

The Rich Young Man



THE RICH YOUNG MAN

Matthew 19:16-26

One day when Jesus was teaching in the region of Judea, a man came up to Him. The man asked Jesus, “Teacher, what good things should I do to have eternal life?”

Jesus responded, “Why are you asking Me what is good? Only God is good. If you want eternal life, keep the Commandments.”

The man asked, “Which commandments should I keep?”

Jesus quoted part of the Ten Commandments. Jesus answered, “Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not lie. Honor your father and mother. Love your neighbor as yourself.”

The man replied, “I have kept all of these commandments from the time I was a young man. What should I do now?”

Jesus answered, “Go and sell what you own. Give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven. Then, come and follow Me.”

The young man was shocked. He left sad because he had many possessions.

Jesus looked at His disciples and explained, “It will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The disciples were confused, “Who can be saved?”

Jesus responded, “With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

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Session #4 & March 26, 2023

Younger Children's Activity

Resources Needed: Chinese take-out boxes (one per child), jewel stickers, variety of sharpie markers, blank index cards (3 per child), Item 5: "The Gospel" (5 per class)

Directions:

- Allow kids to decorate a treasure chest using sharpies and jewels.
- Display "The Gospel" poster on each table.
- Have kids draw the symbols and write the statements on the index cards.
- Fold the cards and place them in the treasure chest.

Extra Activity: Hidden Ring pg 37 (one toy jewelry ring) (one ring pop per child to pass out before they leave)

Older Children's Activity

Resources Needed: Item 17: "Soccer Player Finger Puppets and Field" printable one for each child (print on heavy weight paper), scissors, markers, colored pencils, white table tennis balls (one per child), zip-loc sandwich bags (one per child), black sharpies.

Directions:

- Have the kids color the soccer players.
- Cut them out and cut out the finger holes.
- Use sharpie to draw on the white table tennis balls to make them look like a soccer ball.
- Have kids put the finger puppets on their fingers and allow kids to play a soccer game with a partner on their paper field.
- Explain that the missionary Hector Cabrera used sports to help teach Bible stories to the children in the Uganda camp.

Extra Activity: Can't Earn It pg 38 (10 blocks per classroom, 10 sticky notes with the 10 commandments written on each note and stuck to each block)

HIDDEN RING

Tools: fake jewelry ring

- Say: “In our story today, a rich young man wanted to have eternal life. The young man said that he did obey all the commandments. To help him understand that he didn’t really follow all of the commands, Jesus told him that he needed to sell his possessions and give to the poor. Jesus asked the young man to follow Him. This made the young man sad.”
- Continue: “The young man had a lot of stuff. It’s easy for us to put things before God. We can’t earn our way to heaven. **We can only have eternal life when we trust Jesus as our Savior.**”
- Ask kids to form a circle. Ask them to place their hands behind their backs. Tell your kids that you will walk behind them and pretend to place the toy ring in their hands. Tell them that you will place the ring in one person’s hands.
- Instruct the group that if someone gets the ring, they should act completely normal. Their job is to act like they do not have the ring. All the kids must try and guess who has the ring.
- After playing the game, ask: “What did we use to play our game? A ring! Our object this week was a fancy ring. In Bible times, people with lots of money often wore rings. What is something that people with lots of money might wear or own today?”
- Continue: “Are any of those things going to help us get eternal life? No! **We can only have eternal life when we trust Jesus as our Savior.**”

CAN’T EARN IT

Tools: 10 blocks per kid

- Ask kids to list the Ten Commandments.
- As they list them, instruct them to stack a block for each commandment listed.
- Provide answers, if needed, until they each have 10 blocks stacked.
- Ask: “What if you decided you didn’t want to follow one of the commandments anymore?”

middle block?”
- Guide each kid to pull out a middle block from his stack.
- Ask: “It all came tumbling down, right?”
- Ask: “How is this similar to what happened in our Bible story today?” (*The rich young man wanted to earn salvation on his own by doing good things. When he could not do one of the things Jesus required, it all came tumbling down, and he walked away sad.*)
- Recite the Text Truth: **we cannot earn eternal life with God. It is a gift we receive when we trust in Jesus.**

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The word *gospel* means “good news.”

