



SERVICE ORDER

WEEK 4: FAN OR A FOLLOWER?

NOTES: Meet with the SG leaders before the service. Go over the day's theme, discipline, tickets and answer any questions about small group time. Pray with the team.

Game Time

- **(A/V)** Have an upbeat song ready to go
- "Roll 'Em... Run 'Em": See game for supply list

Tune Time: (Sample: Change to reflect real song set)

- Song 1
- Song 2
- Song 3

Remind Time

- **(A/V)** Play Remind Time video
- **(A/V)** Display the Trait-N-Tagline Powerpoint
- Go over TRUST – I can count on God to be there for me.

Teach Time

- **(A/V)** Bring up first Powerpoint on screen
- **Engage Them:** Talking about the difference between good and bad captains
- **Teach Them:** Teaching on the rich young ruler
- **Challenge Them:** Recap series, Spotlight Verse, and pray with kids

Give Time (Sample: Change to reflect whatever campaign you're working on)

- Malaria nets in Africa
- **(A/V)** Bring up goal Powerpoint on screen

Closing Time

- Announcements, up-coming events, hand out flyers
- Ticket Drawing
- Closing Song: ??
- Keep Groups together: Do Relate Time Sheets until parents com

EXIT: Distribute Parent Take-Away card directly to parents

TEACH them

2nd Segment: (15 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **tell the Bible story** in a compelling, animated, and interesting way. A good communicator uses the following script only as a guideline to speak, but never reading from it, as children can lose interest. Make the story come alive with voice inflections, funny anecdotes and noises, and passionate emotion. We intentionally give great latitude for the speaker to make it 'their own', using props, involving kids...whatever you can do to help the kids remember the Bible lesson.

BIBLE text

Matthew 19:16-26 – The Rich Young Ruler

PROPS n things

- PowerPoints from TRUST_PP_Captured_wk4 file in Speaker_Materials directory
- The Bible

BEGIN speaking

RECAP AND TRANSITION:

Show slide (“Series Recap”)

A few weeks ago, we talked about how Jesus wants to **“capture our hearts”**; He wants to show us a life of amazing adventures if we just love Him, trust Him, obey Him and follow Him for our whole lives. Two weeks ago, we talked about Jesus wants to **“correct our hope.”** Our hope is not in this world. Our hope is not in ourselves. Our hope is not in making lots of money and having lots of nice things. Our hope is not in being the strongest, the smartest, the tallest, or richest. Our hope is not even in other people, because other people will eventually let us down. No – our hope is in Jesus Christ alone. And last week, we learned how Jesus wants to **“construct a home”** for us. He wants to build a special place just for us and Him to live together. Captured Heart, Corrected Hope, Constructed Home.

THE BIBLE:

If you remembered to bring you Bible today, hold it up high! Awesome! As you know, we don't just carry our Bibles around, but we actually open it up and read it. If you didn't bring your Bible, we'll have the words up on the screen so you can follow along.

Today, we are going to read a story that might be familiar to some of you, but it ties in perfectly with what we've been talking about all month. We've been talking about being "captured" by the love of Jesus. His love and interest in us causes us to want to know more. He wants us to be more than a fan; He calls us to be followers. A fan is not fully committed. A fan just cheers from the sidelines: "You go God!" But a follower is all in. A follower jumps into the deep waters, is right in the game, in the fight – side-by-side with the Captain. To move from being a fan to a follower requires a change in our thinking, our feelings, and our actions. When you are truly following Captain Jesus, people will notice and want to know more.

This is why I love the Bible! It's so honest, and it's filled with great examples of what it means to truly follow Jesus, rather than just be a fan of Jesus.

MATTHEW 19 – RICH YOUNG RULER:

Let's open our Bibles to Matthew. Matthew is the first book of the New Testament, and the first of the four gospel books. Find chapter 19, and we'll start in verse 16:

Show slide ("Matthew 19:16")

"Just then, a man came up to Jesus. He asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to receive eternal life?"

This story is about a man that the Bible calls "The Rich Young Ruler," and he was called this because he was rich, he was young, and he was a man.

Show slide ("Which "need" are you?")

