

My Book of God

Lesson 66 – Rich People

Aim

- * To learn that it is hard for rich people to find God, because they love money more than God

Materials

- * Parable of the Rich Fool - Luke 12:15-21
- * Large picture of the parable
- * Story - 'The Little Gate' from 'Stories Jesus Told' by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen
- * Picture cards of the story
- * Mark 10:25 - "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."
- * chairs, blankets, pillows, backpack, cushion, pillow for "Eye of the Needle" game
- * Plastic hoops
- * A variety of needles and threads
- * worksheets

Lesson Outline

1. Introduction
2. Parable of the Rich Fool
3. Discussion
4. The Little Gate
5. Activities -worksheets, retell the story, thread a needle, Eye of the Needle Game, Climb Through a Hoop Game
6. Review the aim
7. Prayer

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1) Introduction

Discuss with the children about money and being rich.

- * *Who likes money?*
- * *If you had lots of money what would you do with it?*
- * *Would you be happy*
- * *What would God want you to do with it.*

Today we have two stories about money and being rich.

2) Parable of the Rich Fool - Luke 12:15-21

(Use the large picture of the story, as you tell it.)

Jesus said, "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."'

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be taken from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

3) Discussion

- * No matter how much money or possessions we have in this world we cannot take them with us into the next world. We have a body that we can see and touch, but we also have a spirit inside our body, that we can't see or touch, but is real. We live on earth for about 100 years, then our spirit goes to spirit world. We can't take money there, but we can take the love in our hearts. That's why we must learn God's word and learn how to love others. When we learn to love we are rich in front of God. This is the real treasure that we can take with us to spirit world.
- * We need money in this physical world, but we shouldn't keep it just to ourselves. If we use it for other people, then God will bless us.

4) The Little Gate

- * Jesus said, "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. He said this, because there is a gate in Jerusalem called 'the Eye of the Needle' through which a camel could not pass unless it stooped and first had all its baggage removed.
- * This story shows just how difficult it is for rich people to come closer to God, because they love money more than they love God. The baggage on the camel is like all the things rich people have. The eye of the needle is like the way to heaven and we can't take any of it with us to heaven.

5) Activities

- * Worksheets - Colour a picture of a camel looking through the 'Eye of the Needle'
 - Colour a picture of The Rich Fool
 - Fill in the dotted lines and connect the dots
- * Retell the story - Put the picture cards in the correct order and tell the story in your own words
- * Thread a needle - Children thread a needle with different threads and needle sizes
- * Eye of the Needle Game - To understand how hard it is for a rich person, play a game of squeezing through a tight space. Arrange furniture so that there is a very small space that the kids must squeeze through. Let them try to get through the space. The goal can be to get through the obstacles in order to reach their destination, heaven. Children can carry backpacks on their back, like a camel carrying a load. They could also tie pillows or cushions.
- * Climb Through a Hoop Game - A plastic hoop can be used to represent 'Eye of the Needle'. The first time each child easily gets through the hoop. The second time each person carries a backpack. Each time they go through they must carry more things. For example: a hat, a coat, boots, gloves, a toy, books, etc ... The game can also be played in the reverse order.

6) Review the lesson aim

- * To learn that it is hard for rich people to follow God, because they love money more than God

7) End with a prayer

Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 12:15-21



Jesus said, "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."'

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be taken from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

The Little Gate



Here is a wall which surrounds a town. In the wall is a little gate. It has a funny name. It is called the Eye of a Needle, because it is so small.

One day a camel arrives at the gate. This is no ordinary camel. He has a fine saddle with red tassles, and his own servant boy to flick away the flies. He is loaded high with carpets to sell in the market.

“Make way,” he says “I’m coming through!” But he isn’t coming through at all! He can’t get through the hole. He is too big!

“Try wriggling through backwards,” says the boy. And he shows the camel how.

“Camels never wriggle,” says the camel. But just the same, he turns around and pushes his bottom into the hole.

He heaves and pushes. He even wriggles. But it is no good. He cannot get through the gate.

“I’ll unload you,” says the boy. He unties the ropes and takes off all the carpets. “Now try again.”

