"Animal Tales" - LESSON 5
"The Camel"

Main Focus:
We must love God more than money and possessions

Power Verse:
"…it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" – Matthew 19:24

Watt's Up:
"I'll Love God More Than All Of My Stuff!"

LEADER'S INFO

Can a camel fit through the eye of a needle? Seems like a silly question, doesn't it? Well, that question actually comes from something Jesus said. He said it would be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter Heaven.

Why did Jesus say that? Well, the children are going to learn all about that AND the story of the Rich Young Ruler in this lesson. They are going to learn how important it is to make sure that God is #1 in your life – above EVERYTHING!

The Rich Young Ruler had it all - or so it seemed. What he lacked was a desire to serve God over money and possessions. In this lesson, the children will learn how to say "Goodbye" to money and "Hello" to God!

"The Spark" Intro Video
Emilie visits "Humpfrey" the camel

"Watt's Up?" Teaching Video
Skittles teaches "Watt's Up?"

Character Skit
"The Actor"

Offering Time

Game On!
"Cup Stack"

Bible Story
"The Rich Young Ruler"

Power Verse Video
"…it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God!" – Matthew 19:24

Call To Action
"Through The Eye Of A Needle"

Brain Drain
PowerPoint Review Game

Small Group Experience

Main Focus:
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Small Group Experience

Lesson 5 Materials Needed:

"The Spark" Intro Video
- "Animal Tales" Video

"Watt's Up?" Teaching Video
- "Watt's Up?" Teaching Video
- "Watt's Up?" Trigger Video

Character Skit
- "The Actor" Theme Graphic/Music
- Large goatee
- Moustache
- Sunglasses
- Large backpack (filled with random objects such as DVD playwe, coffee maker, hair dryer, trophies, polish, snacks, toilet paper, etc.)
- Small water gun

Offering Time
- "Offering Time" Bumper Video

Game On!
- "Game On!" Bumper Video
- "Cup Stack" Graphic (in PowerPoint Presentation)
- Six large sytrofoam cups
- A table
- A Stopwatch

Bible Story
- "The Rich Young Ruler" Graphics (in PowerPoint Presentation)
- Bible

Power Verse Video
- "Power Verse" Video

Call To Action
- "Through The Eye Of A Needle" Graphics (in PowerPoint Presentation)
- A sock with a hole in it
- A needle and thread
- A red heart
- Stack of money

Brain Drain
- PowerPoint Review Game (in PowerPoint Presentation)

Small Group Experience
- Camel Print Piece (in Small Group)
- Cardboard paper towel tube
- Scissors
- Stuck On Stuff Print Piece (in Small Group)
- Pencils, crayons, or markers
- Bibles

CHARACTER SKIT

Character: "The Actor" *(he is a "method actor" who really gets into his roles which just happen to always be animal roles)*

ACTOR: *(comes out slowly wearing a large backpack that is completely stuffed - struggles underneath it's weight)* Thank you! Thank you! No need…for…applause!

Leader: WOW - that looks heavy!

ACTOR: *(laughs)* You know, there's a funny explanation for that. It looks heavy because *(struggles to take it off, slams it down)* It is. Phew!

Leader: What sort of animal are you pretending to be THIS time? A turtle?

ACTOR: No, I already did that three years ago. The film was called "Tiny Timmy Turtle's Trot to Tinker Town."

Leader: That's hard to say.

ACTOR: ACTING! THANK YOU! *(takes a bow)* No, this week I am portraying that great wanderer of the desert - that hump-backed wonder - the hamster.

Leader: Don't you mean camel?

ACTOR: That's what I said. And THIS *(struggles to pick up backpack)* is my hump! *(puts on the backpack and starts walking around)* Just like a camel, I shall carry all of my earthly belongings on my back! *(loses balance, falls over, struggles to get back up)* ACTING! THANK YOU!

Leader: *(helps him up)* Camels don't carry their belongings on their backs. They store a bunch of fat back there to help keep them hydrated in the desert.

ACTOR: *(laughs and sighs)* Just shows how LITTLE you know about the animal kingdom. A backpack full of fat? That's DISGUSTING. No camel would wear that!

Leader: Camels don't wear backpacks either!

ACTOR: *(points at his own face)* See this? This is my "ignoring you" face. *(unzips the backpack and starts pulling things out)* Yes, I've got EVERYTHING I could ever want! DVD player, coffee maker, hair dryer, my various acting awards, POLISH for those awards, snacks, toilet paper - ooh, better not get those two confused…

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CHARACTER SKIT
(continued)

Leader: That's a ton of stuff. Do you really need it all?