What does it mean to be rich? Our definition of rich is not how most of the world, and most of history, defines it. The Bible says that you and I are in one of these three stages of need: having need, having just what you need, having more than you need. To be rich is to have more than you need. Ask yourself: "Self? Which stage of "need" am I in? Which one would I say I best identify with? Having need? Having just what I need? Or, having more than I need?" It may help you answer the question when you read this version in 1 Timothy 6:8:

Show slide ("1 Timothy 6:8")

1 Timothy 6:8 says, ***"If we have food and clothing, we will be happy with that."***

Notice the verse doesn't even mention having a home, much less all the things we often fill our homes with. Luke 9:58 reminds us that Jesus didn't even have a place to

lay his head at night. So, by all definitions, if you go home to a place with a roof over your head, a bed to sleep in, and food in your belly, you're considered to be rich! So when you think of the rich young ruler, you can put yourselves in his shoes. Jesus is speaking to all of us!

This young man had a burning question that he believed Jesus could answer. Mark tells us that he *ran* to Jesus and *knelt* before Him (Mark 10:17), which would seem to mean that he was honestly seeking an answer. He wasn't all full of himself, but he was humble and sincere.

From his knees, the sincere young man asked the most important, intelligent question anyone could ask. He wanted to know what he needed to do to obtain eternal life. Wouldn't it be great if everyone was asking that question? What question could be more important?

Clearly, Jesus was the right person to ask his important question. There was no one in all of human history who was better qualified to give him the correct answer. Jesus answers his question:

Show slide ("Matthew 19:17-18")

"Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only one who is good. If you want to enter the kingdom, obey the commandments."

Show slide ("Matthew 19:18-19")

Jesus said, " 'Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not be a false witness. Honor your father and mother.' And 'love your neighbor as you love yourself.' "

Why do you think Jesus just chose these six commands? *(Take answers)* Was Jesus saying that if you just obey these commandments, then you are saved? Those are some good answers. Between his statement that "only one who is good," meaning God, and reeling off some commandments, Jesus has already looked straight into this young man's heart, making the case that no one can ever be good enough to enter the kingdom of heaven just by doing or being good. But, we always tend to think that we are more "good" than we really are, don't we? And so does the rich young ruler. He replies to Jesus in verse 20:

Show slide ("Matthew 19:20")

"I have obeyed all those commandments," the young man said. "What else do I need to do?"

(Looking up at the audience) Ah, huh – yea, right!

Jesus has this guy right where he wants him, because he knows the man is not sold out for Jesus. Verse 21:

Show slide (“Matthew 19:21”)

Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go and sell everything you have. Give the money to those who are poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me.”

This would be one of those moments where you can hear a pin drop. Everyone around them has stopped what they are doing, and are just staring – wondering what the young man is going to say. But we never hear him say another word. Verse 22 tells us all we need to know about where the young man's true interests were:

Show slide (“Matthew 19:22”)

“When the young man heard this, he went away sad. He was very rich.”

Was the rich young ruler a fan – or a follower? It appears that he was just a fan. The young man in this account went away sorrowful; heart-broken. Why was he sorry? Because Jesus had told him to get rid of the one thing he loved more than God. The man was a righteous man. He obeyed God's law. He wanted eternal life. But he was surprised at the cost - his possessions.

The disciples were also surprised. They, like many people at the time, thought wealth was a sign of approval from God. The richer a person was, the better, more powerful, more righteous he was. That's why they asked, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus knew that rich men are tempted to love and trust their wealth more than God. He looked in to this man's heart and saw that the only thing this man loved more than God was his stuff. He would have to learn to love others and not wealth before he could please God.

PERSONAL:

So, let's make this a bit more personal. What about my stuff? I've worked hard to earn whatever stuff I have. If I were asked to sell everything I own and go and follow God, without a penny to my name, would I do it? Could I do it?

What about you? Some of you have that sweet bike or skateboard at home. Some of you like your warm bed, or the clothes and shoes in your closet. What about those

video games, T.V's, tablets and phones some of you have or have access to in your home?

Does any of it mean anything more than spending eternity with Jesus? All the things you think are so important to your everyday lives will someday break, get lost, get old, rust, crack, or just no longer be cool. Don't sell God short. Don't walk away sad like the rich young ruler. Remember, we are not of this world, and so we are not supposed to get too attached to this world, nor fall in love with the things this world tries to offer us.

