

2010

July
2-3rd Grade

[THE WILD] SERVICE

Virtue: Service—lending a hand to help someone else

Memory Verse: “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.” Ephesians 6:7, NIV

Bible Story: Matthew 5:41; Luke 10:30-37; John 13: 1-17; Matthew 6:1-4

Bottom Line: What in the world are you doing that’s more than you have to do?

7/4/10

Lesson 1: **ROADWORK**

Bible Story: Roadwork (Jesus says to go the extra mile) • *Matthew 5:41*

Bottom Line: What in the world are you doing that's more than you have to do?

FOR LEADERS ONLY

Last month we focused on the virtue of responsibility, introducing the idea that God's gifts to us come with some expectations, responsibilities with which God has entrusted us. This month we continue the line of thought by focusing on service. There's what you HAVE to do (responsibility); then there's what you CHOOSE to do (service). Just as God created responsibility, He created (1) service—lending a hand to help someone else. (2) Just as God is the ultimate example of responsibility, He is also the epitome of service. No one ever did or could do more to serve others than Jesus did. He did it in His everyday life, He did it when He went to the cross, and He taught us to do it as well. (3) So today help kids begin to understand what Jesus meant when He said to go the extra mile. (4) Help them see how that extra mile shows others God's love.

7/4/10

Go Fish

SUPPLIES: decks of cards

Lead kids to play “Go Fish.” Your group can play one game with everyone, or you can group kids into teams of four to five kids and let each team play. Instead of collecting sets of four of the same card, kids need only collect pairs of each card.

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “You guys got lots of pairs of cards. A pair is two of something. [*Transition*] **Two is an important number in today’s Bible story. Let’s go to large group and find out why.**”

Lead your group to Large Group Worship

7/4/10

Steps to Doing More

SUPPLIES: index cards, 20 pieces of paper, tape, two dice

Give each person two index cards. **[Apply] Ask kids to write on each card one job they are responsible for.** Collect the cards. These are the game cards. Next, let kids make the game board by taping the 20 pieces of paper to the floor in whatever path they like. Ask everyone to line up at the starting square. Let kids take turns rolling the dice (or number cubes) and moving that number of spaces. Every time a kid stops, read a game card. **[Apply] If the kid can name a way to do more than what is expected of them in that situation,** they can take one more step forward. The first player to finish wins, but play until everyone has completed the path.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “What in the world are you doing that’s more than you have to? **[Apply] When you are helping at home or at school, you can do more than you have to do for others.** Jesus did more than He had to for everyone, including you and me. He did it while He was here on earth, in His everyday life, and He did it when He died on the cross for us. When you do more than you have to, it shows others God’s love and it gives you an opportunity to tell them about Jesus—that God loved everyone, that He gave us Jesus, that when we believe in Jesus and ask Him to be our Savior, we will receive life forever in heaven. That’s one way to be a positive influence on others.”

7/4/10

Topping It Off

SUPPLIES: hand sanitizer, plain cupcakes, frosting, sprinkles, plastic knives or spoons, paper plates, napkins

Tell kids that “doing more than you have to” is kind of like a great cupcake. A plain cupcake is okay, but if you add frosting, it’s great. And if you go the extra step to add sprinkles, it’s amazing. When we serve others, we take their day from okay, to great, to amazing.

Help kids sanitize their hands, and then give each person a plain cupcake on a plate. Let kids add icing and sprinkles. Let kids their amazing cupcakes!

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “That was fun, wasn’t it? See, going the extra mile isn’t something that has to be hard or something you don’t like. *[Personalize] (Tell kids about a fun way you did something extra for someone in the past month. Maybe you took your kids mini-golfing after swim practice. Or perhaps instead of just verbally thanking a co-worker for his help, you wrote a personal note or took him out to lunch.) [Impress] What in the world are you doing that’s more than you have to do?”*

7/4/10

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT “What in the world are you doing that’s more than you have to? Do you even want to do more than you have to? Attitude can spur us to just get by, or it can spur us to go the extra mile. But having a good attitude about going the extra mile is not always easy. Sometimes we just don’t feel like doing something with full force or with a good attitude. **[Apply]** That’s why God says to do kind things for others like we’re doing it for Him. That will encourage us and help us have the right attitude. Are you willing to have an attitude of service so that you serve wholeheartedly and do more than you have to?”

Prayer

SUPPLIES: none

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “Dear God, we want to do more than we have to. We don’t want to be a plain cupcake that just does what is required to get by. We want to be cupcakes with frosting and sprinkles. We want to do more than what is required of us. Give us opportunities this week to do more than we have to so that others can see Your love through us. Amen.”

7/11/10

Week 2- *NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH*

Bible Story: Neighborhood Watch (the parable of the good Samaritan) • *Luke 10:30-37*

Bottom Line: What in the world are you doing to help someone others won't help?

FOR LEADERS ONLY

Last week we introduced kids to the virtue of (1) service, lending a hand to help someone else, in essence doing more than you “have to.” (2) We said that Jesus always did more than He had to for others, more than the expected, and that (3) He wants us to treat others the same way. Living this way—more like the Samaritan and less like the Levite and priest—requires us to look and do: look, be intentional, keep an eye open for ways to lend a hand; then do it. (4) Help kids see that when we lend a hand to someone, including someone others won't help, we're showing that person—as well as everyone else in the neighborhood—Jesus' love.