ACTOR: *(gasps, points at his face)* See this? This is my "HOW DARE YOU?!" face! This isn't just any old stuff. This is MY stuff! It's the most important stuff in the world! I can't LIVE without this stuff! Nothing is more important!

Leader: Not even God?

ACTOR: I am fairly certain that God does not want to be crammed into my backpack next to my socks. *(looks into the backpack)* Nope! No room for God in there.

Leader: Listen, don't you know that you have to put God FIRST with your MONEY and your POSSESSIONS?!

ACTOR: But it's MY stuff.

Leader: Not really. God made everything. He already has the right to it. If God has your HEART, He will also have your STUFF! You won't have to worry about it so much because it'll be under the control of someone you can trust!

ACTOR: Someone I can trust? *(thinks for a second)* My gardener!

Leader: No! GOD! If you obey God and give Him control over your stuff, you'll be blessed! It's a win-win situation!

ACTOR: Really? So…God DOES want to be stuffed into my backpack? What if he eats all of my snacks?

Leader: Good grief! Why don't you just hang around and listen to the rest of today's lesson?

ACTOR: Can do! I have to finish preparing for my role as a hamster - I mean CAMEL, anyway. *(straps the backpack on)* Now if you'll excuse me, I've got to practice another thing that camels do. *(pulls out a small water gun from his pocket and squirts the leader)* Spitting. ACTING! THANK YOU! *(takes a bow)* Exit - STAGE LEFT - while SPITTING! (exits as he shoots the watergun at the kids while his theme music plays)

GAME ON!

"Cup Stack"

Items Needed For Game:

Six large styrofoam cups; a table; a stopwatch

Preparation:

Place the table in the center of the stage.

How To Play:

Choose one boy and one girl to participate in this game. Choose which contestant will go first. When you say, "Go!", the contestant must try to stack the cups *(alternating the direction; the first one will sit upright like normal, then the next one will sit lip to lip with the first one, then the next cup will sit bottom to bottom with the one below it, alternating directions each time so that they will stack up high)*.

Time how long it takes for the first contestant to accomplish this task. The next contestant must try to accomplish the task faster. Whoever has the fastest time is declared the winner!

Bible Story
"The Rich Young Ruler"

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson 2; begin with the slide that says "Bible Story"; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story *(as shown)*

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Matthew 19:16-29; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today's Bible Story is found in the book of Matthew, chapter 19. There was a young man *(show pic)* who approached Jesus and asked Him, "What must I do to receive eternal life?" He obviously was ready to put his faith in God. Jesus answered him, "Obey the commandments."

The young man didn't miss a beat. He responded to Jesus *(show pic)*, "I've done this ever since I was a little boy. What else must I do?" You see, this young man knew that there must be more to it than just keeping a list of rules. He had been doing this all of his life, yet he still felt empty inside.

Jesus knew this young man had kept the commandments in the scriptures, but He also knew that there was something this young man loved very much - TOO much, in fact. You see, this young man is known in the Bible as the "Rich Young Ruler." He had a LOT of money. He LOVED his money. *(show pic)* Jesus said, "Sell all you have and give it to the poor." WOW! Jesus told this young man to sell EVERYTHING he owns and give that money to the poor. That's huge! How do you think he responded? Do you know what the young man did?

The Bible says that *(show pic)* the young man walked away sad because he loved his money and possessions too much. It's not that Jesus really wanted him to be poor. Jesus just wanted him to be willing to put God ahead of his money. The sad thing is, because he loved his money so much, he ended up losing out on being Jesus' disciple - and he missed out on eternal life.

Jesus turned to the disciples and said, "I tell you the truth. It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God." What did Jesus mean by this? You're going to learn exactly what Jesus meant in your lesson today. You are going to learn that when you love money, possessions, power, and popularity, it will destroy your relationship with God. Instead, you must put GOD at the #1 spot in your life.

Call To Action
"Through The Eye Of A Needle"

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; a sock with a hole in it; a needle and thread; a red heart; stack of money

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled "Lesson Five," begin with the slide titled "Through The Eye Of A Needle"

The Message: *(title slide)*

Before we get started with the lesson, I need to take care of something. *(pull out the sock)* This morning, I noticed that one of my socks had a hole in it. Looks sad, doesn't it. Well, I didn't have time to fix the hole this morning. So, I thought I would just take a moment and sew it up. That ok? Great!