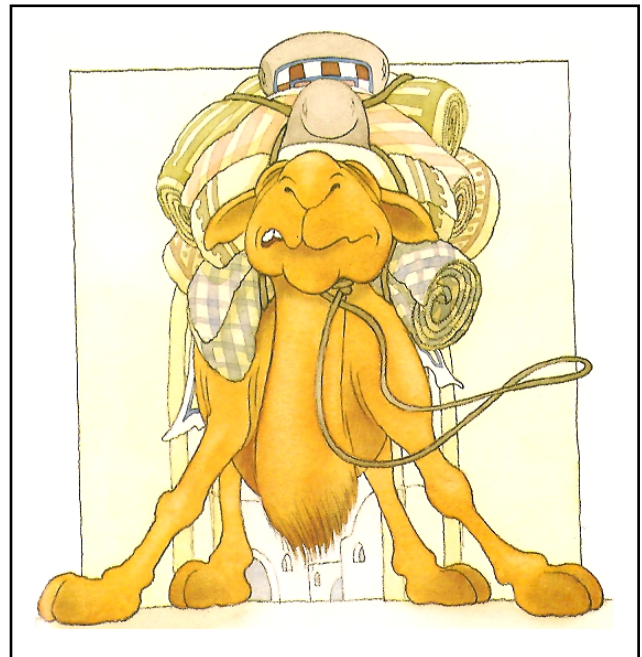
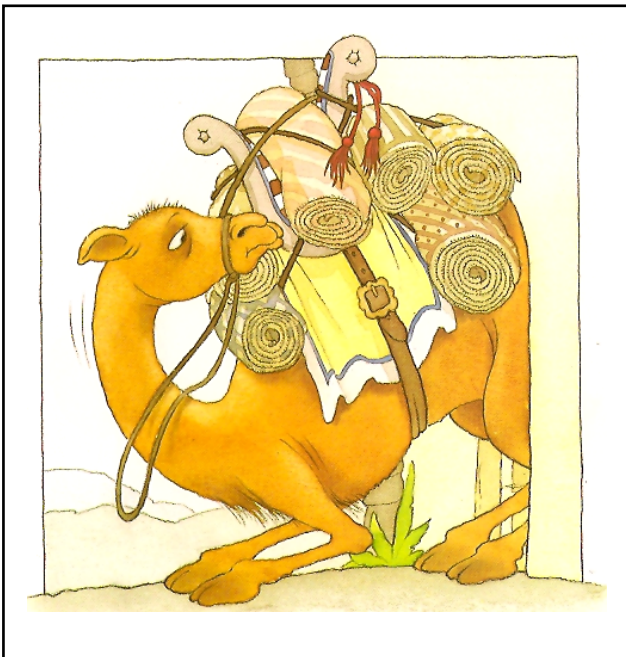
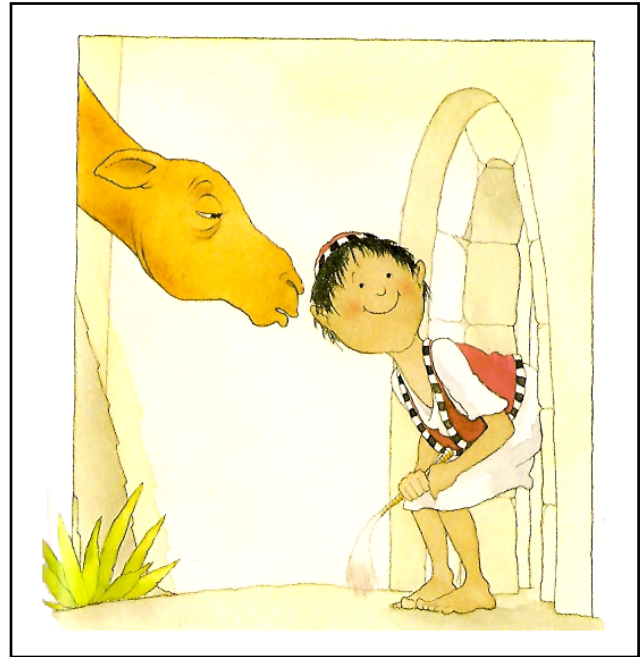
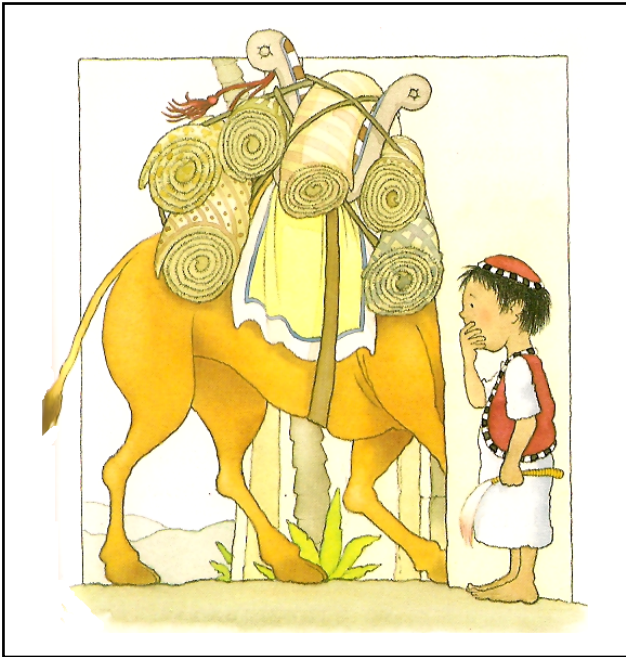
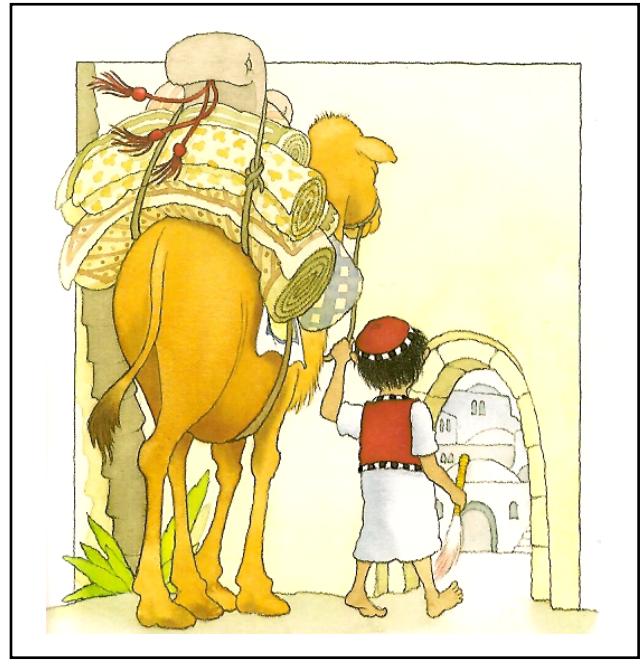
