

## **Series: Born Among Us**

### **Lesson 5: Middle East Oil Crisis (A Rich Young Ruler and a Passionate Woman)**

#### **Lesson Objectives:**

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- Identify that Jesus wants to be their first priority
- Identify some of their own passions and priorities
- Identify ways of using their passions and priorities to honour God
- Continue to build a biblical image of Jesus

#### **Materials Needed:**

- ☐ Copies of page A-26 and A-27
- ☐ Costumes for Lead In (optional)
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Board and markers
- ☐ Scrap paper
- ☐ pens

## **Lead In:**

Choose three dramatic volunteers to be in the Lead In skit that is on page A-26 and A-27. You are going to play the narrator and they are going to play an athlete, a girlfriend, and a student. Once again, bring in costumes or props if it will make this more memorable and enjoyable for the students. You could bring in a ball or hockey stick for the athlete, a wig or a ring for the girlfriend, and a book or a binder for the student. Give the actors the scripts and instruct them to read them over once and be prepared for a very passionate reading of the script. Their goal is to seem as passionate as possible. While they read, tell the audience that as they watch they should identify which characters really did seem passionate. Then begin the skit.

When the skit is finished, allow the audience to make comments on how passionate the characters were.

## **Task One:**

Divide the students into two groups. If your group is larger than 12, divide the students into four groups and assign each passage twice. Go to teach group and assign them a passage to look up. Do this without the other group hearing the assigned text. The texts are Mark 10:17-27 and Mark 14:3-9. Instruct the students to read their passage and then answer the following questions, which you can either read or have written on a board. Make pens and scrap paper available for recording the answers.

1. What does Jesus teach is a priority in this passage?
2. What does Jesus teach about the poor in this passage?
3. If you were a disciple in the story how would you have felt about what Jesus taught in this passage?

When each group has finished, ask each group to share their answers. Likely, they will quickly notice the opposite answers given by each group. If not, ask them if they notice anything odd or if they agree with the other group. When they realize the difference, ask each group to read the passage together.

Ask the students why they think that Jesus taught two seemingly different things in these two passages. You can give them a hint: think back to the Lead In. The issue in each of these stories is the priority or passion of the man and the woman. The man's passion was his own wealth; her passion was clearly Jesus himself. Jesus was less interested in the man's money than in his loyalty, whereas he applauded the woman because she made it clear that Jesus was number one in her life.

## **Task Two:**

Give each student four slips of paper. Ask them to write down the four most important things in their lives, one on each slip of paper. These things may be people, hobbies, sports teams, or anything else that they value.

When they have each finished, read through the following scenarios.

1. Imagine that tomorrow the stock market crashes. There is nation-wide panic and much of the country faces financial ruin. Thousands lose their jobs and the country goes into turmoil. Because of this crisis, you will lose one of the things on your slips of paper. Please destroy one of your pieces of paper.

Note: At this point students may ask something like "which one?" or "how do I choose?" Tell them they can pick whichever they want. It does not necessarily have to be related to finances. If they say something like, "Well my family wouldn't be affected by a stock market crash," remind them that we often don't know how situations like these affect our world. The family may have to move

apart to get work or may even split up because of the pressure. Or they may just need to suspend their disbelief for this activity.

When they have all finished and decided which passion to omit, read the next scenario.

2. Several months pass. The country is still in crisis and because of the crash there have been major import and export issues. The weather has also taken a turn and drought has covered the country so that local farms have not yielded healthy crops. Soon there is a major food shortage. The entire country is in famine. Because of this crisis, you will once again lose something that you value. Select one of your slips of paper and destroy it.

When they have all finished you may want to pause to ask them how they are feeling. After some short feedback, continue with the next scenario.

3. When it seems that things could not get any worse the state of the country begins to spread through the world and a world-wide war breaks out. The country is under daily attack and everyone is forced to join in the fighting or live in hiding. Millions around the world die. Because of this tragedy you will lose something else you value. Please destroy one more of your pieces of paper.

When the students have finished, ask them to look closely at the one piece of paper left in their hand. As they look, say something like, *As you look at the item in your hand, ask yourself if it is something that can die or be destroyed or taken away. If it can die or be lost or taken away from you, for any reason, tear that one up too.*

Theoretically, the only pieces of paper left should be ones that read “God” or “what I believe” or something of that sort. If students have not made this their biggest priority, then they will have nothing left in their hands. The point of this exercise is for students to discover that Jesus needs to be their main priority. God is the only one who will always be with us, no matter what happens. Although we can have other things that are

important to us, we need to put our faith in what alone can last. Ask if there are any students who would like to share what they have left and why or if there are any students who have questions or comments.

### **Task Three:**

Although we hope the students will recognize the importance of putting God first, we also want them to realize that that does not mean that we have to abandon all those things in our lives. The issue again is priority.

Invite each student to share some of the other things that they had written on their slips of paper. If your group is small, they can share them all. If it is large, aim for only one or two per person. Choose a volunteer who will record these on the board. Instruct the volunteer to record categories of than specifics, for example list friends and families rather than individual names and group all the sports or arts together.

When the list is finished, have students get in partners and choose on thing from the board and put their initials beside it. Then read Colossians 3:17 out loud to the students and explain that part of the way we show our passion for God is by using the things we love to honour God. Do one example together. For example, if you are passionate about playing soccer you can do so in a way that shares God's love. Don't argue with the referees or trash talk the other players; be kind and compassionate towards other players; don't commit to games and practices that will take you away from your faith commitments; take care of weaker players; and use your relationships to build the kingdom of God.

When they are done, solicit some answers. Guide them to identify the ways that they can use their passions for Jesus. This is what Jesus wanted the rich young ruler to do and this is what the woman with the oil did.

**Task Four:**

Once again, revisit the image of Jesus that you started in the first lesson of this series. Ask the students what new things they want to add or change about Jesus as a result of this lesson and allow them to adapt the image as appropriate.

**Closing:**

Close in prayer, thanking Jesus for who he is and asking God to reveal to each of the students a fresh understanding of his character.