



“What is special about the month we are now in?” It is the first month of a new year! “Have you heard about making a New Year resolution?”

“Did you know a resolution can be something you choose to give up, too? For example, you can resolve or make a goal to give up eating candy because it is not good for your teeth. Or you could give up playing video games after dinner because sometimes you end up staying up too late.”

“Jesus spoke to a man in the Bible and asked him to give something up so the man could follow Jesus with his whole heart. Jesus wanted the man to resolve to give up this thing so he could fully follow Jesus. Can you guess what that one thing was?” Look at the passage where Jesus talks with this man and find out what the one thing is Jesus asked him to give up.”

“Open your Bible to **Luke 18:18-27** and read the passage.

Think about verse 23. How did the man feel about giving up everything he owned? He was sad because he was very rich and he did not want to give all of his possessions up to follow Jesus. How did this man put God first in his life?

Jesus does not give us a list of things to do in order to get into heaven. There is no to-do list to check off. But you might wonder then why did Jesus ask this man to do something to receive eternal life? Jesus knew that this wealthy man was being held back by his many possessions. His great wealth was the ‘one thing’ that was keeping his heart hard. Jesus knew this man's heart would not want to follow Jesus until his possessions had been given away.”

Think about verse 24-25. To be a true follower of Christ and receive eternal life we must give our whole heart to Him. This rich young ruler was willing to give most of his heart and life to Jesus, but not all of it. His wealth was the ‘one thing’ keeping him from following Jesus with his whole heart.”

Think about how you can make time every day to put God first. He wants us to talk to HIM each and every day.

Prayer:

Dear God, Help me to build a closer relationship with you and remember how much you love me.
Amen