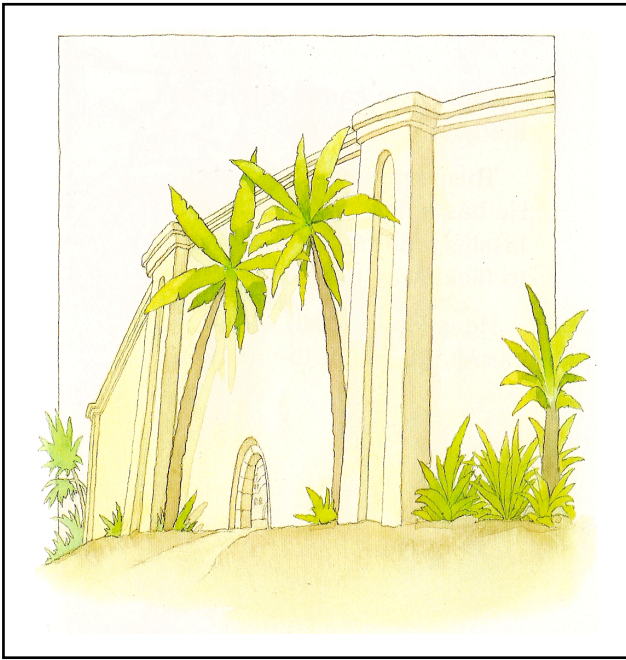
It’s no use. The camel still cannot squeeze through the gate. “Your saddle keeps getting stuck,” says the boy. “You will have to let me take it off.”

