**Topic: Following Jesus**

**Bible Passage: Luke 18:18-27**

**Activity: “Auction: Buy It Now!”**

Start by asking students to name things that they possess (or desire to possess) that have value. Get them to think of things like iPhones/iPads, gaming systems, name-brand clothes, sports equipment, jewelry, as well as future possessions like cars, houses, jobs, etc.

Once you have a list of several items from the group, explain the rules of an auction. Each student has $1.000 to spend at the auction for the item or items that they value the most. Go item by item and allow student to bid against one another for the items. Once their $1,000 is spent, they can no longer bid.

**At the end of the auction, ask the students these questions:**

* Did any of these items go for a higher price than they were actually worth? Why?
* Why did some items go quicker or for a higher price than other items?
* If you won an item, are you happy with your item? Do you wish you could’ve gotten a different item or an additional item?
* For those of you that won an item, do you think that that item will make you happy a year from now? Will your excitement and joy from that item fade?
* What are some things that can bring happiness and joy that will not fade?

If you are a follower of Christ, you know the joy and peace that come with that relationship. You could have all the riches and fame in the world, but “Without him, what’s the point?” We need to ask ourselves this question, “Are we willing to give it all up to follow Jesus?”

Matthew 6:19-21 says, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Then verse 24 says, “No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.”

Jesus is telling us that our “treasures” can easily get in the way of following him. To follow him, we must be willing to make Him our treasure. These other things are great, but they will not bring you lasting joy.

Break into small groups and read the story of The Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:18-27)

**Discussion Questions:**

* What are some things that you treasure? What makes those things so valuable?
* Would it be difficult to give up these things if Jesus asked you to do so?
* What was Jesus’ response to the rich man’s question?
* Why do you think Jesus told the man to sell all that he had and give it to the poor?
* What does Jesus mean when he says, “it would be easier for a camel go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God”?
* What are the dangers of placing our hope/finding out joy in “stuff”?
* How is life different with our hope and joy is from Jesus Christ?
* What is something in your life that you treasure so greatly that it might be in the way of following after Jesus?