(take out the needle and thread) Now, the first thing I have to do is get this thread through the needle so I can start to sew up the hole. *(take a little while showing how small the eye of the needle is and how hard it is to get the thread through it)* Wow! This is harder than I thought. The eye of this needle is SO small. I can hardly get this thread to go through it. I better save this job for later! *(put away the sock and thread)*

As hard as it was to get the thread through the eye of the needle, can you imagine how hard it would be to get a CAMEL through the eye of a needle? IMPOSSIBLE! Well, in our Bible Story today we learned that Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God. Why do you think Jesus said this?

Jesus said this because many times those who have a lot of money end up loving their money more than God. Many of you think you want to be rich one day, but there is a danger that you must be aware of. Money can become TOO important in your life. The more you have, the harder it is to keep it in the right place. There are a few things you need to learn if you are going to keep money in its rightful place...

I Must Put God First In My Money & Possessions *(slide)*

God made everything. He made you. He made me. He gave us life. He also gave us the strength and the abilities we have that help us make money. If God created me, and everything I have is a result of the gift of life He gave me, then it only makes sense that everything I have I received from God. Right?

You see, the Bible teaches that all things were created by God and belong to God. He chooses to give those things to His children. We must realize that everything we have belongs to God. We can't say, "This is MY

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Call To Action
(Continued)

money!' We can't say, "This is MY stuff!" Everything we have we received from Him. He is just letting us use it while we are here on Earth.

I hear so many people say, "Well, I will use my money to pay my bills, buy important stuff for me, and if I have some money left over, then I will give that to God. If not, then oh well." The Bible teaches us that we are to give God 10% of all the money we make. That's called the tithe. We can't give God leftovers. We have to put Him FIRST in our money and possessions.

You say, "Well, I am pretty sure I do that. I am pretty sure I put God first in my money and possessions. How do I know if I do or not?" Well, I am glad you asked. It's like this...

If God Has My Heart, He'll Also Have My "Stuff" *(slide)*

(Every time you see a red word, hold up the heart. When you see a green word, hold up the money)

Matthew 6:21 says, *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* There is an interesting connection between these two things – your heart and your treasure (or your money). If you want to know where this is, take a look at where this is going. If you want to know where your heart is, you just look at where you spend your money. If you love video games, your money will go towards video games. If you love candy, you will spend a lot of treasure on candy.

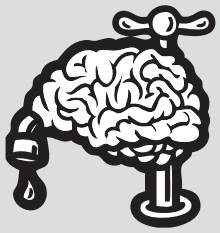
You can say, "But I don't love STUFF more than God." Then, just look at the last time you got some money for your birthday. How easy was it for you to spend this on toys for yourself? Pretty easy! You know why? Because you love toys. That's where your heart is, so you have no problem putting your treasure there. NOW, think how hard it might have been for you to give that same money in a church offering instead. It might have been harder, it might have been easier. Why? Because wherever this is, this will follow. Make sense? That's how you know if you are allowing God to be MORE important than your money and possessions.

If I Obey, I Will Be Blessed *(slide)*

If we honor God by putting Him first, recognizing that He owns everything we have anyway, then He will make sure our lives are taken care of. Now, that doesn't mean that we can pay our tithe then make a Christmas Wish List of all the things we want God to give us. But it does mean that if we put God first before money, then He will make sure our needs are met. If we obey Him, He will bless us big-time!

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Pray that the kids will never choose to put money before God. Have them stand if they have decided to say, "I Will Put God First In My Life!" Then, challenge them to bring money for the offering next week.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD

Preparation:

Play the "Brain Drain" Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled "Lesson Five," begin with the slide titled "Brain Drain"; there is a slide for each question

1. Watt's Up today?
Answer: "I'll Love God More Than All Of My Stuff!"

2. What animal did we learn from today?
Answer: Camel

3. What do we call the young man who came to Jesus in our Bible Story?
Answer: Rich Young Ruler

4. What did the young man ask Jesus?
Answer: What Must I Do To Get Eternal Life?

5. How did the Rich Young Ruler respond when Jesus told him to sell his stuff?
Answer: He Walked Away Sad

6. Jesus said it was easier for a camel to get through the _____ than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom Of God.
Answer: Eye Of A Needle

7. According to our lesson today, "I Must Put God _____ In My Money & Possessions."
Answer: First

8. According to our lesson today, "If God Has My _____, He Will Also Have My Stuff."
Answer: Heart

9. According to our lesson today, "If I Obey, I Will Be _____."
Answer: Blessed

10. Where was our Power Verse found?
Answer: Matthew 19:24

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