

Parable: The Rich Man and Lazarus

The Building Blocks of the Lesson

Bible Reference



Luke 16:19-31

Memory Verse:

Luke 16: 31

Theological Themes



Repentance, Hospitality, and Stewardship ____ (your ideas, too) ____.

Catechism Connection



The Lord's Prayer – "Give us our daily bread"

Objectives



Help participants to . . .

- Know that God calls us to repent. God's call is urgent. We know not the day or the hour when God will return.
- Not be blinded by self-indulgence.
- Be aware of those less fortunate than themselves.

Music



"Take My Life That It May Be" in the Lutheran Book of Worship # _____

Additional Resources



Go to the ELCA website and to the Division for Church in Society. Be sure to check the Corporate Social Responsibility page and the one for the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs. Learn more about your role in changing the injustices in the world.

Context



Luke 15 contains parables about things that are lost, sheep, coins, and a son. Here the rich man is lost. Lazarus is not to be identified with the Lazarus of John 11: 1-44. Those involved in the story are familiar with the teachings of the Law and the Prophets. What do they proclaim to and for God's people?

??? Discuss /Ask???

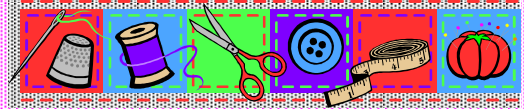
Did the rich man not see the poor man at the gate? Do we overlook people who are different from us?

There is a reversal in the story. The fate of both characters is changed. What is Luke trying to communicate to us?

Does modern wealth create a false security making it difficult to hear the call of salvation?

In what ways are we rich?

Activity



Sing the gospel chorus "Open My Eyes That I May See".

Then compare our standard of living with those of other nations. Do some research via the library and/or internet.

What does this information say to you about our choices?

Sending



Consider helping at a shelter/soup kitchen/clothing bank.

Find out about the poverty in your county/township. How can you make a difference?

Prayer



**Dear God,
Open our eyes to see the needs of those before us today. Make us share our riches, especially the riches of Christ by speaking the message of hope that He brings.
AMEN.**