

General Church Education



The Rich Man & Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

Lesson 23

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 2: The Lord Is Our Shepherd

For ages 7-8 years

The Rich Man & Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

Ideas for Parents & Teachers

The beggar in this story represents those who want to do what is good and right but don't know how. They want to do what is good and right. In the spiritual world those who are good in heart are gently taught and prepared to be welcomed into their eternal home in heaven. They know they need help and are willing to seek it out and learn. These are the souls that the Lord can help because they are humble.

In contrast, the rich man of this parable was proud and cared only for himself. He knew he had a duty to help the poor but did nothing to help Lazarus, who lay at his gate. It was not because he was rich but because he was proud and selfish that he went to hell. When our minds are focused on ourselves there is no room for the Lord to come in. The choices we make in this life determine our eternal home. This home is permanent, so the choices we make are very important.

Young children happily learn about generosity. It is a little more difficult to bring that spirit of generosity into their daily lives because children naturally think of what they want. Generosity with others can be learned by example and instruction.

Ideas for Children

- Parables are stories with a hidden message.
- The Lord uses parables to lead people to understand the truth and how it applies to them.
- The way we live on earth determines our spiritual home.
- We need to be generous with all the many gifts the Lord gives us.

From the Writings

By the rich are meant those who have knowledges of truth and good from the Word. By the poor are meant those who do not have the Word and yet desire truths. *Apocalypse Explained* 118

Heaven is for all who live a life of faith and love, whether rich or poor. People can be formed for heaven only by means of the world. In the world are the outmost effects in which everyone's affection must be founded. A life of charity toward the neighbor, which is doing what is just and right in every work and in every employment, is what leads to heaven, and not a life of piety apart from charity. The poor come into heaven not on account of their poverty but because of their life. Everyone's life follows them, whether there were rich or poor. There is no peculiar mercy for one in preference to another; those that lived well are received, while those that have not lived well are rejected. See *Heaven and Hell* 357, 360 and 364

The Rich Man & Lazarus

The Lord Tells Another Parable

In this story the Lord taught people with a parable about a rich man who lived in a large house. He had splendid clothes made of the finest cloth. Everyday there was feasting with plenty of food at his house. In those days, people who very poor and had little food would gather at the gates of rich people's homes in order to get any food that was thrown out or left over. A hungry, poor, sick beggar named Lazarus lay at the gate of this rich man's house every day hoping for some food. Read the beginning of this story and find out how we know that Lazarus was sick.

Read Luke 16:19-21. What did you read that shows Lazarus was sick? (He was full of sores and he also had to be laid at the rich man's gate by someone because he could not walk on his own.)



Did anyone show kindness to Lazarus? (Only the dogs that came along and licked his sores.)

Even though this rich man had so much, it seems that he ignored this poor beggar and did nothing to help him. He was proud of himself and his riches and did not want to bother with those who were needy. But after a time both men died. Let's read on and find out what happened to each of them after death.

Read Luke 16:22-26.

Where did Lazarus end up? (The angels carried him to Abraham.)

What happened to the man who had been rich? (He was in hell.)

Being with Abraham stands for being in heaven.

The poor man who had suffered so much on earth was now living happily in heaven. But the rich man was now tormented in hell. He was suffering not because he had been rich but because he had been selfish. He had not helped Lazarus when he had the chance. The rich man knew that he should help those in trouble, and he could easily have done his part. But he was so selfish that he didn't even feed the poor beggar who lay at his gate. His selfishness seemed like a tormenting flame to him now.

There was a great gulf or distance between them which could not be crossed. When people go to the spiritual world, their true character comes out for all to see. The good and the evil cannot live together and are separated. In this way the good are protected from any evil harming them. They are safe and secure.



Read the rest of the story to learn about the rich man's request.

Read Luke 16:27-31. What did the rich man beg Abraham to do? (Send Lazarus back from the dead to warn his five brothers not to live selfishly.)

How did Abraham answer? (People need only Moses and the prophets to learn about how to live a good life. Someone returning from the dead would not convince them.)