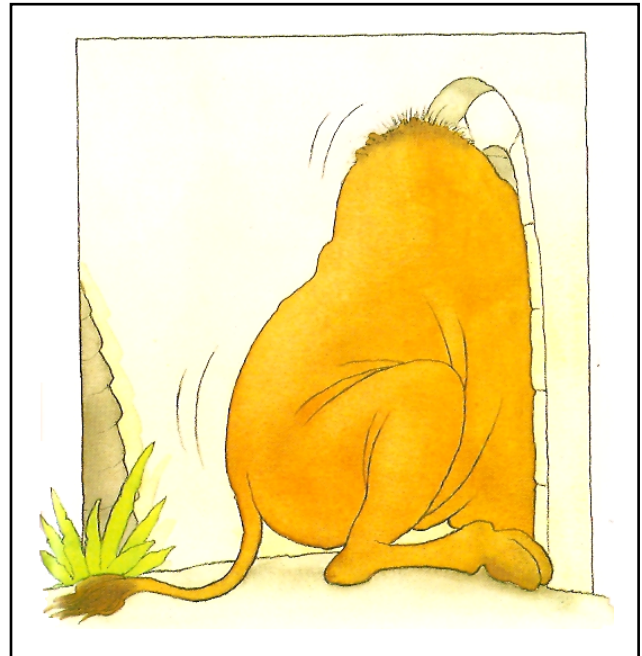
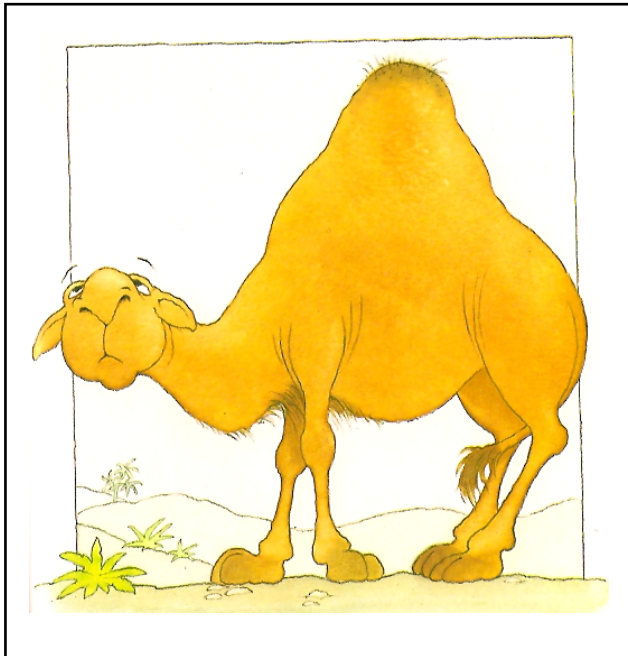
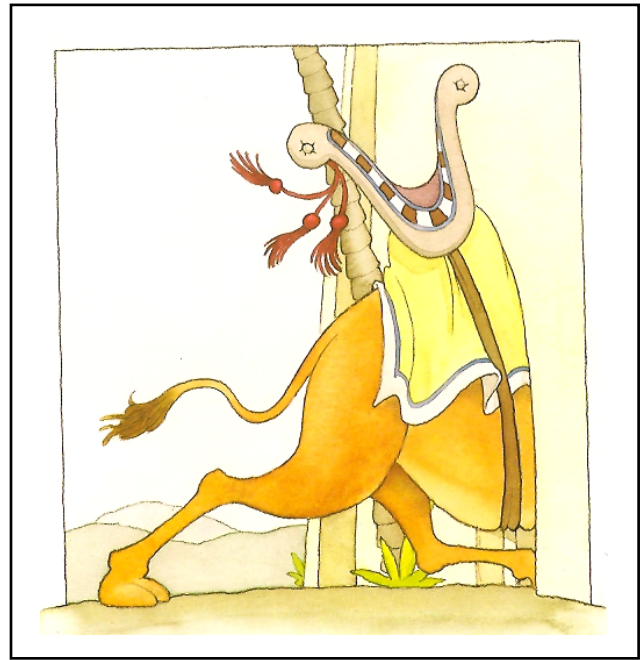
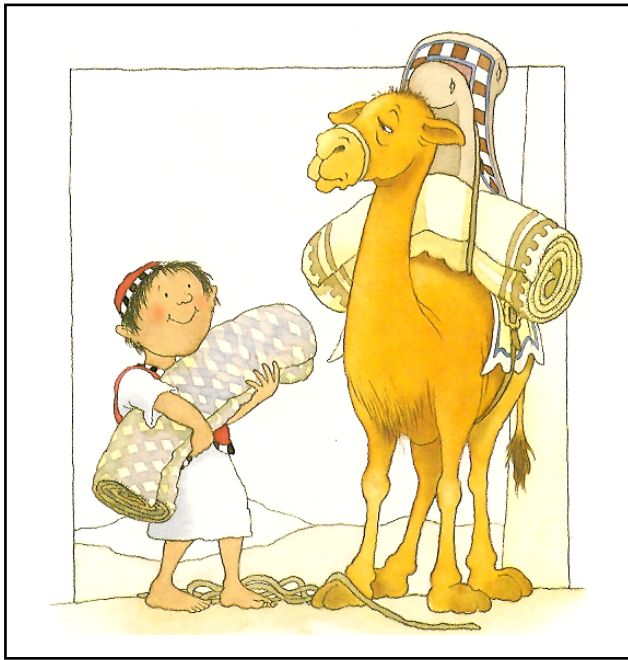
Without his fine saddle, the camel does not look proud and important any more. He is just an ordinary camel.