MAN'S CHIEF GOAL:

Our main goal in life, above anything else, is to love God and enjoy Him to the fullest. Our waking energy and time should be making much of Jesus – not making much of ourselves. So many of our so-called “idols” on T.V. or in the music we listen to are all about themselves. To want to be like them is too small of a goal. Take all that energy and time, move the focus off yourselves, and spend it getting to know Jesus and enjoying your friendship with Him! That's a goal we should get behind!

Show slide (“Take-Away Point”)

Let's say our Take-Away Point together: **“Jesus is the Captain of our salvation.”**

Salvation simply means to be rescued from our sin by placing our faith in Jesus. He is our Rescuer!

EVALUATE their understanding

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 2 - EVALUATE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.

(While small groups are going, use this time to check your notes, reset your props, and walk around to some of the groups and listen to how it's going.)

CHALLENGE them

3rd Segment: (5 min. – Then turn over to small groups)

The intent with this section is to **encourage and challenge the kids** to take a spiritual step forward this week. We want them to stop and think, make better choices, form new habits and bring God into their everyday world. This is a great time to speak from your heart and then pray for them.

PROPS n things

- PowerPoints from TRUST_PP_Captured_wk4 file in Speaker_Materials directory

BEGIN speaking

Show slide (“Series Recap”)

Let's recap what we've learned this month: **Victory is ours when we allow Jesus to:**

- **Capture our Hearts**
- **Correct our Hope**
- **Construct our Home**
- **Captain our Salvation**

This is a life worth getting excited about! A life fully focused on Jesus, willing to follow Him wherever He leads us, is a life that will be filled with joy, no matter what trials we may face. Jesus said **“In this world you will have trouble. But be encouraged! I have won the battle over the world.”**

So what are you waiting for? Let yourself be captured by the true Captain of our hearts; the One that loves us and knows what we need before we even know.

Show slide (“Spotlight Verse”)

Let's close by saying our Spotlight Verse for the month. **“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust in Me also.”** John 14:1 NIRV

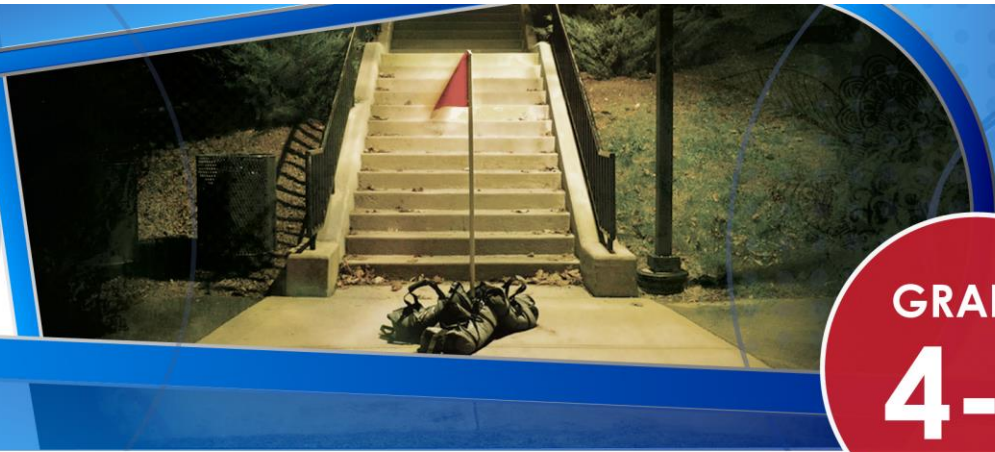
Let's Pray: **Dear God, I pray these kids really caught the message today about the rich young man, and that the issue that he struggled with is the same issue we all struggle with. We like our stuff. We like our comfortable beds and full refrigerators, and, like the rich young ruler, we don't want to let go of it. We have so much, it's hard to really believe that we even need You. But we do need You, because our hearts, our attention, our time, and our money are not always in the right place. We are but a**

grain of sand, unable to do anything to impress You on own. God, help us to see the error of our ways, and start moving the attention away from ourselves, and back towards You. You are the only One that can truly bring us the kind of joy that is everlasting. We don't want to be just a fan of Jesus; we want to be a follower of Jesus. He deserves our attention, our time, our talents, our money, our praise, our love – He deserves it all because He died to save us from our sins, and He rose again to give us eternal life. It's in the name of Jesus that we pray. Amen."

