME! I started out trying to get enough money to buy this really cool little airplane I saw at the toy store, but business was really good earlier today and I've got plenty of change for that, see (*jingles coins*). I've got even more hidden in a box underneath my lemons. If business gets any better, I might have to get a bigger box, or bigger lemons? (*scratches his head*) Hmm...Hold it, here comes a customer!

Jenna: Hey Billy!

Billy: Hiya Jenna. What can I do for you?

Jenna: I want another glass of lemonade. It's pretty good! Can you hurry? It's hot out here! Here's my nickel.

Billy: Jenna! Can't you read the sign? The price is \$.25 a glass.

Jenna: \$.25?! A little while ago I got a glass for \$.05?

Billy: Well that was early this morning when I was just getting started. The price has gone up.

Jenna: Gone up? But I walked all the way across the street to get some lemonade. I'm thirsty and it's hot out here!

Billy: That's right and the hotter it gets the more people want lemonade, and the more people WANT lemonade, the more it's going to cost.

Jenna: But Billy, THAT'S not fair!

Billy: THAT'S supply and demand.

Jenna: But I'm thirsty and all I have is a nickel.

Billy: Well, looks like you're going to be walking back across the street thirsty.

Jenna: That's not very nice.

Billy: Take it or leave it.

Jenna: Whatever! (*Exits*)

Billy: Oh Well, that's just a drop in the bucket. There's plenty more customers where she came from. In fact, I've got so much money I don't even think I want that little airplane anymore. It's dinky! I think I'll buy one of those flying model airplanes with the remote control, the super-de-duper-deluxe model! Nobody I know has one of those. That'll be so cool! I'll be set for life and then if I have enough left over, I think I'll have a pizza party for...me! A lovely cheese pizza just for me! And some soda pop, lots of soda pop! Pizza... soda pop and party all night long! Wahoo (*dances a little*). Well, at least until my bedtime...Oh good. Here comes another customer.

Julie: Hi Billy. Whatcha doin'?

Billy: Hi Julie! I'm selling lemonade. What to buy some?

Julie: Gee, I don't know. It sure looks good, but a quarter...that's kind of a lot, isn't it?

Billy: What? No way. I've sold all kinds of lemonade today. I've made a fortune!

Julie: Really? What are you going to do with all that money?

Billy: Well, first thing I'm going to do is make a bunch more money and then I'm going to spend it on...ME!

Julie: But Billy? Doesn't your Mom & Dad give you an allowance?

Billy: Well, ya, but...

Julie: And don't they get you anything you need?

Billy: Well yes, but I want to be set for life!

Julie: Life! Billy, you are only six!

Billy: You can never start too early.

Julie: Gee, I don't know *(scratches her head)*.

Billy: You don't know if you like lemonade or not?

Julie: Nooo...I don't know if it's ok for you to charge so much for your lemonade just so you can have a big airplane and pizza and soda and party all night long.

Billy: Well, why not? It sounds pretty awesome to me!

Julie: Well, it's just that you don't need all that stuff and I know there are other kids who don't even have the things they DO need like food and clothes and a place to live. It doesn't seem fair for you to have so much and someone else to have nothing.

Billy: Hmmm....maybe you're right Julie. I've been kinda selfish.

Julie: AND greedy too...

Billy: Ok, fine...and greedy too. I guess I don't need a super-de-duper-deluxe airplane. I think I'll just get the little one and give the rest of my money to someone who needs it more, like the kids who need backpacks of food over the weekend that we are using our Sunday School offering at church to buy.

Julie: I think that's a great idea Billy! Way to go! Wow, I'm really thirsty. Now, could I have a glass of lemonade?

Billy: Sure Julie. That'll be \$.25. I'm saving for kids who need food, now. *(Shakes his money)*

Julie: *(hits herself in the head)* Uhhhggg!!

Billy: Bye, everybody!