It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation.



GOD RULES.

The Bible tells us God created everything, including you and me, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to recite Genesis 1:1 from memory or read it from his Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 and Colossians 1:16-17.



WE SINNED.

Since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God (Romans 3:23). The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death (Romans 6:23).



GOD PROVIDED.

Read John 3:16 aloud. God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read Ephesians 2:8-9.



JESUS GIVES.

Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



WE RESPOND.

We can respond to Jesus. “The ABCs of Becoming a Christian” is a simple tool that helps us remember how to respond when prompted by the Holy Spirit to the gift Jesus offers.

ADMIT

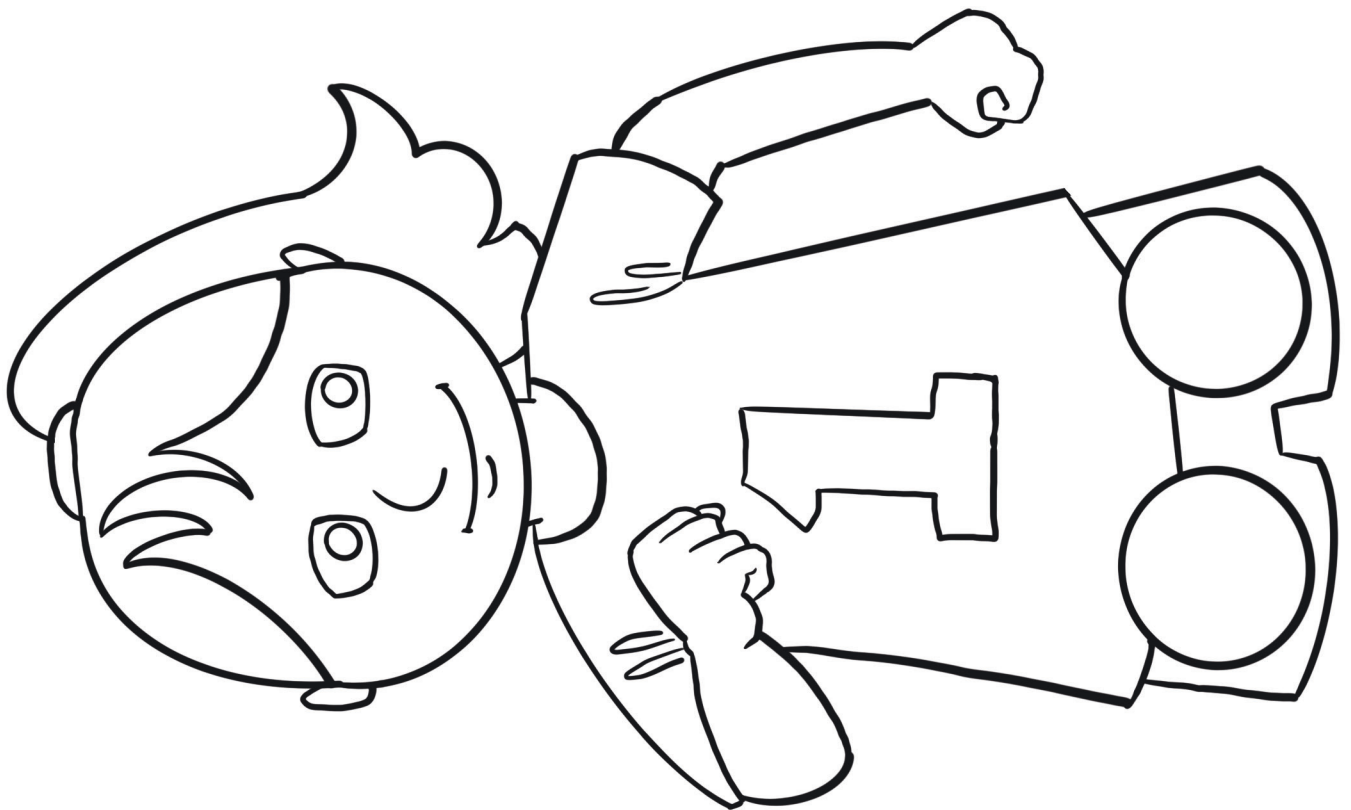
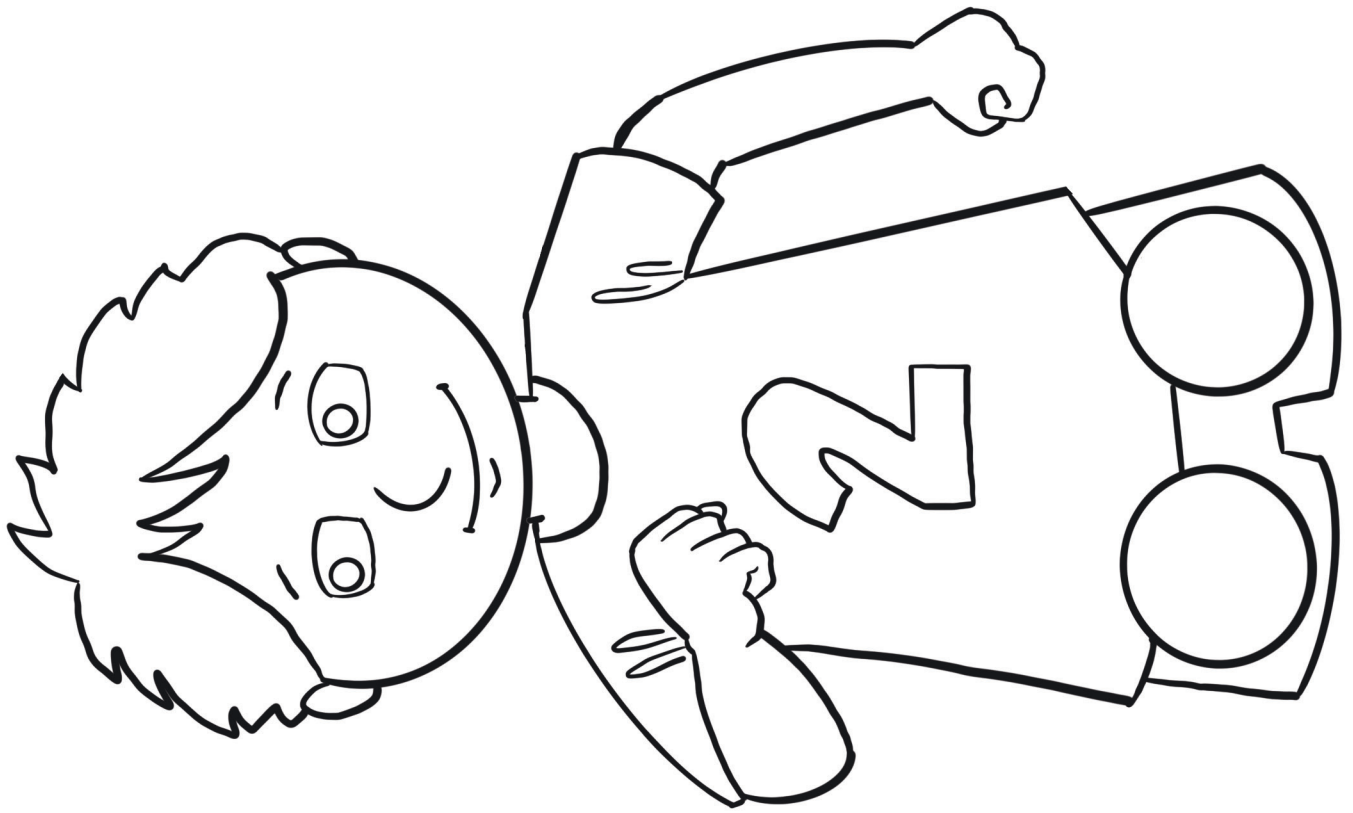
Admit to God that you are a sinner. The first people God created chose to sin and disobey God. Ever since then, all people have chosen to sin and disobey (Romans 3:23). Tell God you messed up and you are sorry for doing your own thing and turning away from Him through your thoughts, words, and actions. Repent, turn away from your sin. (Acts 3:19; 1 John 1:9) *Repent* doesn't just mean turning from doing bad things to doing good things. It means turning from sin and even from your own good works and turning to Jesus, trusting only in Him to save you.

