

The story of the camel and the eye of the needle

Watch and read together:

Enjoy watching Margaret telling the story on the video:

<https://youtu.be/suRrycPv1Pg> and you can read it in

Mark 10:17-27

"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." The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." (verses 25-27)



Chat together:

I wonder what surprised you about this story that Jesus told?

I wonder what Jesus was meaning with this parable?

What do you think God might be saying to you through this parable?

If you have read the whole passage (verses 17-27):

I wonder why Jesus asked the man to give away everything he had?

Is Jesus asking us to do the same?

What was Jesus meaning when he talked about the 'eye of the needle'? Did he mean the little gate in Jerusalem or was he talking about a real needle and meaning that it's impossible? I wonder what you think? Jesus probably asked the man to give away everything because he could see how important the man's things were to him, they were what he lived for. Do we have things which we love more than we love God?

Make together: You will need card, two pegs, scissors, glue or sticky tape, oddments of card or paper, wool.

First cut out the shape of the camel. Add two pegs for legs. Make a hole and add a tail made from wool or ribbon. Draw in the eye and any other details you want to add. Take a strip of card, make a fold close to one end and stick the small side of the fold onto the back of the camel's hump so that the longer part sticks up above the camel. Add a saddle and baggage to the strip of card. Use your camel to retell the story - the baggage and saddle can be folded down behind the hump!



Reflect and pray together: spend a few moments thinking about the following things, and quietly, in your head and heart, talk to Jesus about how you feel and if you need to say sorry too.

Think of a time when you were so pleased with the things you have, perhaps birthday presents or sweets or pocket money, but forgot to share.

Think of a time when you were so busy playing with lots of friends, you didn't notice someone feeling lonely.

Think of a time when you were so busy thinking about winning a game, you didn't notice someone hurting.

You might like to say this prayer together or pray your own prayers:

Father God, help us to trust you every day, help us to fully rely on you, knowing that you love us more than we can imagine. Father God, we remember that living your way is about two main things: loving you and loving others. We remember that the rich young man loved you but he loved his money too, he went away sad because he thought it was impossible to change. Father God, thank you that with your love and forgiveness, and the powerful help of the Holy Spirit we can learn to love you and others more. Father God, we remember Jesus' words that with you everything is possible. Amen

Activities to do together:

An impossible challenge or is it?

A camel can't crawl through a needle, or can he?

A human being can't crawl through a card or an A4 piece of paper, or can he?

Find a sheet of A4 paper and a pair of scissors. The challenge is to fit through the paper without using any sticky tape, glue, staples, folds etc. to hold ends together in just 5 minutes! Is this impossible?

Go to the end of this document to see if it can be done.

Design a poster

Draw or paint a poster and add the words of this verse:

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

Mark 10:27

Amen shoeboxes

God loves us to share what we have with others, not keep it for ourselves. Have a think of ways in which you could bless other people with your possessions and share your ideas together. Maybe you could lend something to a friend, or share with a brother or sister? Maybe you would like to think about giving to a child in another country through a shoebox giving scheme. Have a look at this video:

<https://youtu.be/A59s7DU2eFI> (adults may prefer to watch this first?)

Father God, thank you for all you have given us. We are so grateful for all we have, but we realise that ultimately you are the most important thing in our lives. Help us always to put you first. Help us to show this by being willing to share what we have. Help us to show this by willingly giving up our stuff when you ask us to do so. Amen.