Moses and the prophets mean the written Word of God. The commandments and other good lessons are written in the Word so that everyone can learn. The rich man had these and so did his brothers. The Lord is telling us in this parable that we have what we need to make good choices and become angels in heaven. We know true ideas from His Word, but we need to love the truth by doing it each day. How we live on earth decides where our spiritual home will be.

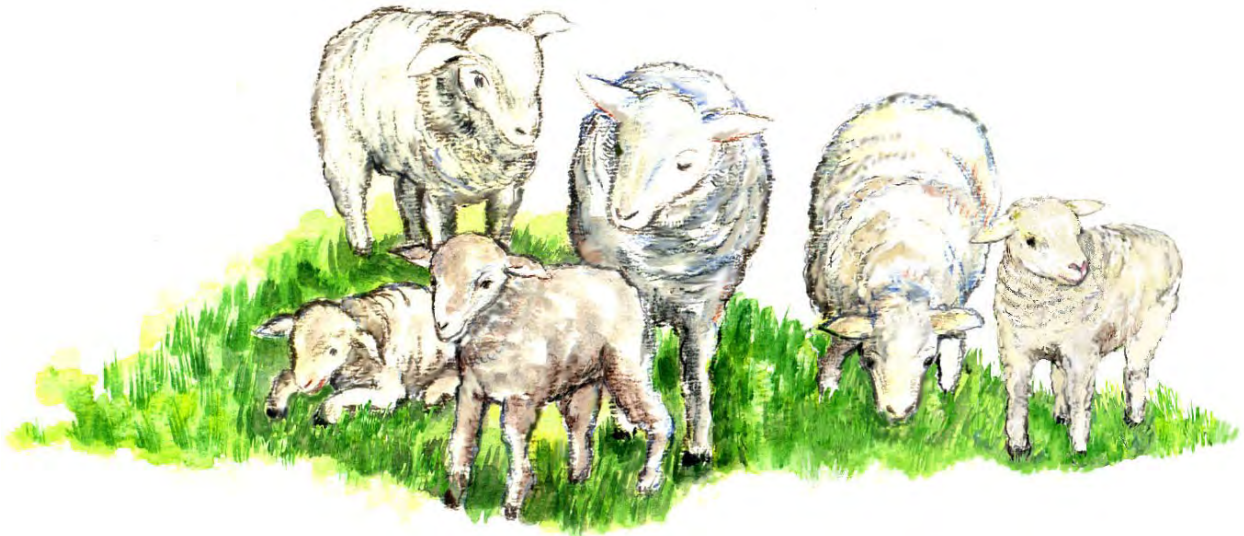
Generosity

Generosity is sharing what you have with others. There are many ways that we can be generous. All our earthly possessions are lent to us by the Lord to use in good ways while in this world. If

we love the Lord and our neighbor we will want to share what we have with others. Of course we need to take care of ourselves and our families, but then we can share with those in need. This could mean giving money or food to the poor or sick. It might be giving toys to poor children at Christmas time. We can give an offering to the Lord when we go to church.

There are other ways to be generous too. We can be generous in our thoughts about others. This means that we can think kindly of other people, looking for the good in them. It is generous to listen to the ideas of others and not always think our way is the only way. It is generous to accept someone's apology when they are sorry for something they have done wrong. It is also generous to say thank you when someone is kind to you or to say something nice to others when they do a good job. It is also generous to be helpful to someone.

We can be generous with the spiritual treasures learned from the Lord's Word. We can share what we know with others so that they can learn what is true and learn good ways to live. Although we tend to think of ourselves and want things for ourselves first, we must learn to be generous with others. Think how generous the Lord is with you and you will find it easier to be generous with others.



Discussion Questions

- In what ways is the Lord generous to you? (Answers will vary.)
- Can you think of a way you could be generous to your parents, your brothers or sisters, your teacher, your classmates, and your friends? (Answers will vary.)
- Tell about a time someone was generous to you. What did they do for you? How did you feel? Did you say, "Thank you"?

