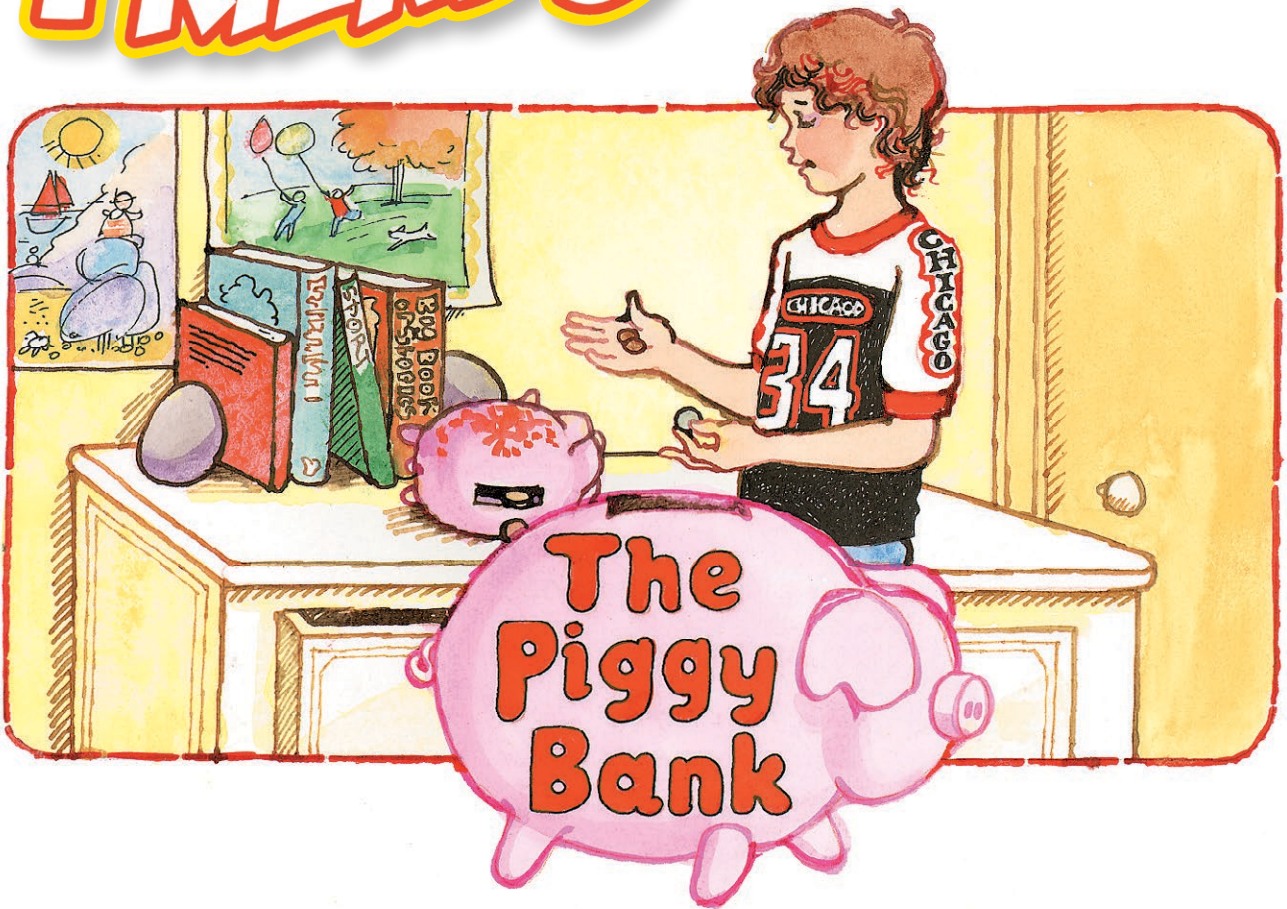


FRIENDS

Lesson 1



It's almost time to leave!" David's mom called.

"I'm coming." David was hurrying, but he wasn't quite ready. He pulled his shoes on as fast as he could.

"If we don't leave now, we'll be late for Sunday school," his Mom said.

"I'm coming!" David called. He started running down the stairs. Then he remembered something. David ran back to his bank and turned it upside down. He wanted to take some money to give to the church. Each week the teacher passed an offering basket in Sunday school. She said the money would help the church do God's work.

So David shook the little pink pig. Finally some coins came out. David looked at them. He was saving money to buy a new video game. But he really wanted to put God first. He wanted to show that God was important to him.

"David! This is the last call!" His mom was using her "hurry" voice.

David grabbed his money and ran downstairs. "I'm coming!" he said. And this time, he meant it!

