



Literacy Check

- **Mark 10:17-31** - How to enter God's Kingdom.
- **1 John 5** - A good summary of the epistle.

Let's Break the Ice

If you had to delete all but 3 apps from your smartphone, which ones would you keep?

Introduction

It's easy for us to make things complicated. Jesus simplified the world with the simple statement, "Follow me."

A Good Idea

People get tripped up by the story of the "rich young ruler" in Mark 10, as well as Jesus's statements about the difficulty for rich people to enter heaven. Help your group narrow their discussion to Jesus and what he asks us to do.

Things to Ponder

The rich young ruler had many possessions and appeared to live a life in pursuit of God's commands. After telling Jesus that he has followed the Law, Jesus does not contradict him. Yet there is still something missing in the young man's life and Jesus illuminates it for all of us: get rid of all of your possessions (distractions) and follow me. Jesus drilled down into the man's life to point out what was keeping him from the relationship with God he so desired. What are your "possessions" or distractions that keep your focus off of God?

What stood out to your group with respect to 1 John 5? Do you feel John did a good job of focusing the believers in his time on Jesus and His grace?

Ask your group why they think the message of Jesus gets so "complicated" beyond just "follow me".

Wrapping Up

Many of your group members have children who are back in school, and as the end of the year approaches, it can feel like life is just overbearing or burdensome. Take some time to pray for peace and calm in the storm and to have Jesus show up mightily in each of your members' weeks.