

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year C – Season after Pentecost, Proper 21**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**

**Scripture: Luke 16:19-31**

**Choices:** What situation do we find ourselves, right here and now, in which we have a choice? What is preventing us from making it? Are possessions, in fact, possessing us? For some of us the choice might be to rearrange our priorities, even make a career change, or maybe it is to faithfully deal with what is on our plate. For all of us, Jesus invites us to follow him.

**A Notation for This Week's Gospel**

What do we choose to notice as we race through our daily tasks? Who are the invisible ones in our midst? Who is holding out a hand to us?

**Theme: Noticing Who We See**

**Before Class:** You will need copies of the scripture script, the journals (if you are using them), paper, and pencils.

**Beginning:** Ask the children to help you make a list (and you write down what they come up with) of people who do work that we usually do not notice. For example, the law enforcement officer who drives around the town at night to protect us, or the Emergency Room nurses who are ready when people need them. (Other options could include day-care workers, school crossing guards, the people who clean our schools and our church, etc.) Tell them we have a story today about someone who was not noticed.

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, God, for stories Jesus tells that help us notice people we might never see. Amen.

**The Story: Luke 16:19-31.** Tell the children that Jesus could see that people were not "getting" his message, so he told this story to help them. Invite three children to read the three different parts from the script.

**Questions:**

- In the story, what happens to the poor man on earth, and then after he dies? (When he was alive his life was very hard and now he is being comforted.)
- In the story, what happens to the rich man on earth, and then after he dies? (He has everything he wants in life — and nothing afterwards.)
- Who is Father Abraham? (Abraham, of the Hebrew Scriptures [Old Testament])
- What does the rich man want from Lazarus? (Relief. The relief he never gave Lazarus.)
- What does the rich man request, when he sees that he is to get no relief? (A warning sent to his brothers who are still alive.)
- What does Abraham reply? (verses 30b and 31b)

**Option:** What does this story tell us about choices we can make? (We can learn to notice people who need our help.)

**Activity:** This story, set in our time.

Invite the children to produce a skit showing a rich man who has absolutely everything and has a dream of the Lazarus story and changes his ways. Characters included could be the rich man, someone to drive his beautiful car for him, someone who works for him whose child is very sick and who he had never noticed. Invite the children to show the before and the after of this story in their skit.

**Getting Closure:** Ask the children what they think Jesus was trying to convey in this story? (Help them see that it is not so much about what Hell might be like as what life could be like.)

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for the stories Jesus tells us to help us serve you. Amen.

## Luke 16:19-31

**Narrator:** 19 ‘There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>He called out,

**Rich Man:** “Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.”

**Narrator:** <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said,

**Abraham:** “Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.”

**Narrator:** <sup>27</sup>The Rich Man said,

**Rich Man:** “Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father’s house— <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.”

**Narrator:** <sup>29</sup>Abraham replied,

**Abraham:** “They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.”

**Rich Man:** “No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.”

**Narrator:** <sup>31</sup>But Abraham said to him,

**Abraham:** “If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.” ’

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