

Read Mark 10.17-31

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Sometimes people have to make important decisions which have a big impact on their lives. Have you ever had to make difficult choices which affect your life? Choosing which secondary school to go to can be a big decision? Choosing your friends can have an impact on your happiness. There's a programme on television called "Love it or List it", where people have to decide whether to spend money on improving their house and staying there or spending money on moving to a different house. It's a big decision!

Making decisions like this often depends on what is important to you. Look at this list – can you put these things in order of importance in your life?

Money	Friends	Social Media	Clothes	Family	Food
Holidays	God	Music	Church	Sport	Warmth

In today's gospel reading a rich young man was challenged by Jesus to make a big decision – it was a hard choice. The young man wanted to follow Jesus, but Jesus said that he would have to give away his wealth if he was going to follow him. He had to decide what was the most important thing in his life – his wealth or God. What would you have done? What decision would you have made?

Jesus said that it is difficult to enter the kingdom of heaven. It is as hard as a camel going through the eye of a needle! But everything is possible with God. It is through God's grace rather than our own actions that we are able to be with God.



Activity

- At the end of each day, think back over all you have done. Were there moments when you may have hurt God, others, or the planet? If not, then thank God for being with you and leading you in his path. If so, offer those things to God in prayer, and ask him to help you change your priorities and be aware of making choices that reflect your relationship with him.
- Watch this video called The Little Gate, about the camel trying to get through the eye of a needle.

It is based on a story by Nick Butterworth with illustrations by Mick Inkpen.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tb_xlIkW148

Prayer

O God, thank you for my thinking – help my thinking to be in line with yours.

Thank you for my speech – help me to speak kindly and truthfully.

Thank you for all that I have – help me to share it generously.

Thank you for all the things that I can do – help me to make wise choices. Amen.