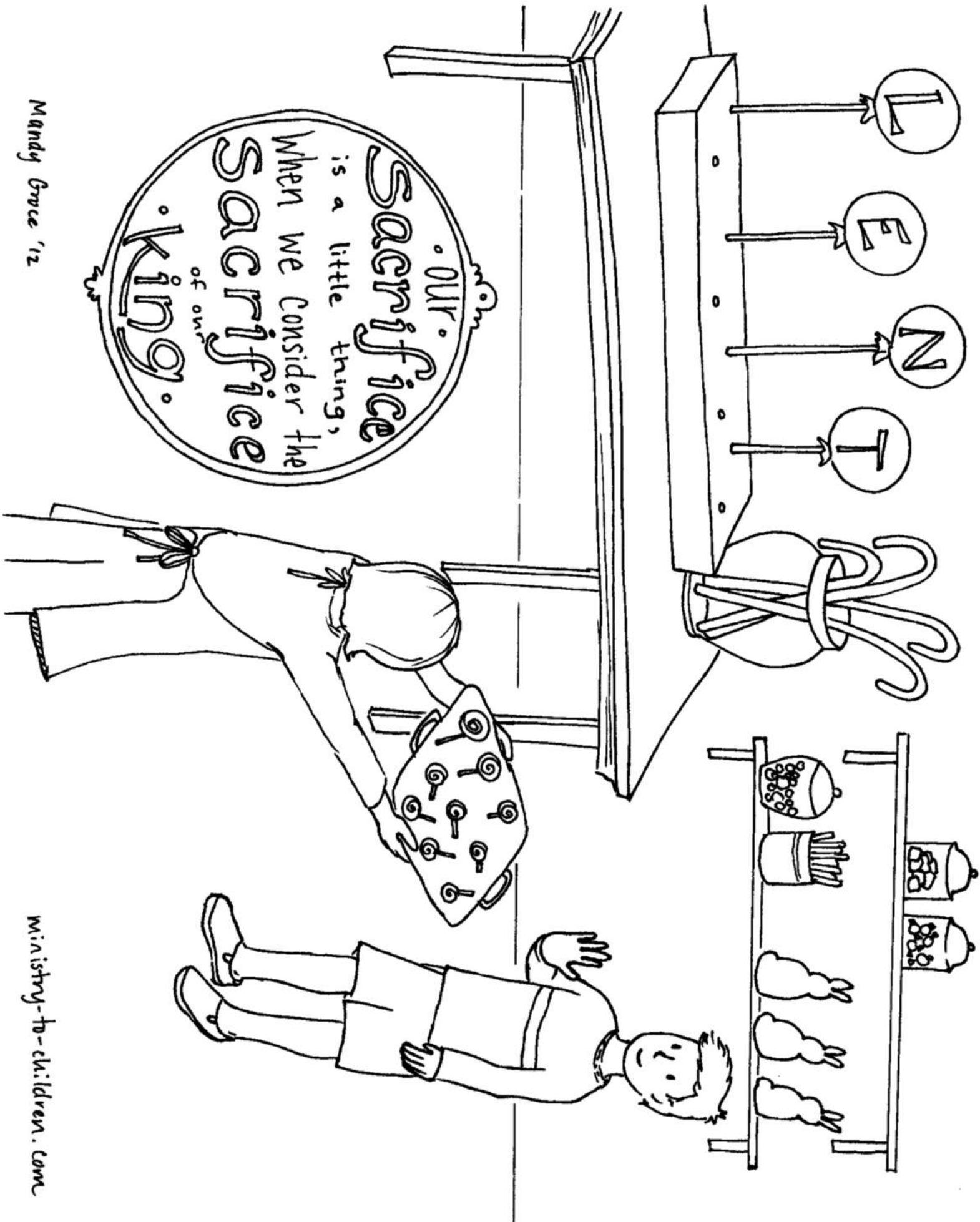
Julie: Bye!

THE END

Art Activity: Bank On It! Children decorate a small cardboard bank to use to save money to give to others by cutting out magazine pictures of things people need; food, clothing, shelter, love and gluing them on to the bank. Discuss different places where they might give the money they save; buy an animal, give to Sunday School offering project, donate to food bank, etc. Small plain cardboard banks can be purchased here or you can use any small container that closes and just add a slit for the money.

Snack Activity: Chocolate Comparison Provide each child with a small piece of Fair Trade chocolate and one piece that isn't Fair Trade. Remove the chocolate pieces from their wrappers before class and place them on plates labeled "A" and "B". Ask the children to compare and contrast the chocolate. Which piece was better? Discuss how purchasing Fair Trade products can help others in need. You and your children can learn much more about Fair Trade through these websites:

Prayer: Consider using a "repeat after me prayer" to close each of the Lent lessons. Pause between every few words, allowing the children to echo what you have said. Dear Jesus,/You are/so good./Help us/to walk/your ways/and serve others/as you would serve./Amen.



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