Awesome! See you next week!

ENCOURAGE their walk

Okay kids...let's huddle up and face your small group leaders. Small group leaders, go through the **STEP 3 - ENCOURAGE** section on your small group leader sheet with your kids.



WEEK 4: Fan or a Follower?

EXPLORE – their opinion

What do you think makes a good captain or leader? *(Take answers)*

When it comes to the spiritual battlefield, who are the two captains on either side? *(Jesus and Satan. Both want you to follow them, but only Jesus delivers the promise of eternal life. Satan promises victory, fun and freedom; but it's a trick to capture us.)*

The Bible says that we are either slaves to sin, or slaves to obedience *(Romans 6:16-18)*. If a person is a slave to sin, and is making bad choices in the things they think, do and say - what captain is he or she likely following? *(Satan)* If a person a slave to obedience, and is a kind, honest, blameless, upright and trustworthy person, what captain is he or she likely following? *(Jesus)*

EVALUATE – their understanding

Most of us fall into one of 3 types of “need” in life:

1. **Having need:** often hungry, cold, barely any clothes, sometimes homeless
2. **Having just what I need:** food, shelter, transportation, someone to care for me
3. **Having more than I need:** food anytime I want, my own room, cool toys, a cell phone, an allowance, lots of friends, a loving family

Of these three types of need, which one was the young ruler? *(#3: More than he needed.)*

When the rich young ruler wanted to know what he needed to do to have eternal life, what did Jesus tell him that made the young man walk away sad?

- A. You cannot come with us because you forget your tooth brush!
- B. Go sell your prized camel, and buy a hundred lottery tickets
- C. **Go sell everything you have, give the money to the poor, and come follow me**

When you think about the things in your life that fall into that category of “more than I need,” what would you say some of those things are? *(Pause for answers: My pet(s), my video games, my phone, my camera, having my own room, my full closet of clothes, etc.)*

The rich young ruler walked away from a life with Jesus, and when he did that, he basically chose to follow the other captain (Satan). He was unwilling to let go of his money and his stuff. When you think of all the things you just mentioned, is there anything in that list where you would say, “Jesus, don’t ask me to give that up; You ask too much!”

Let’s say our Take-Away Point for today: **“Jesus is the Captain of my salvation.”** To be saved is to be rescued from anything that keeps us from putting Jesus first. Let’s say together: **“Jesus, rescue me. I want to be more than just a fan; I want to be a follower.”**





GRADES
4-6



EXPLORE
their opinion
EVALUATE
their understanding
ENCOURAGE
their walk

**I CAN COUNT
ON GOD TO BE
THERE FOR ME**



Encourage the kids to take a practical **ACTION** step in their faith journey this week.

Help them memorize this month's **Spotlight Verse**.

Prepare to Give is for children's programs that take an offering.

ENCOURAGE – their walk

We all follow captains and leaders in life, whether it be a coach, a teacher, a pastor, or a boss. Followers listen and obey their captain for their own good. They don't go off and do their own thing. Jesus is the true Captain, and it's not like we have to follow Him; we get to follow Him! Let's pray that we'll be open to having our hearts captured by the one true Captain of our salvation. **“Lord, make us more than just fans of You; we want to be followers. Capture our hearts in such a way that nothing in this life is more important to us than pleasing and trusting You. We want to be changed from the inside out, so that we don't become like the sad, rich young ruler. Help us to clearly hear Your voice, to know Your Word, and shine our light to our friends and family. We love You, Jesus. Amen.”**



This is the last week to turn in KidTOUGH Action Cards for this month. However, it's always a good time to develop new habits at home and in our daily lives to learn how to trust God and others more. Who would like to take an Action Card home?

MEMORIZE – God's Word



SPOTLIGHT VERSE:

“We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in His love.”
~1 John 4:6

PREPARE TO GIVE – (take cue from host or storyteller)

Let's pray for today's offering: **“Dear God, like the rich young ruler, we struggle with the idea of thinking that our money and our time is ours to do whatever we want with it, rather than truly believing that everything we have and own is Yours. Giving our money and our time away to help others helps us to loosen our grip on the things that get in the way of fully trusting You and following You. Bless this offering and may it touch and change lives. Amen”**