

SERMON ON THE MOUNT: A SERIES IN MATTHEW

**Identity and Possessions****A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

This story is about a man trying to earn his way into eternal life, while still holding onto things he valued as important. Jesus' invitation and challenge is to be willing to let all of it go and follow him, trusting that he is the only way to eternal life and it is not something we can earn on our own. Pray for yourself and the kids you teach to see the beauty and value in following Jesus as worthy of giving up all else!

Big Idea: Our identity is only truly found in Jesus and his ways, not in anything we can do.

Starter**Evidences of Grace**

- Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything good, big or small, is from God. Take time to thank God together.
- **Ask:** What do you think you need to do to have eternal life?

Sing Together

Story — from Matthew 19:16-26

One time a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?”

“Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments.”

“Which ones?” he inquired.

Jesus quoted from the Law, “‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother,’ and ‘love your neighbor as yourself.’”

“All these I have kept,” the young man said. “What do I still lack?”

Jesus answered, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly I tell you, it is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, “Who then can be saved?”

Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Dialogue Questions: *[you may use some or all]*

- ▶ Jesus didn’t ask everyone who followed him to sell all of their possessions and give it to the poor, but he did ask this man to. Why do you think that is?
- ▶ What was this man seeking? What was he willing to give up in order to get it?
- ▶ This man obeyed the law and followed all the rules, but still felt like he was lacking something. He rightly went to Jesus to find it, but when Jesus asked him to give up what he held most tightly to, he instead went away sad. What do you think Jesus would ask you to give up in order to follow him? Is it worth it?
- ▶ The disciples saw how hard it was to follow Jesus, especially for someone who had so much of his own. But Jesus’ response was, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Do you believe God can give you the strength to follow Jesus too?

Breakout Time

Pray:

God, help us to follow you with our whole selves, because only in you can we find true life. Thank you for making a way for us to come to you! Amen.

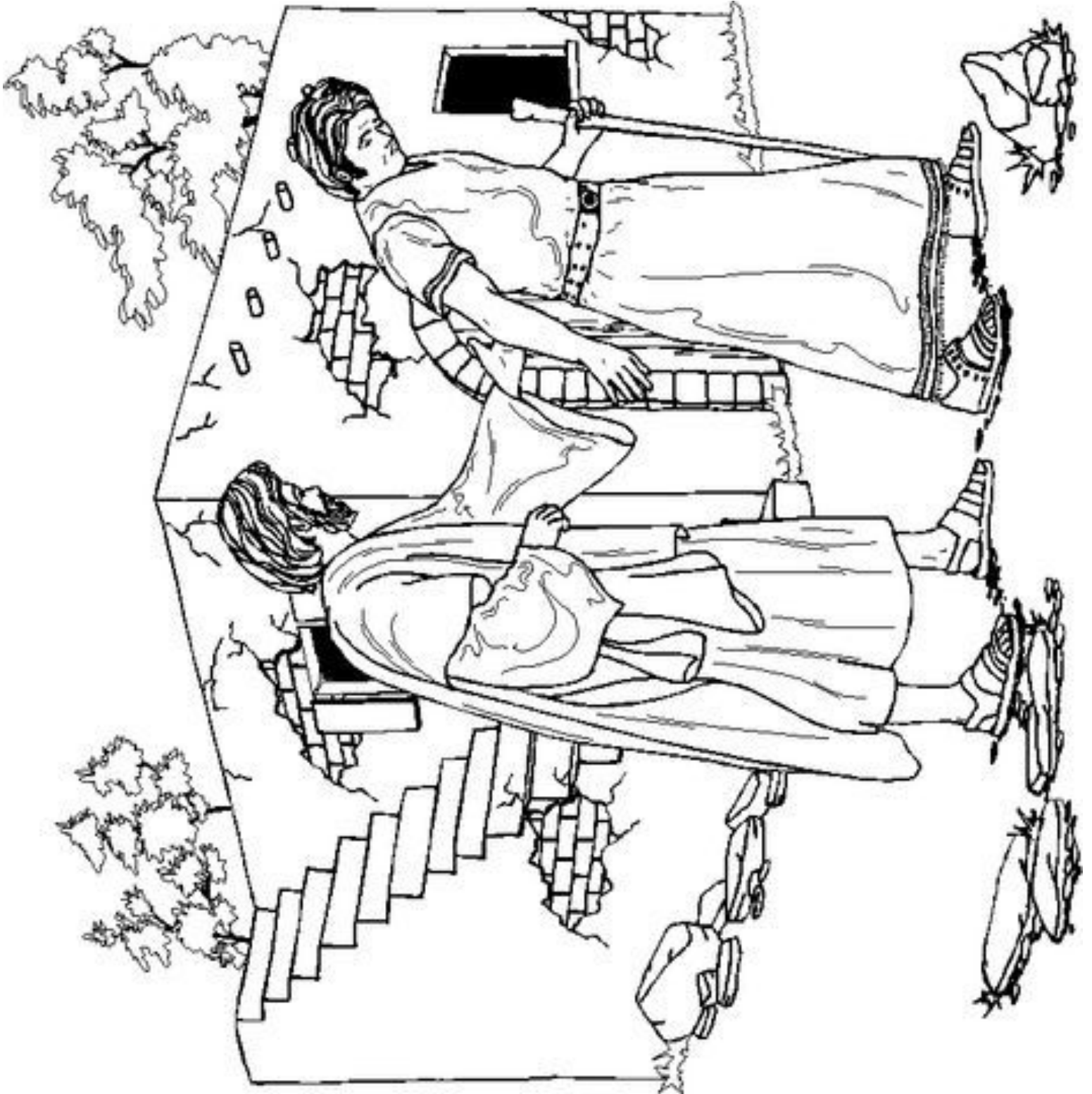
Craft:

