

# The story of the camel and the needle



## Watch and read together:

Enjoy watching Margaret telling the story on this video: <https://youtu.be/suRrycPv1Pg>

or read the story in a children's bible or in Mark 10:17-27

Stories Jesus Told by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen has a great version called 'The Little Gate'

"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 most about this story that Jesus told?

I wonder what Jesus was meaning when he told this story to his friends?

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

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 was using this story (or parable) to show how the things we have can be more important to us than loving God. Sometimes we need to be prepared to give those things away when God asks us to. Do we have things which we love more than we love God?

*Dear Jesus, thank you for the stories you have told us that help us to learn about you and God's kingdom. Please help us to not make our things more important than our friendship with you. Amen*

### **Make together:**

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



First draw the shape of the camel on a piece of card.

Cut out the shape of the camel.

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 using glue or sticky tape.

Finally add two pegs for the legs. Your camel should stand up now.

Use your camel to retell the story - the baggage and saddle can be folded down behind the hump! You could make a wall from another piece of card or some building blocks.

### **Reflect and pray together:**

If you've made a camel, you might like to sit and hold it and think about the story that Jesus told. Jesus loved to tell stories to show us how we should live. What is Jesus saying to us in this story? Maybe that we should love God more than we love our things. Maybe that we should share what we have with others - our families and friends and even people we don't know.

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

*Father God, thank you that you love us more than we can imagine. Thank you for all you have given us. Help us to love you more than anything else. Please help us to share what we have. Amen*

### **Activities to do together:**

#### Design a poster

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

*"All things are possible with God." (Mark 10:27)*

Or colour in the picture below to remind us that God can help us to love him and others more.

## Amen shoeboxes

God loves us to share what we have with others, not keep it for ourselves.

Can you think of anything you could do to share what you have with others, to bless them? Share your ideas together.

Maybe you could lend something to a friend, or share with a brother or sister?

Some people fill a shoebox with gifts for a family who live in other countries. This is a picture of a gypsy family who live in Romania, who probably live in a house a bit like this:



It's quite different to the houses we live in, isn't it?

What do you think you might put into a shoebox?

You could find a shoebox and see just how many things you can fit in there - just for fun!

Grownups might like to watch this video <https://youtu.be/A59s7DU2eFI>

## 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!) or just a list if too little to know the alphabet yet!

If I could buy anything I would buy an apple...

If I could buy anything I would buy an apple and a ball ...

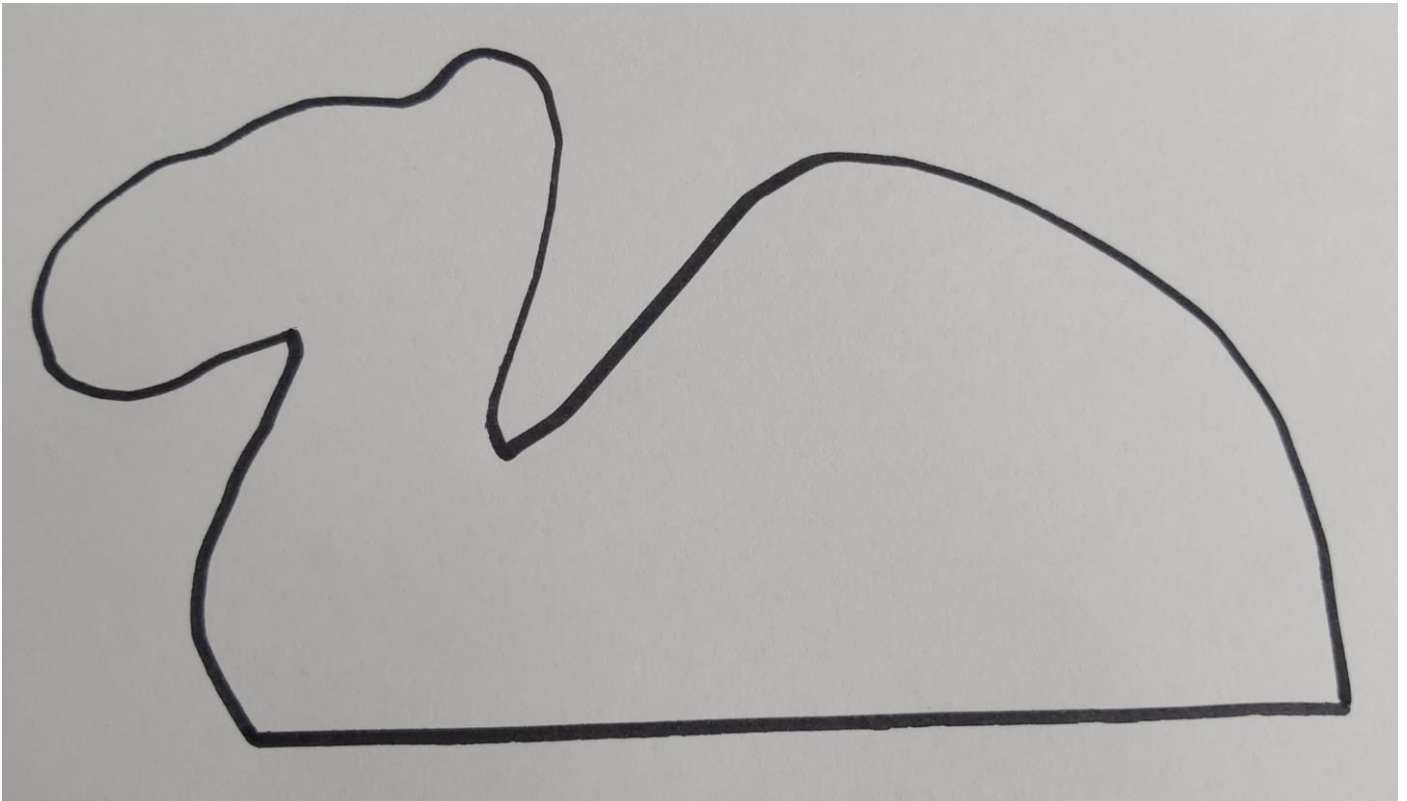
If I could buy anything I would buy an apple, a ball and a cat... and so on!

