

ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION GUIDE

CHARACTER TRAIT:

HOPE

DEFINITION:

Having confidence in God's promises

MEMORY VERSE:

"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit." **Romans 15:13 NLT**

FINISH LINE:

The world offers us stuff, but God's promises are better

READ: LUKE 18:18-25; 19:1-10

WHAT DOES IT SAY? (OBSERVATION)

READ LUKE 18:18-23

1. What did the rich young ruler ask Jesus? (*"What do I have to do to get eternal life?"*)
2. What was the one thing Jesus told him to do that he did not want to do? (*Give all his stuff to the poor*)
3. Why do you think hearing that made him so sad?

READ LUKE 19:1-10

4. How did Zacchaeus respond when Jesus called out to him? (*He was filled with joy and took Jesus to his home.*)
5. What did Zacchaeus do with his stuff after he met Jesus? (*He gladly gave it away and paid back those he had cheated four times the amount he took.*)

WHAT DOES IT MEAN? (INTERPRETATION)

1. Which of these two men do you think understood the gospel and what Jesus was trying to teach? (*Zacchaeus*) How did that show in their actions? (*When the rich young ruler heard Jesus say he had to give away everything he went away sad. Zacchaeus joyfully offered to give his stuff away even though Jesus did not ask him to.*)
2. Did Jesus care most about their actions? (*No.*) Could just giving everything away have saved the rich young ruler? (*No.*)
3. Did Zacchaeus earn his salvation? (*No. Jesus cared most about their hearts. Their actions just showed where they put their hope. Salvation can never be earned. Jesus gives it freely to those whose hope is in Him.*)

WHY DOES IT MATTER? (APPLICATION)

1. What is one thing you would be really sad to have to give up? Why?
2. Think about a time when you believed getting a certain toy, outfit, game, or vacation would make you happy. How long did that happiness last? Were you ever disappointed?
3. Why do we like to get more stuff? What do you think it can do for you? Do you have confidence that it will make you happy? Feel important and liked? Provide safety and security? Why? For how long?
4. What is one way you can show that your hope is in God and not in your stuff this week?