



What's Stopping You?

- Focus** Jesus loves and redeems us even though we don't deserve it. We must choose to put Him first in our lives.
- Open** When you were a child, which one of these did you most want to become: rich or famous? Why?
- Read** In Mark 10:17–22, we learn about Jesus' interaction with a young, wealthy leader who asked Him how he could have eternal life. Jesus listed six of the Ten Commandments, which the young man stated he had kept. Jesus then pointed out that the young man lacked just *one thing*. It wasn't that he needed to do another good deed to go to heaven, but that he had to put following Christ first—ahead of his wealth and possessions. He wanted Him, but his possessions were stopping him from fully following Jesus.
- The bad news of the gospel is that being good isn't enough to go to heaven. The good news is that Jesus loves us and redeems us even though we're not good enough. The only requirement is to choose the *one thing*: to put Jesus first in our lives.
- Talk**
1. An idol is anything we seek after more than Jesus. In our culture, people do not worship idols made of wood or stone. What are some common examples of modern-day idols?

2. It's been said that when idolatry exists in the heart of a believer, it's not usually that something else has taken God's place, but they worship God *plus* something else, such as money, success or acceptance. Why is this still idolatry?
3. Read Mark 10:17–22. In your own words, what was Jesus' bottom-line message to the young man? What principle(s) can we take away from their interaction?

Live

1. In the past, what stopped you from fully following Jesus?
2. If you were to have a face-to-face encounter with Jesus today, what do you think He would instruct you to set aside to follow Him?
3. On a piece of paper, write down one or two sentences expressing your level of desire to follow Jesus and your commitment to set aside the thing you named in question two. (If you feel comfortable, share it with a friend and pray for one another.)

Pray

Thank Jesus for His grace. Thank Him for laying down His life to redeem you because you couldn't be good enough on your own. Repent for anything you've identified that is stopping you from fully following Him, and renounce your allegiance to any idols. Make a commitment to follow Him.