Activity Overview | The Rich Man & Lazarus

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

Seek the Lord while He may be found;
Call upon Him while He is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the Lord,
And he will have mercy on him;
And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55:6,7

Songs

All Hail the Great Immanuel's Name

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-all-hail-the-great-immanuels-name/>

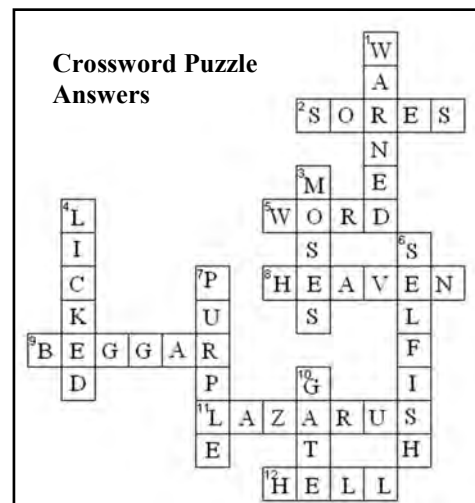
Activities

Choose one or two.

- Activity 1 | Lend a Helping Hand
- Activity 2 | The Rich Man and Lazarus Crossword Puzzle
- Picture to color

Additional Activity Ideas

- Notice someone in need and step up to help—at home, at church, at school, or when you are out.



Activity 1 | Lend a Helping Hand

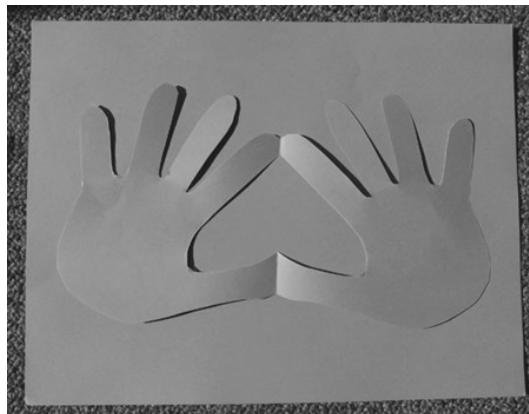
Lazarus the beggar needed help, but the rich man paid no attention to him. The Lord calls us to help others too. He works through our hands. Make two helping hands with a heart in between and write ways in which you want to help on each hand.