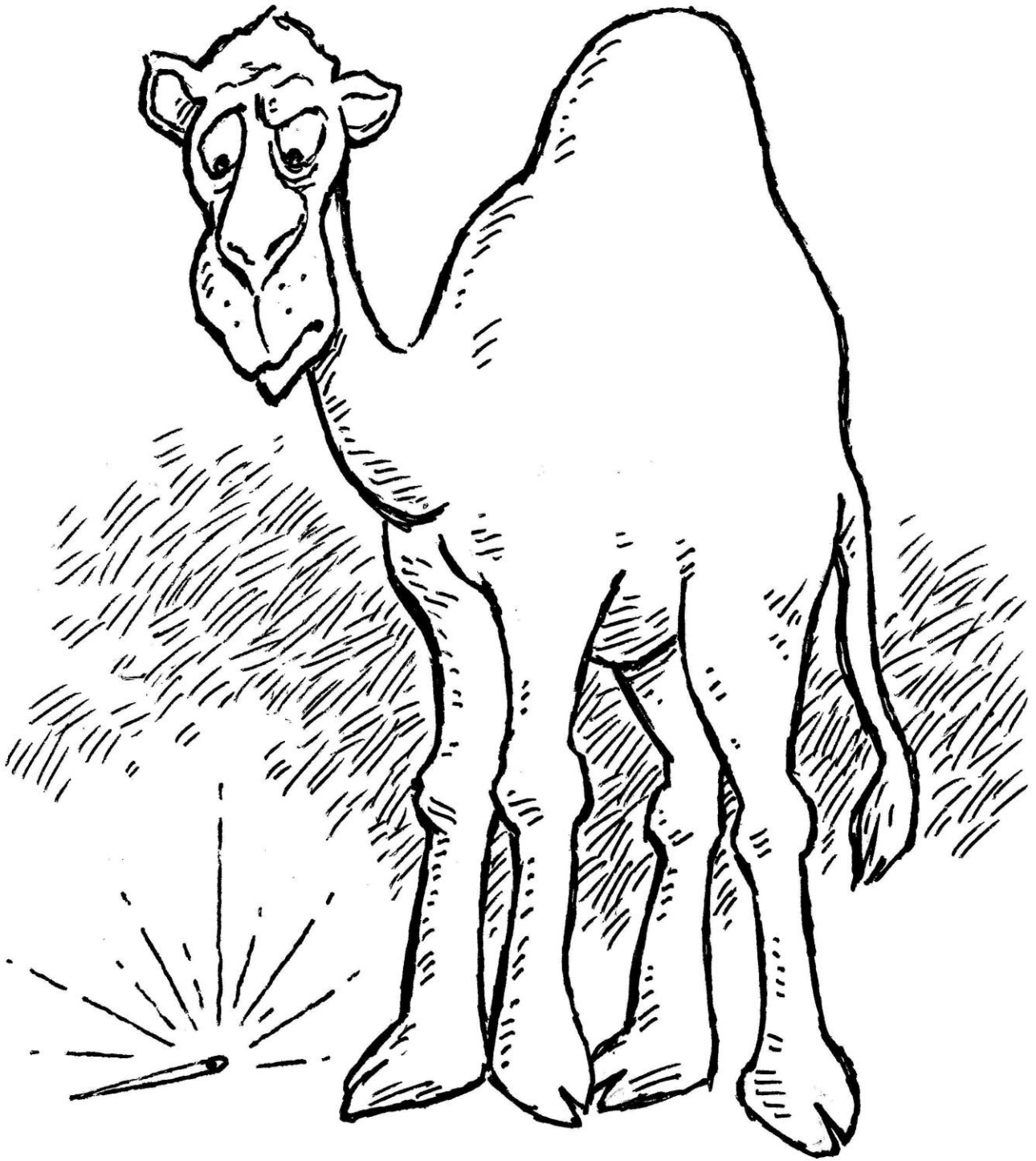
## An impossible challenge or is it?

Could a person step through an A4 sheet of paper? Why not surprise your children by doing just that!

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. Talk about how 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.

Template for a camel - just to give you an idea!





*"All things are possible with God." (Mark 10:27)*