Talk-a-Bit

- Is God more important than the things money can buy?
- What are other ways to put God first?

What I learned about God this week: Put God first.

The Rich Young Man

Bible story from Exodus 20:1-7; Matthew 19:16-30

A rich young man asked Jesus a question. "Teacher, I want to live with God forever. What good thing should I do?"

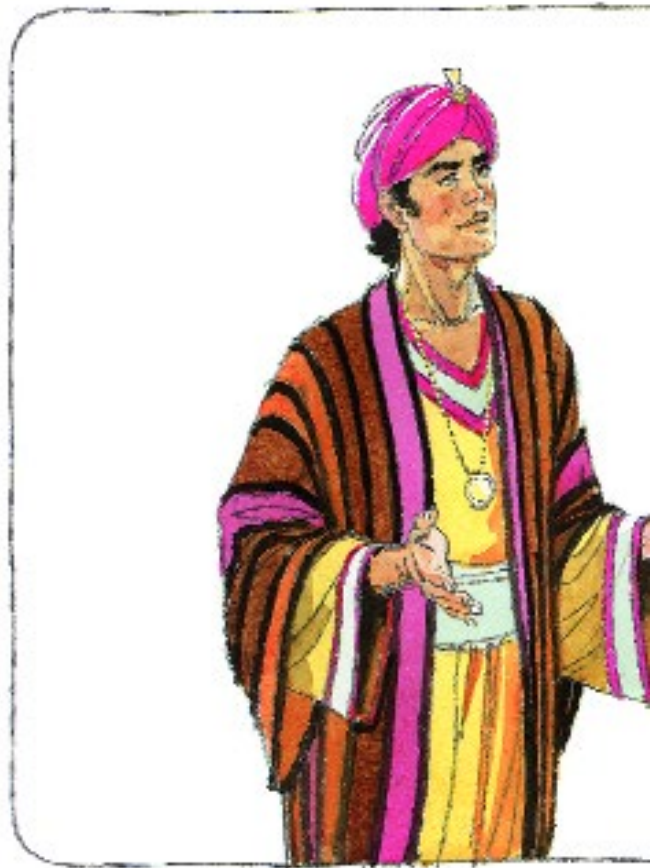
Jesus said, "Obey the commandments."

"I already do that," said the man. "Is there anything else?"

Jesus knew that this man was forgetting the most important commandment. The man was forgetting to love God and put Him first in everything.

So Jesus said, "If you want to be perfect, sell what you own. Give the money to poor people. Your riches will be in heaven. Then come and follow Me."

Jesus knew the man loved money more than he loved God. The man needed to show that he loved God more than his money.

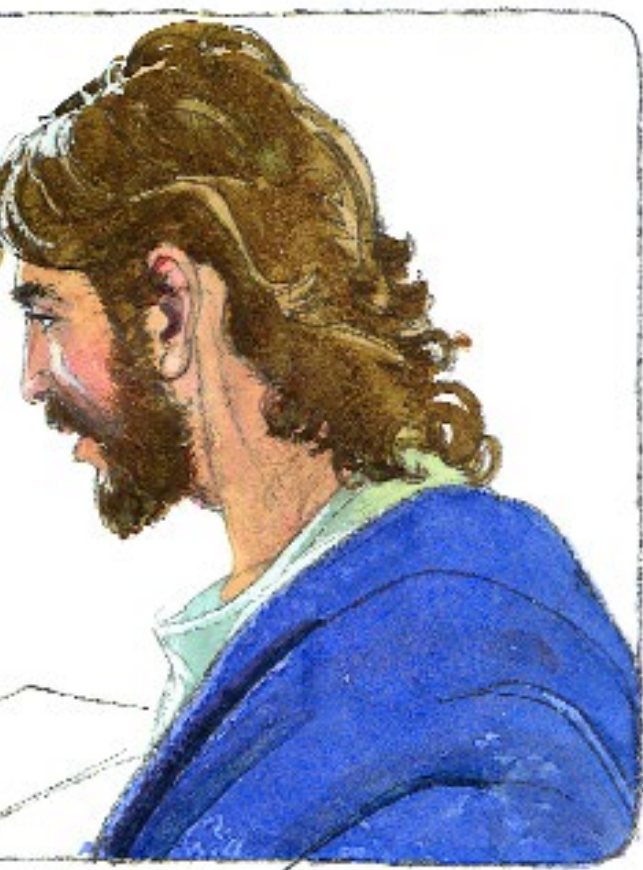




The rich young man was sad. He didn't want to give his money away. The man walked away from Jesus.

Jesus said to His disciples, "It's hard for a rich man to belong to God's kingdom. It's easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle."

Jesus' disciples said, "This is too hard! Who can ever do it?"