Materials

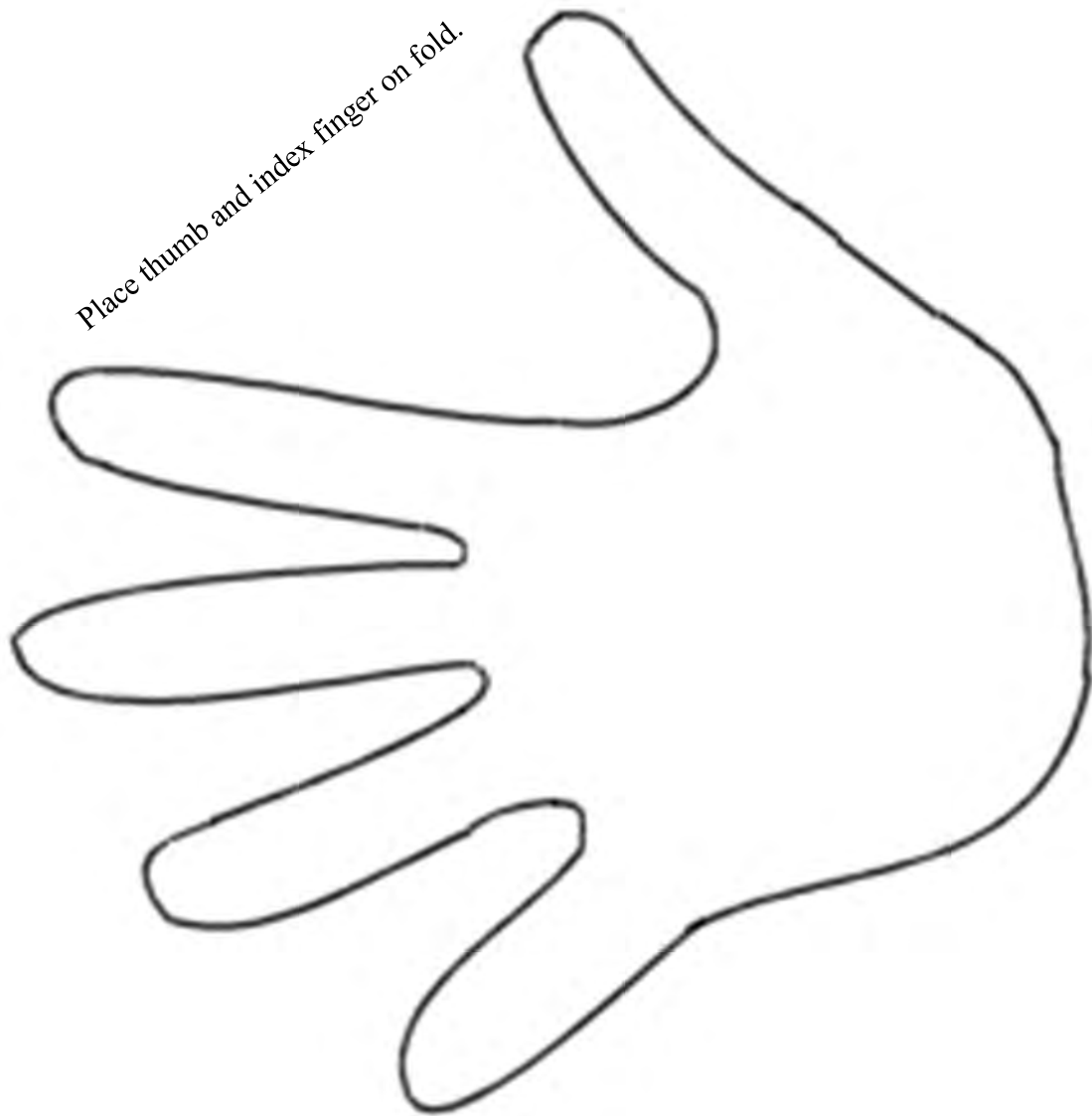
- a piece red paper, approx. 8½” x 11” (22x28cm)
- contrasting piece of colored paper, approx. 8½” x 11” (22x28cm), folded in half width-wise
- Helping Hand Template*
- scissors
- glue
- markers or colored pencils

Directions

1. Cut out the *Helping Hand Template*.
2. Place the template on the fold of the piece of *contrasting* colored paper, with the thumb and index finger touching the fold.
3. Draw around the template.
4. Cut around the hand *being careful not to cut between the index fingers and thumbs*.
5. Cut out the area *inside* the thumbs and index fingers. Open the hands up to reveal a heart between them.
6. Write one way in which you would like to use your hands to help others on the palm of each hand.
7. Glue the open hands to the piece of red paper so that the writing shows, and the finished picture reveals a beautiful red heart between the hands.



