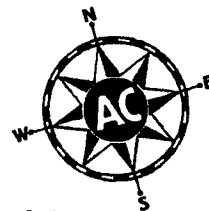


Lesson 28: 1st Place

3/3 - Backwards Day
- Feb/June B-days
- Craft



Adventure Club

Concept

God desires to dwell with all people

Goals

- To understand that if God dwells in us He will be more important to us than anything else.
- To learn what was most important to a young man in the Bible.
- To desire to put God first.

Memory Verse

"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life"

Matthew 19:29.

Bible Exploration

The Rich Young Ruler: Matthew 19:16-30

Key Verse: Mark 12:30

Response

Adventurers will be encouraged to look at things that are important in their lives and ask God to make Him more important to them.

Music Time

Lead adventurers in 2-5 songs from music CD included in the Adventure Club Kit.

Setting the Compass

Stage: Ed is sitting in his office reading his **Bible**. Apoc enters the scene.

1st Place

Cast: *Apocalypse; Ed Venture*

APOC — So . . . what'cha reading about, Ed?

ED — I'm reading the Bible.

APOC — I know what book it is, but what are you studying today?

ED — I'm trying to determine what a person has to do to be given the gift of eternal life.

APOC — Well, that's some heavy reading, my friend.

ED — Also, what does God get out of it?

APOC — What?

ED — God could make us all believers and could whisk us into heaven for eternity, but He's set this process in motion. Why? What does He get?

APOC — He gets us, Ed. That's what He wants — us. Us to come to Him of our own free will, us to love Him, us to worship Him, us to praise His name above all others. You see, it loses something if it isn't genuine. He wants to be with us, to dwell in us.

ED — Sometimes it seems just too simple. I guess it'd be kind of like if I program my computer to greet me when I turn it on with "I love you, Ed;" or "You're the greatest, Ed;" or "You are a good looking and muscular man, Ed." At first it'd be great, but after a while it wouldn't mean a thing. My computer has no choice in how it would be programmed.

APOC — That's right. God want us to love Him and to put Him first in our lives. If you put on those reality go back specs, we can see, what I think, is a very sad story.

Ed puts on glasses.

ED — Where are we?

APOC — We're in Judea long the river Jordan. Look at all the people. People really liked listening to Jesus.

ED — There is a young man talking to him now. Look at those expensive clothes and that fine chariot and magnificent white horses. He must be rich!

APOC — He's asking Jesus your question: "What must I do to receive eternal life?"

ED — I can't hear. What did Jesus say?

APOC — He said, "Keep the commandments." And the man said he already did that.

ED — *(Quietly)* Oh. Keep the commandments.

APOC — There's more.

ED — What? What else did he say?

APOC — Jesus told him to sell everything he has and give the money to the poor and to follow Him!

ED — *(Surprised)* Are all Christians supposed to be poor?

APOC — No, Ed. *(Apoc then speaks sadly)* Jesus knew that that fellow could never put Him first. The young, rich guy trusted his silver and gold more than he trusted God. His faith was in his money and what it could do for him. God can't be second place for Him to dwell in us. He must be first.

ED — I think God deserves first place.

APOC — He does! And when we don't put Him first we lose so much.

ED — And then He loses us and that's what He wants to begin with.

APOC — Jesus said even that rich, young man could be saved if he'd put God first. Nothing is impossible for God. Listen. He's saying something else: "And anyone who gives up his home, brothers, sisters, father, mother, wife, children or property to follow me shall receive a hundred times as much in return and shall also have eternal life. Many who are first now will be last then and some who are last now will be first then."

Ed removes his glasses.

ED — Wow! That was a quick trip, but I think I learned a lot.

APOC — What did you learn today?

ED — The greatest gift we could give God is ourselves, so He can dwell in us. And guess what?

APOC — What:

ED — We're the ones who receive the most out of that gift!

EMCEE — Money was so important to that young man that he trusted in what it could do for him more than he could trust in God. What are some things that are important to you? *(Let adventurers respond)* How could they become too important to you? *(When they take so much time you miss other things, like spending time with your family, or spending time with God)* What can you do when you realize something begins taking so much of your time? *(Stop doing it for awhile, pray and ask God to help you control it)* How can you keep God first in your life? *(Talk to Him everyday, read the Bible, ask Him to help you spend the day the way you should)* Let's pray now and ask God to help us keep Him first in our lives.

Close in prayer.

Small Group Activities

Bible Discovery Questions:

- 1) What book does Apoc see Ed reading when he enters the office? (Bible)
- 2) What was Ed trying to find out in his reading? (What a person has to do to be given the gift of eternal life)
- 3) When Ed put on the virtual reality glasses, what kind of man did he see talking to Jesus? (A rich, young man)
- 4) What was the young man asking Jesus? (What must I do to receive eternal life?)
- 5) What did Jesus tell him? (Keep the commandments)
- 6) What did the young man say to that? (He already did that)
- 7) So then what did Jesus tell him? (To sell everything he had and give the money to the poor and follow Him)
- 8) Could the young man do it? (No)
- 9) Why not? (His money was more important to him than God)
- 10) Think about the things that are important to you. Is God more important? If He isn't, what can you do? (Pray and ask God to work in your heart to make Him most important)

Memory Verse:

Matthew 19:29

Preschool/Primary: "Everyone who has left [all things behind] for my sake will inherit eternal life."

Middler/Junior: "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life."

Activity Page:

Follow the directions on the suggested activity page.

Additional Exploration:

- ✓ Look up and read Mark 12:30. This verse tell us what the most important thing in our life should be. What is it? How are we to love God? How do you love God with your heart? Your soul? Your mind? Your strength?
- ✓ Tell this story: Bill and Jimmy were on the way to church one Sunday morning. As they passes the little creek, Billy wanted to stop and catch some frogs. Billy loved frogs. Jimmy said they had to be on time for church, but Billy just wandered along the creek's edge. Jimmy went on to church while Billy hunted for frogs. Billy looked on logs, under rocks, at the edged of the creek and in the tall grass, but he never found a frog. After a while Jimmy came walking down the road, carrying something. Jimmy told Billy they had learned about the plagues God sent to Egypt so the Pharaoh would let God's people go. And as a reminder, Mr. Martinson had built each of the boys a frog house to keep frogs they caught. Billy didn't put God first and go to church that Sunday morning. He missed out on a wonderful gift. Jimmy told Billy he'd better put God first in his life so he wouldn't miss out on the most important gift — eternal life through Jesus.

How are some ways you put other things before God? Let's pray and ask God to help us put Him first.