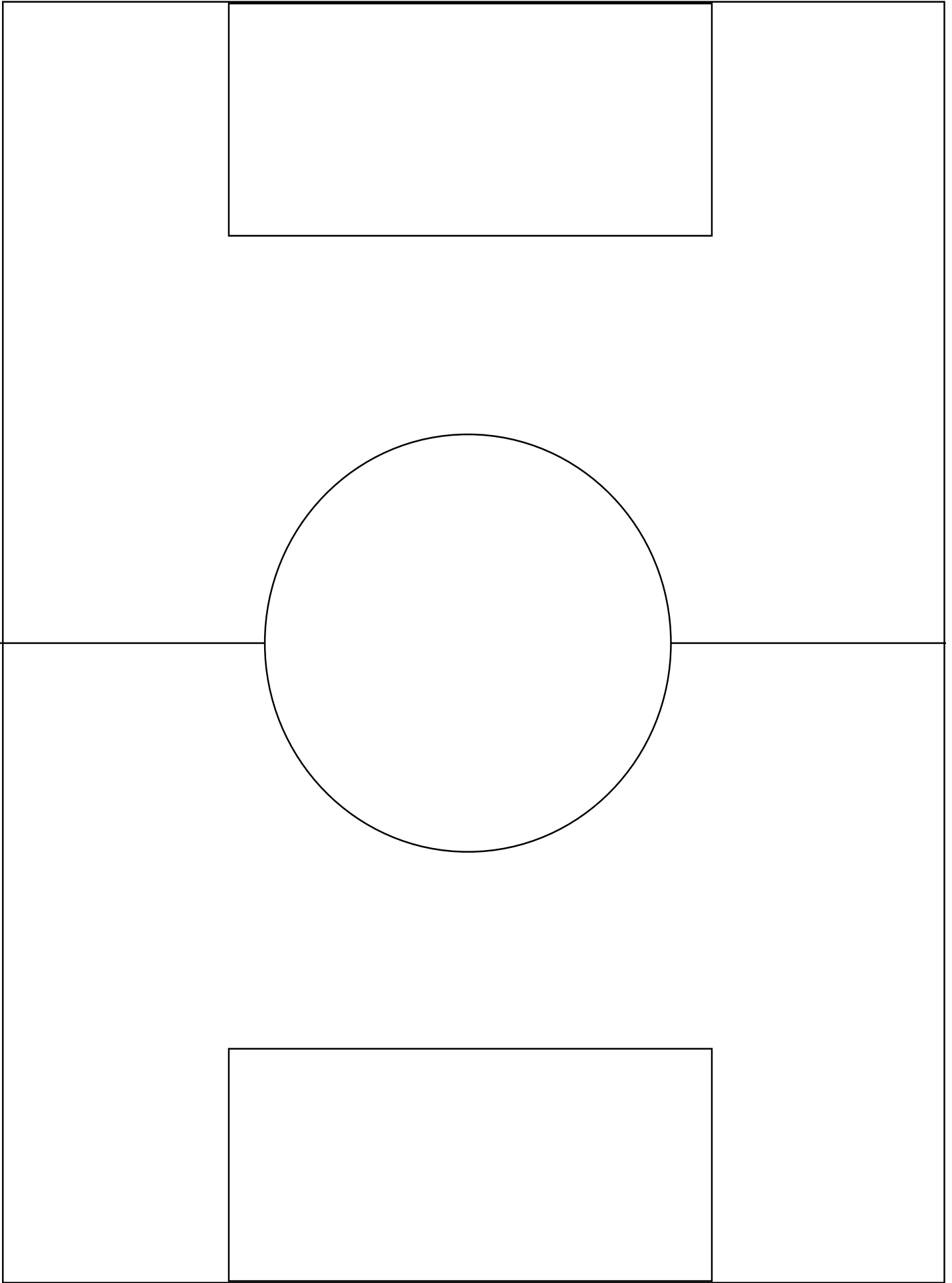
BELIEVE

Believe that Jesus is God's Son and receive God's gift of forgiveness from sin. You must believe that only Jesus can save you and you cannot save yourself from your sin problem—not even by praying to God, going to church, or reading your Bible. Your faith or your trust is only in Jesus and what He did for you through His life, death, and resurrection. (Acts 16:31; Acts 4:12; John 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-9)