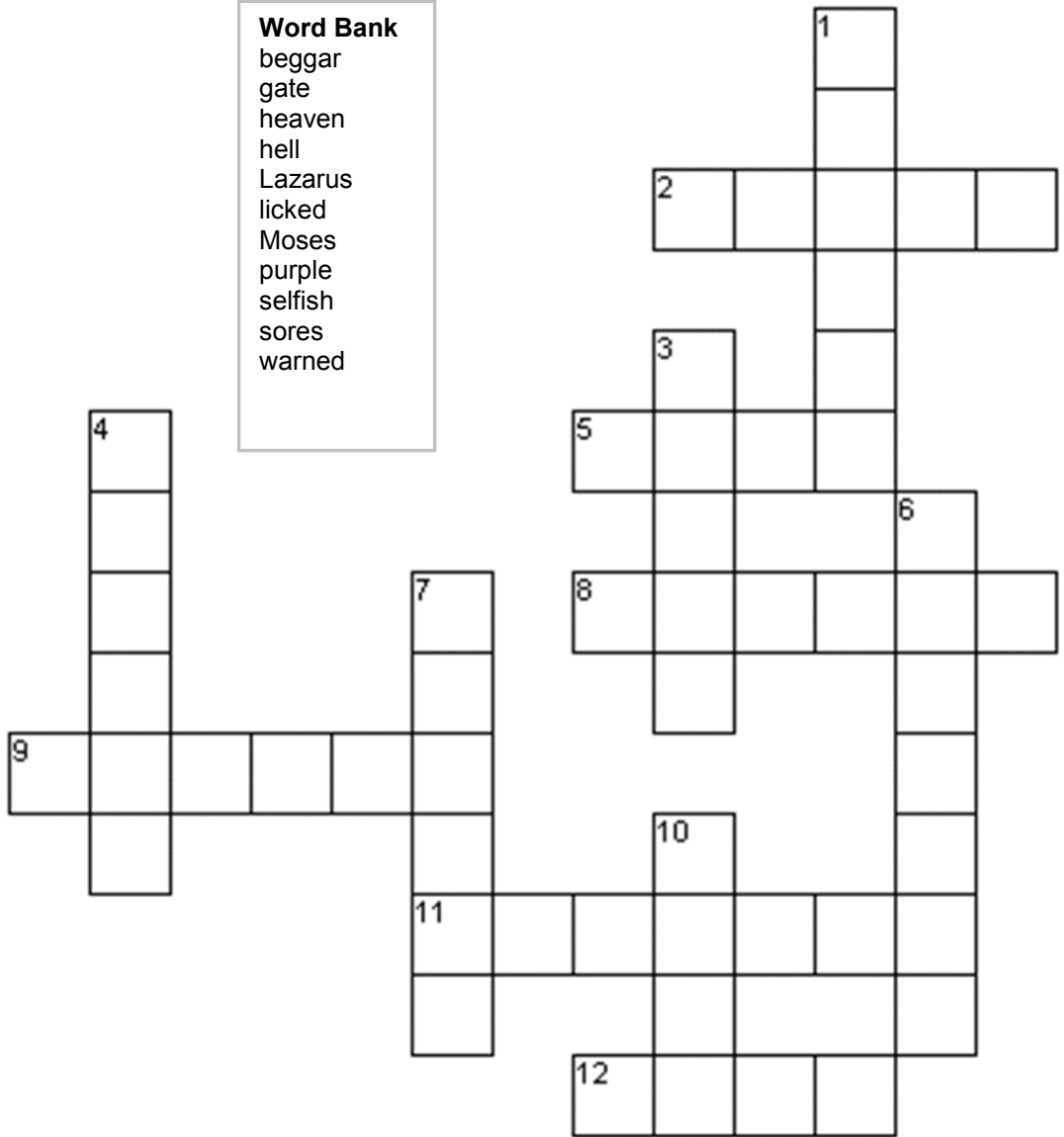
Helping Hand Template



Place thumb and index finger on fold.

Activity 2 | The Rich Man and Lazarus Crossword Puzzle

Word Bank
 beggar
 gate
 heaven
 hell
 Lazarus
 licked
 Moses
 purple
 selfish
 sores
 warned



Down

1. The rich man wanted his brothers to be _____.
3. Abraham told him that they had _____ and the prophets.
4. Dogs came and _____ his sores.
6. The rich man did not go to heaven because he was _____.
7. The rich young man was clothed in _____ and fine linen.
10. Lazarus lay at the _____ of the rich man's house.

Across

2. Lazarus was sick and full of _____.
5. We learn about heaven and hell in the Lord's _____.
8. When Lazarus died, he went to _____.
9. Lazarus was a _____.
11. _____ was begging for food.
12. When the rich man died, he went to _____.

