

LESSON PLAN

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

Luke 16:19-31

Lesson Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 6:2b - "Behold, now is the accepted time: **behold now is the day of salvation.**" (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion in **bold.**)

Lesson Aim: To help children find Jesus Christ as their Savior, who will save them from Hell.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

Is a lesson on Hell too violent for children? Some educators may think a story about Hell is too scary for children...that it will give them nightmares. Maybe it is frightening, but that does not make it bad. It is God's Word to warn us of the awful punishment for sin. And remember most children see far more violence on TV than this lesson could ever teach. Also, TV violence destroys a child's character; a Bible lesson on the Savior who delivers sinners from Hell will build a child's character.

One word of warning: Do not threaten children with Hell, but simply tell them the truth about Hell. Tell them that lost sinners do go to Hell, but also tell them that Jesus came to save lost sinners from Hell. No one needs to go to Hell. A person simply needs to repent of his sins and receive Jesus Christ to be saved. When a person calls on the Lord Jesus Christ, he will be saved from the horrors of Hell.

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever burned yourself? Have you ever lit a match and let it burn too close to your fingers before you blew it out? Even a little fire can burn your fingers enough to make them hurt, can't it? Have any of you ever been burned so badly that you had to go to the doctor or to the hospital?

Fire is good when it warms our cold bodies, but it is bad when it burns our bodies. Have you ever seen a house on fire? That is frightening because people get burned in house fires every day.

Our Bible story is about a man who burned in Hell. (Have the children tell you what they know about Hell. It will give you a valuable insight on their knowledge of Hell.) This man did not need to be in Hell. He could have been saved from Hell, if he had repented of his sins and trusted in God to save him. But he burned in Hell because he loved his sins. Jesus tells us what this man saw, how he felt and what he said when he went to Hell. We want you to know this story so that you will make sure that you are saved from Hell by trusting what Jesus Christ did to save you from going there.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us that this is the day of salvation. That means God has done everything needed to save us from the penalty of our sins. What is the penalty for our sins? The penalty is to die and then be sent to Hell. But God loved us so much that He did not want to send anyone to Hell, so He made a plan to save us from Hell. What did He do? He asked His Son to pay the penalty for us by dying on the cross in our place. Jesus was willing to leave Heaven and come to earth to die so the penalty for our sins would be paid. He took all of our sins and died on the cross in our place. He did that so we would not have to go to Hell. Then they put His body in the grave for three days. This proved He had really died. On the third day, He arose from the grave to prove that the penalty for all of our sins was fully paid. God was satisfied with the sacrifice Jesus made for us and we would not have to go to Hell if we believed Jesus did this for us.

But salvation is more than Jesus' death on the cross for us. It includes Jesus' life after His death. Now He is alive forever; He will never die again. Jesus will share His life with those who love Him and will fully trust Him to save them. To do that, they must hate their sins and ask Him to save them from returning to their sins. That is how God can accept us into His family. That is why this is the day of salvation.

Difficult words and phrases explained:

"Behold" – the word is used to get our attention: "pay attention"

"Now is the accepted time" – this is a time when God can accept us

"Now is the day of salvation" – this is a day when sinners can be saved

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Our Bible lesson is a story of two beggars. Lazarus was a beggar on earth and the rich man was a beggar in Hell.

LESSON PLAN

(We suggest that you tell the story with visual aids for each point. Cut the pictures from a student's lesson sheet and glue them to a small card. Color them for better effect. Other pictures that you may need can be simple stick figures drawn on the same size card. The picture needed for each point will be put in parentheses after each point in the lesson outline.)

I. Lazarus (Luke 16:9-22, 25)

First, let us consider Lazarus; he was the beggar on earth. As you will notice, he did not have a good life on earth, but he was saved. As a result, he had peace and was fully satisfied with life in Heaven.

A. How did he live on earth? (16:19-210)

1. He was laid at the rich man's gate (find or draw a gate) – v. 20.
2. He was full of sores (picture from lesson sheet) – v. 20.
3. He desired to be fed with the crumbs from the rich man's table (from lesson sheet) – v. 21.
4. He had his sores licked by the dogs (find or draw a dog) – v. 21.

WE: We would not like to live on earth like Lazarus lived. Thank God if you have a nice place to live.

B. How did he live in Paradise (a place like Heaven)? (16:22, 25)

1. He was carried by angels to be with Abraham (find or draw angels) – v. 22.
2. He was comforted (draw a circle face with a smile) – v. 25.

WE: We would like to go to Heaven to enjoy the good things God has prepared for those who love Him.

II. Rich Man (Luke 16:19, 23-31)

Now let us consider the rich man; he was the beggar in Hell. You will notice that he had a very good life on earth, but he was unsaved. As a result, he was tormented in the next life.

A. How did he live on earth? (16:19)

1. He had nice clothes (from lesson sheet) – v. 19.
2. He had good food every day (find a picture of food or use from the lesson sheet) – v. 19.

WE: We would like the nice clothes and good food that the rich man had.

B. How did he live in Hell? (16:23-31)

1. He was in torments (draw a circle face that shows pain) – v. 23.
2. He saw Lazarus in Abraham's bosom (lesson sheet) – v. 23.
3. He asked Lazarus to cool his tongue with a little water on the tip of his finger (lesson sheet) – v. 24.
4. Abraham could not give him any water (write "NO WATER" in large letters) – v. 25.
5. Abraham told the rich man that a great gulf (or canyon) separated him from Lazarus and himself so that people could not go from Paradise to Hell (draw a great gulf) – v. 26.
6. He wanted Lazarus to go to his father's house and warn his five brothers of hell (make five stick men) – vs. 27-28.
7. Abraham said they have the Bible (Moses and the prophets) to warn them of Hell (use the book in the lesson or draw a scroll) – v. 29.
8. He argued with Abraham to try to convince him to send Lazarus up from the dead so that his brothers would really listen to the warning (use the grave picture in the lesson and have a stick figure rising from the grave to represent Lazarus) – v. 30.
9. Abraham told the rich man that a person rising from the dead would not convince his brothers if they would not listen to God's Word (write "NOT LISTEN") – v. 31.

WE: We certainly do not want to go to Hell like the rich man did, and we do not have to go there if we believe that Jesus paid the penalty for our sins. However, there are many who do not believe what Jesus did for them. And there are many who cannot receive Jesus as their Savior, because they love their sins, the very sins that put Jesus on the cross. But many will go to Hell that did not plan to go there; they will be in Hell because they waited too long to ask Jesus to save them. Do not be like them.

BE (for Action): Hell is a terrible place from which there is no way of escape once you are there. God does not want to send anyone to hell, but He must do so if a person does not hate his sins and has not asked Jesus to be his Savior. If you are concerned about going to Hell, please talk with me after class.