

Luke 18:18-43

A Tale of Two Opposites

Scripture: Luke 18:18-43

Memory Verse: Luke 18:27 *“He [Jesus] said, ‘The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.’”*

Lesson Focus: The last several chapters Jesus has been using strong contrasts to teach lessons about faith and discipleship. We get treated to another one today as we contrast the rich young ruler with the blind beggar. We pray the kids will see there are right and wrong ways to approach and respond to Jesus and that they choose the right way!

Activities and Crafts: Rich Ruler Coloring Picture, Word Search of different terms from lesson, Bring it Home Discussion for 3rd – 5th.
Craft for 1st/2nd Grade: The Blind Can See

Starter Activity: Opposites Charades

Consider starting off the lesson with an “opposites” charades game. Have several simple opposites written down * and invite a pair of volunteers up who will pick one and silently act them out together. Once someone guesses correctly, have him/her pick a friend to come up with them and act out another one. See below for some examples. (**Teachers:** Or to simplify just read out one of them and have the kids tell you what the opposite is)

Fast/Slow	Dead/Alive	Hot/Cold	Peace/War
Left/Right	Big/Small	Up/Down	Yes/No
Sour/Sweet	Heavy/Light	Fat/Thin	Start/Finish

After a few rounds, transition into the lesson by pointing out how Jesus has been teaching us many important things the last few weeks using opposites. Finish the game with these few below and connect them to the lessons that we have learned recently:

Lost/Found	(Prodigal Son from Luke 15)
Rich/Poor	(Rich Man and Lazarus from Luke 16)
Thankful/Ungrateful	(Ten Lepers Healed from Luke 17)
Proud/Humble	(Pharisee and Tax Collector from first half of Luke 18) *

Q: Guess what Jesus has for us today in our Scripture passage? A: Another pair of opposites!

This time we are going to see two people encounter Jesus with totally opposite backgrounds. And both how they approach Jesus and how they respond to Jesus is “opposite”. One is right on and one is wrong. Let’s take a look together!

Bible Study:

Luke 18:18: Our first character is described as a ruler and we learn later that he is very rich. He comes to Jesus asking what he must “do” to be saved.

Luke 18:19: Jesus first challenges why the ruler called him “good”. Since only God is good, does he actually believe that Jesus is the Son of God? * We will find out!

Luke 18:20: Jesus gives Him a true answer. If you want to be saved by your own works, fine: you must **perfectly** obey God’s law! When faced with God’s standard of perfection, it should humble us and cause us to ask for mercy! * Then we are ready to receive grace!

Luke 18:21: But this guy actually thinks he has done that! Instead of asking for mercy he is convinced he can do it on his own. He even seems to be bragging a little bit here! *

Luke 18:22-23: But Jesus knows his heart, and that it is a heart that loves money/wealth. * Recall **Luke 16:13:** You cannot serve both God and money! Sadly, he chooses money over God! If he truly believed Jesus was the Son of God, he wouldn’t have gone away sorrowful, but would have accepted Jesus’s invitation to follow Him!

Luke 18:24-25: Jesus then says something radical! Let’s unpack this!

Q: How big is a camel? Q: How big is the eye of a needle? Q: Can you squeeze a whole camel through such a needle? (**Teachers:** We will leave some props for you in class. * Invite a kid up to try and squeeze the camel through!)

A: No way! It is IMPOSSIBLE! *

Luke 18:26: The people listening were astonished. This rich ruler was the model citizen of their day! If he has no hope, what hope does ANYONE have?

Luke 18:27: And that brings us to the gospel. It is IMPOSSIBLE for any to be saved on their own. * But God makes it POSSIBLE by His grace through faith. (**Ephesians 2:8-9**)

So our first character approaches Jesus rich, strong, proud, and famous. But he leaves Jesus sad and empty. * He had “everything”! But without Jesus, he had NOTHING! This is simple “gospel math”: **Everything - Jesus = Nothing** (**Teachers:** Consider writing this on the whiteboard as we will revisit this later) *

Luke 18:28-30: Peter and the disciples are probably still trying to work this out in their heads and Peter, always the spokesperson, reminds Jesus that they have done what the rich ruler would not do. And Jesus responds that in following Him, they will receive blessing both in this life and the next. In other words, the opposite gospel math equation is also true: **Jesus + Nothing = Everything** (**Teachers:** Add this to the board too!)

Luke 18:31-34: And for the third time Jesus reminds them how God makes it possible!

Q: What are we celebrating in two weeks? A: Easter! On this day we remember Jesus’s death on the cross for our sins and His resurrection. His death/resurrection was what He came to do for it is what made a way for all of us to be saved by grace thru faith! *

Luke 18:35: And now we get to our second character.

Q: How is this guy's situation "opposite" of the rich ruler's situation?

A: Instead of powerful and rich, he was weak, blind, and poor! Imagine what it must have been like to be blind like this guy! (**Teachers:** Consider blind-folding a volunteer, and having him/her do something that will be greatly challenging blind-folded) *

Luke 18:36: Without having your sight, I would expect your sense of hearing would be extremely keen and this guy hears that something unusual is going on and asks about it.

Luke 18:37-38: And once he learns that it is Jesus, he gets excited and cries out to Him. He has probably heard about how Jesus has opened the eyes of the blind before.

Luke 18:39: The people tell him to be quiet and go away, but he gets even louder! This poor man is desperate for Jesus!

Q: How is this guy's approach to Jesus "opposite" of the rich ruler's approach?

A: Remember the rich ruler came proudly, while this guy came humbly and desperate for mercy. The rich ruler also addressed Him as merely a "good teacher", while this man addresses Him in faith as the Son of David, the promised Messiah and Rescuer. *

Luke 18:40-41: He is then brought to Jesus and this must be the moment he has been waiting for! *

Q: If Jesus asked you this question, how would you answer?

Luke 18:42-43a: BOOM! And just like that Jesus restores his sight! It wasn't the man's great faith that restored his sight, but his faith in a great God who made it happen. *

Luke 18:43b: And now let's look at how he responds.

Q: How is this guy's response "opposite" from the rich ruler's response?

A: Remember the rich ruler was invited to believe in and follow Jesus, but declined and went away sad. But this blind man has now been healed and becomes one of Jesus's followers!

Key Point: So now we conclude our tale of two opposites. One had everything but rejecting Jesus left with nothing. The other had nothing and left with everything because he had Jesus. (**Teachers:** Revisit the equations on the board as you wrap up the lesson)

Q: How about you? *

- Are you more like the rich ruler trying to earn your way into God's favor with your stuff and status? Remember without Jesus, it is IMPOSSIBLE! (**Luke 18:27**) Jesus is inviting you to trust in Him and follow Him today. Choose the correct response. He died on the cross and rose again so that you could be saved. Receive His grace today by faith and leave church today with joy!
- If you are more like the blind man fully aware of your need for God's mercy and grace, CONTINUE to follow Jesus just like he did! Ask Jesus to reveal to you your blind spots so that you can grow in faith and trust in Him!

BRING IT HOME

Read Luke 18:24-25
Why do having riches
make it harder to be
saved?

Parent Signature:

Parent Challenge:
Contrast how the ruler and
the blind man encountered
Jesus. Which one are you
more like?

Read Luke 18:26-27
How did God make it
possible for people to
be saved?