CONFESS

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Tell God and tell others what you believe. If Jesus is your Savior, you are trusting only in Him to save you. Jesus is also Lord, which means He is in charge and calling the shots in your life. You can start following Him and doing what He says in the Bible. You are born again into a new life and look forward to being with God forever. (Romans 10:9-10,13)





THE RICH YOUNG MAN

WE CANNOT EARN ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD. IT IS A GIFT
WE RECEIVE WHEN WE TRUST IN JESUS.

March 26

GOLDEN RING

This triple-finger ring was worn in the **ROMAN EMPIRE** not long after Jesus lived on the earth. It is made of **GOLD, PEARLS, GEMSTONES, AND GLASS.** Ancient Romans loved using colorful, natural resources to make their jewelry, and sometimes they would wait for months for stones and other precious materials to arrive by ship or from voyages along the Silk Road.

Roman rings also represented a **PERSON'S SOCIAL STATUS.** Wealthy people were allowed to wear fancy gold rings. Lower-class citizens could only wear common metals, like iron.

What kind of rings might the rich man in **MATTHEW 19** have worn?

LONGEST-LIVING THINGS




The average person lives around 75 years, but the longest-living person in modern history lived to be 122.




Asian elephants live for up to 86 years.



Blue and yellow macaws have a life expectancy of around 100 years.




The bowhead whale lives around 200 years and is the world's longest-living mammal.



Giant tortoises hardly have any predators, and one Aldabra giant tortoise lived 256 years.



The oldest-documented clam is 507 years old. Its age can be calculated by the rings on its shell.



The oldest living creature is a jellyfish—the turritopsis dohrnii. It can regenerate its cells, making it nearly invincible.

Though many creatures can live a long, long time, only people can live eternally. Eternal life is a gift we receive when we trust in Jesus.



BIBLE PASSAGE:
MATTHEW 19:16-26

MEMORY VERSE:
MATTHEW 16:16

IS BEING RICH BAD?

It wasn't a sin that the young man was wealthy. However, 1 Timothy 6 warns that wanting riches can lead us to harmful desires and evil.

Matthew 19 doesn't tell us why the man sadly walked away from Jesus, but what do you think?

Did he love God and his neighbor or his own wealth and security?

The \$100,000 Gold Certificate is the largest unit of currency ever printed in the United States. It is illegal for citizens to have one! Only the Federal Reserve could use these bills.



FRONT



BACK

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

Eternal life is a gift from God when we repent of our sin and trust Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Use the code key to fill in the blanks to review the five statements of the gospel.

7 15 4 18 21 12 5 19

GENESIS 1:1;
REVELATION 4:11

23 5 19 9 14 14 5 4

ROMANS
3:23; 6:23

7 15 4 16 18 15 22 9 4 5 4

JOHN 3:16

10 5 19 21 19 7 9 22 5 19

ROMANS 5:8;
1 PETER 3:18

23 5 18 5 19 16 15 14 4

ROMANS
10:9-10,13

CODE KEY:

A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10, K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18, S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26

TEN COMMANDMENT OR NOT?

The man asked which of the commandments he needed to keep. Read the list of commandments below and write a check mark in the blank if the commandment is one of the Ten Commandments God gave the Israelites at Mount Sinai. Look at **EXODUS 20:1-17** in your Bible to check your answers. Only Jesus has obeyed the Ten Commandments perfectly. Which of the Ten Commandments is the hardest one for you to obey?

- ☐ Do not lie.
- ☐ Remember your mom's birthday.
- ☐ Do not steal.
- ☐ Do not forgot to walk your dog.
- ☐ Do not have other gods besides Me.
- ☐ Do not make an idol.
- ☐ Do not misuse God's name.
- ☐ Do not eat your vegetables.
- ☐ Honor your parents.
- ☐ Do not spill your milk.
- ☐ Do not murder.
- ☐ Keep your marriage promises.
- ☐ Keep your room clean.
- ☐ Do not covet.
- ☐ Remember the Sabbath day.