Once more the camel tries. Down on his knees, shuffling forward, inch by inch, until finally . . .

Hooray! He is through!

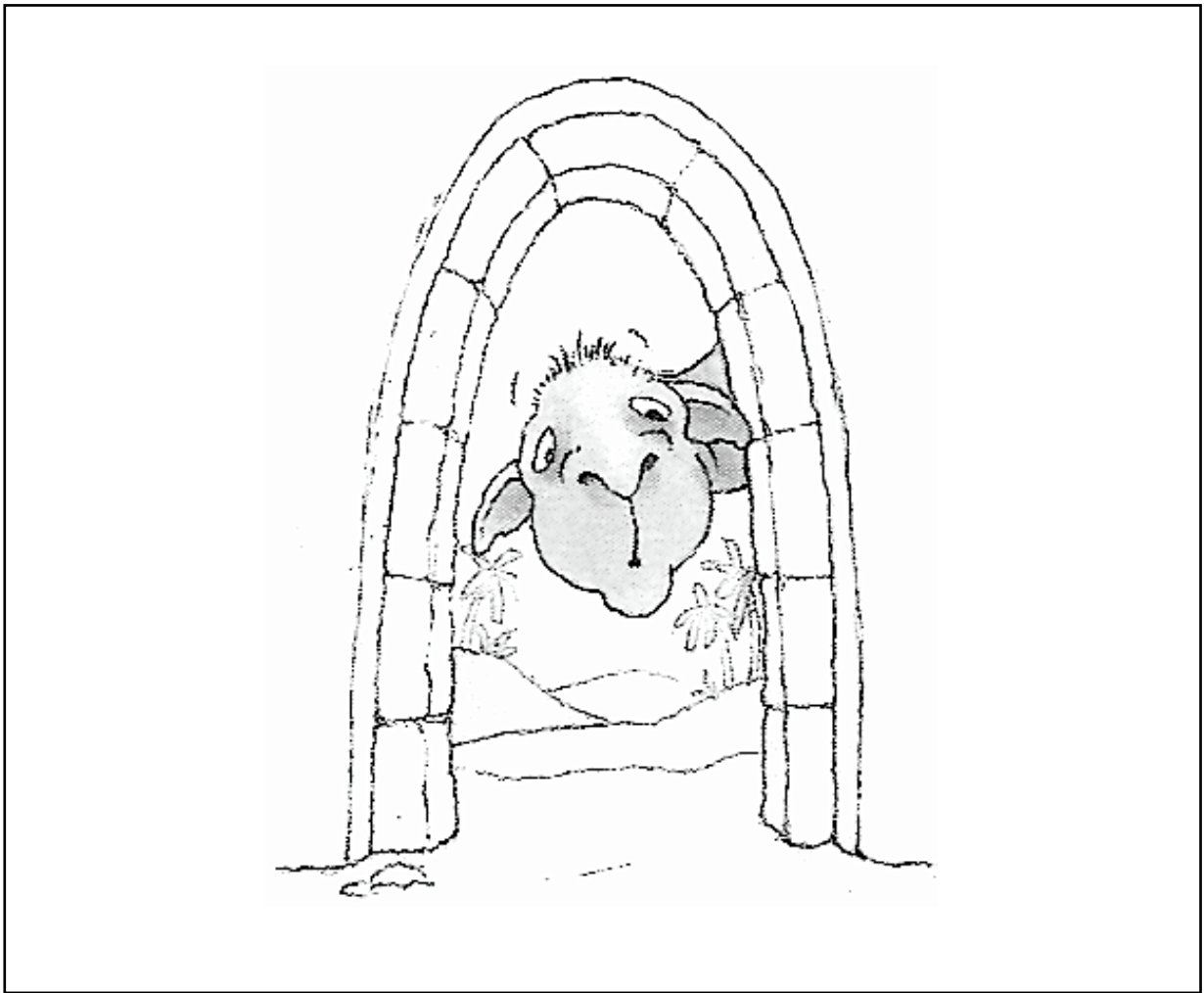
Jesus says, “It is very hard for a rich man to get to heaven. It is easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle!”