- Use the coloring sheets attached

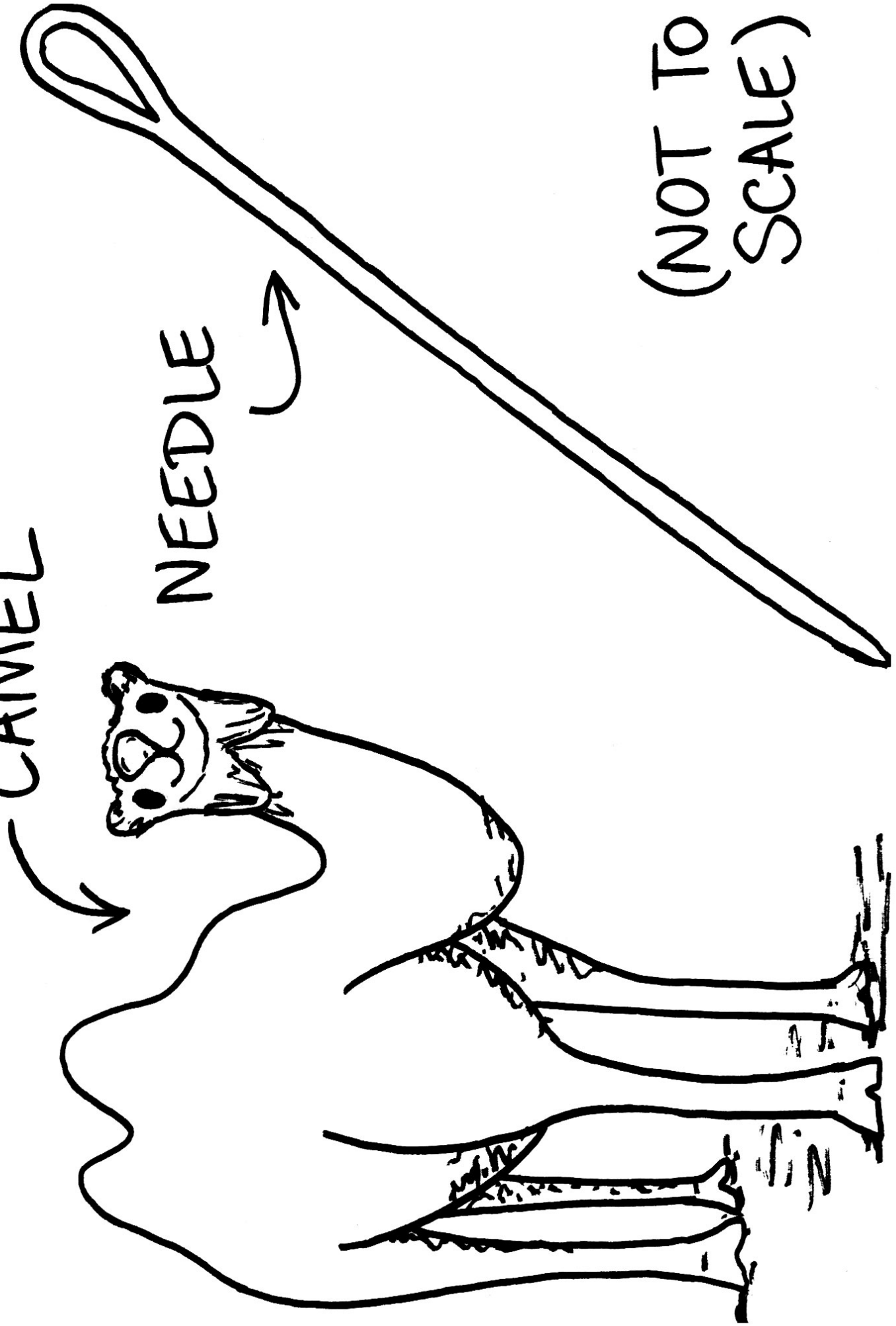
BLESS Activity

This week, ask God who He will help you practice the **BLESS** rhythm with. Jesus wanted the man to share his wealth with the poor — those in need. What are some things God has blessed you with? Who are the people around you who might have a need? How can you use the blessings from God to bless them?

This is what following Jesus looks like, in the power of his Spirit!



CAMEL



NEEDLE

(NOT TO
SCALE)