A -Z challenge

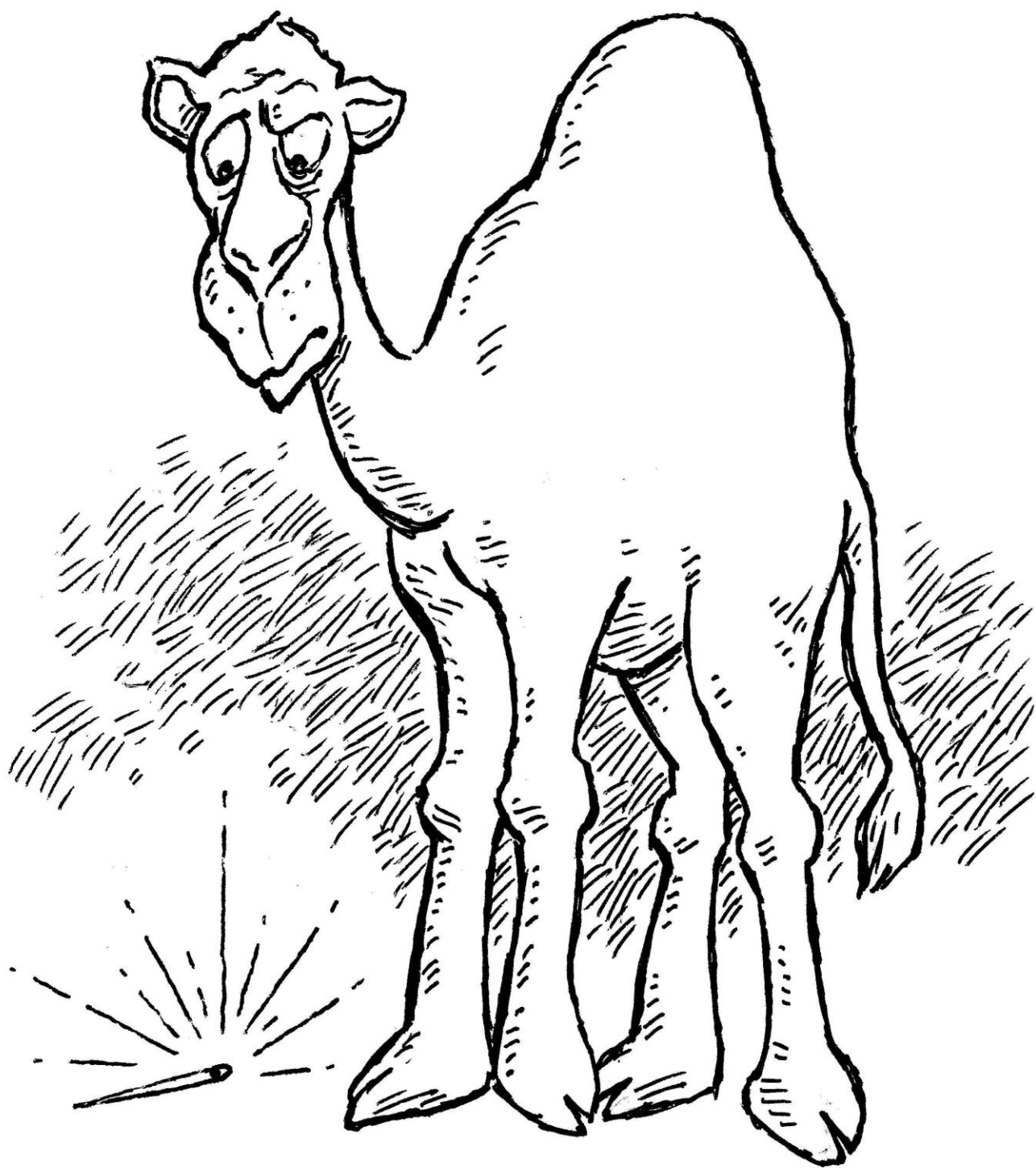
Play the game where you think of something beginning with A and take it in turns to add something, going through the alphabet (with or without an adjective!)

If I could buy anything I would buy an antique armchair...

If I could buy anything I would buy a bouncy ball and an antique armchair ...

An impossible challenge or is it?

Take a single piece of A4 paper, fold it in half lengthwise, then alternating sides, make cuts roughly 1 inch apart, stopping roughly 1 inch from the opposite edge. Open out the paper and leaving the ends intact, cut along the fold line. Stretch your paper apart to create a giant ring, and step through it. Remember that nothing is impossible with God. The piece of paper is still the piece of paper, you just changed it to make it big enough to step through.



Idea of shape for camel craft