The Eye of the Needle



It is easier for a camel to go through the
eye of a needle, than for a rich man to
enter the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:25

The Rich Fool

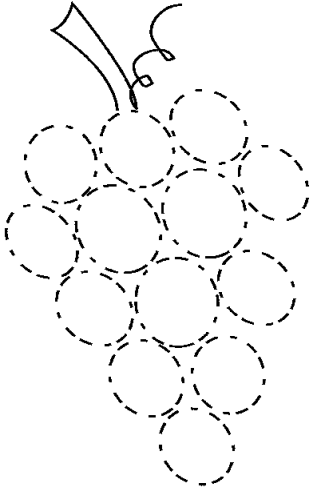


It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

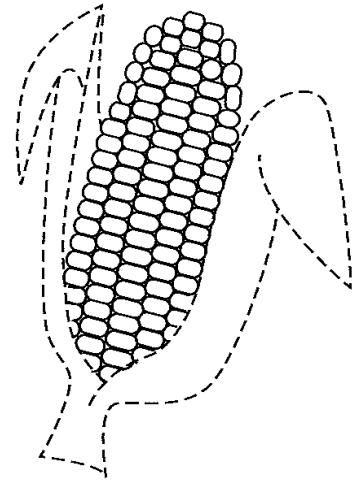
Mark 10:25

The Rich Fool

The rich man's land grew many crops. His barns were too small.



Fill in the dotted lines



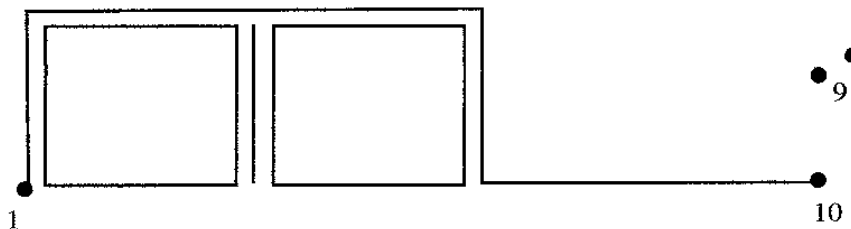
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The rich man decided to
keep everything for himself.
He built bigger barns.

5 ●

● 7

4 ●
3 ●
2 ●



It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle,
than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

Mark 10:25