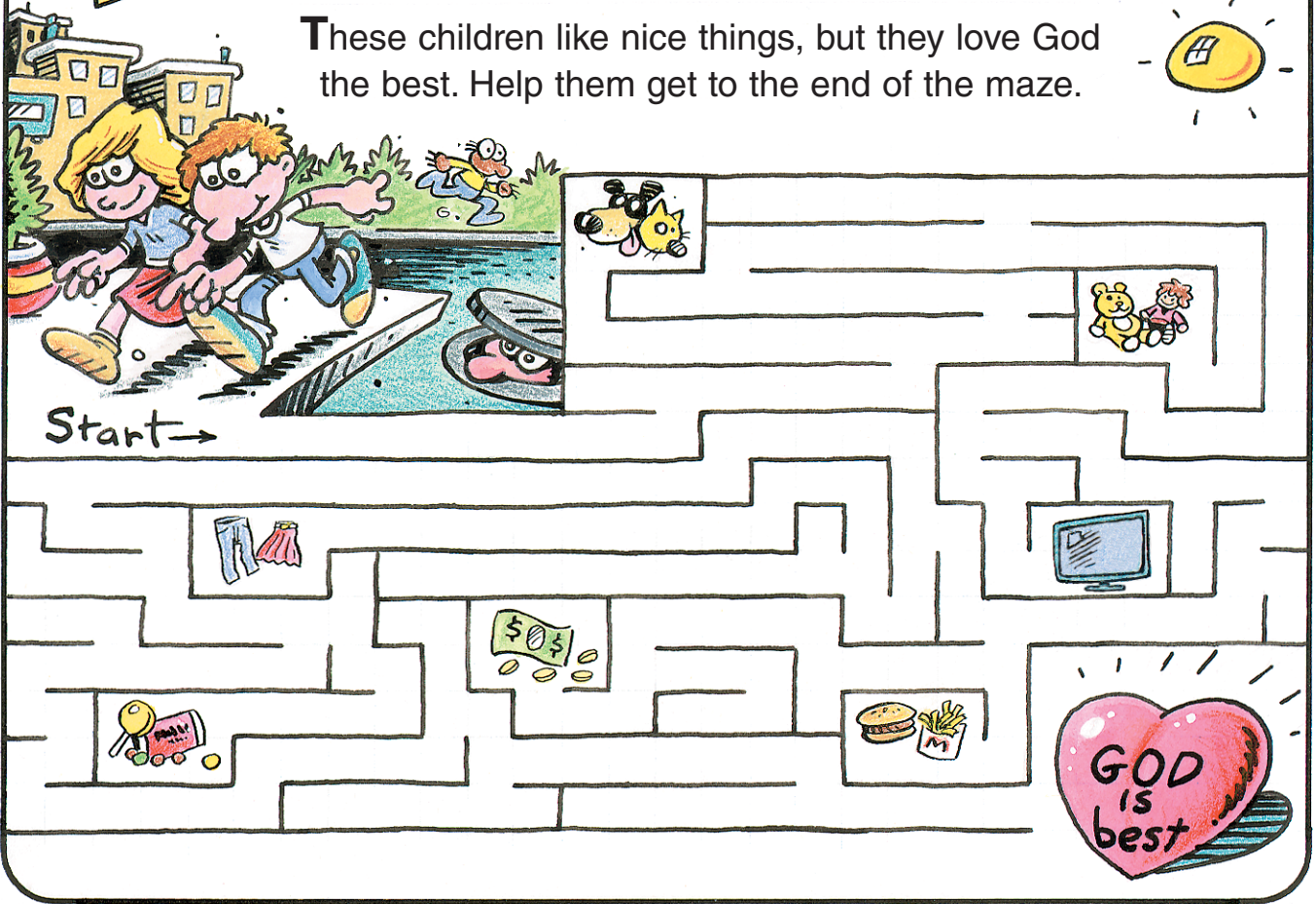
Jesus said, "With God's help, all things are possible. God should be more important than anything you have. He should be more important than anyone you love. Remember to put God first."

This Week's Bible Memory Verse:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." Matthew 22:37

Putting God First

These children like nice things, but they love God the best. Help them get to the end of the maze.



Family Faith Fun

Lesson Focus:
Put God first.

Put God First Floor Plan

■ With your child, draw a simple floor plan of your home. As your family goes through a day, look for ways they put God first. Write what you've seen in the appropriate rooms on the floor plan. Then brainstorm ways to put God first in the empty rooms.

Memory Verse Activity

■ Use sidewalk chalk to draw four squares outside. Divide the verse into four parts, and print each part in one square. Have your child jump to each square in order while saying the verse.

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:37