7/11/10

Help With This

SUPPLIES: spoon, shoe, pencil, Band-Aid®, book

Set out the five items where kids can see them. Ask one volunteer to name a person who may need help, such as a person carrying bags of groceries, a teenager trying to find a lost dog, or an adult trying to get a baby in a stroller on a bus. Next, choose five volunteers to each grab one of the five items. Let these volunteers tell how they could use the item they are holding to help in the situation the volunteer just described.

Put the items back in the middle of the group, choose a new volunteer to name a person who may need help, choose five volunteers to grab items, and let them say how they could use that item to help in that specific situation. Play as long as time allows.

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “You may not think these things could help a lot of people, but you came up with some great ideas. ***[Transition]*** Let’s go to large group and learn about a guy who used what he had—including a donkey—to help someone in need.”

Lead your group to the Large Group Worship.

7/11/10

Be a Samaritan

(a classroom-wide application)

SUPPLIES: roll of gauze, Ace® bandage, beach towel, start and finish lines

Lead small groups to compete in a relay. On your signal, each small group will race to wrap a whole roll of gauze around a player's leg, use an Ace® bandage to put his arm in a sling, and carry him on a beach towel from the starting line to the finish line.

Note: SGLs need to ensure the "victim's" head doesn't touch the floor during transportation by positioning themselves at the "head" end of the towel.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: "This game wasn't easy. You had to work hard to help your teammate. It would've been hard for the Samaritan to help, too. Jesus told that story to teach us that helping isn't always easy, but that God wants us to do it. He wants us to be unselfish, and to help people that others aren't helping. You may not have opportunities every day to help someone who's sick or hurt, but there are people all around who need your help. **[Apply] It's not enough to notice a person in need and think about helping. Jesus wants you to DO something about it. [Impress] What in the world are you doing to help someone others won't help?"**

7/11/10

Line ‘em Up

SUPPLIES: two sets of “People Cards” (Activity Pages), clotheslines, clothespins

Show kids the first set of cards. Ask kids to work together to clip the cards to the top clothesline in order of those whom “most people” would like best to those most people would like the least. As kids work, help them talk through their options and come to a group consensus. *Tip: This is an opportunity for more meaty conversation. Note that “meaty” does not necessarily mean “longer.” However, don’t rush through this.*

Next, give kids the second set of cards. This time, ask kids to work together to clip the cards to the bottom clothesline in order of who they would be most likely to help to who they would be least likely to help. Again, help kids think through their arrangement by asking questions to help them clarify their thoughts. **Are we more likely to help people we like? Are we less likely to help people we don’t like? Who does God want us to help? (Everyone, including people others won’t help) Is that an easy or difficult thing to do? Does it come naturally for us? What does that tell us about our behavior? (That we need to make specific efforts to help people whom others won’t help)**

When kids finish, point out the similarities and differences in the placement of the cards on the two clotheslines.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “God wants us to serve anyone and everyone, not just people who are like us. But that can be hard to do. That’s why we often need to ask ourselves, **[Impress] what in the world are you doing to help someone others won’t help? [Apply] How did YOU help someone last week? (Give kids time to remember and answer each question.) Think about the places you’re going to go this week. How can you help someone in those places, especially if no one else is around to help? Who are some of the people others won’t help? Are you willing to help them?”**

7/11/10

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “God wants us to help the people that others won’t help. So LOOK around for people to help, then DO something about it! Remember: if you don’t know the person, you MUST ask your mom or dad to help you help that person instead of doing it by yourself. Okay, guys, when they get here, tell your parents what it means to LOOK and DO.”

Prayer

SUPPLIES: cards from previous activity, pens or pencils

Ask each person to take one of the cards from the clotheslines. Instruct kids to write a prayer on the back of the card they chose, asking God to give them an opportunity to help a person like this in the coming week.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “Dear God, we know You want us to help others. Everyone needs help every now and then. We may need help sometime, too. Please help US to stand up for [insert bullied kids’ names from list] if someone starts picking on them at school this year. Please help US to be a friend to [insert names from list]. Please help US to remember to include [insert names from list] in our games. And if we aren’t in these kids’ classes this year, please give them a friend, God—a good friend. Thank You for loving us and helping us, God. Amen.”

7/18/10

Week 3- *FEET FIRST*

Bible Story: Feet First (Jesus washes the disciples' feet) • *John 13:1-17*

Bottom Line: What in the world are you doing to put others first?

FOR LEADERS ONLY

Remember that old “‘After you!’ ‘No, after you!’” gag in which each cartoon character insists that the other go first? Ridiculous in the extreme, but that’s where we’re going today. (1) Service—lending a hand to help someone else—is, in essence, putting someone else first. Not just letting someone GO first, but being intentional about putting them and their needs before our own. (2) When Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, He put them first, even though by all that was right they should’ve been washing HIS feet. (3) If Jesus, God’s Son, could put others first, then we should, too. Forget position or title, who got there first, or who did or didn’t make the mess. Following Jesus’ example involves seeing to others’ needs before our own comfort. So this week, help kids discover that (4) when they put others first, they’ll be showing them what Jesus is like.

7/18/10

Look First

SUPPLIES: leather lacing, letter beads, scissors

Lead kids each to make two bracelets that they will wear together. One will spell “look” and the other will spell “first.” Kids can make each by tying a knot about three inches from the end of a piece of lacing, threading on the letter bead (kids can tie a knot between the letters if they like), and tying another knot to keep the beads in place. Then tie the bracelet around a wrist and cut off the excess lacing.

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP LEADER: “It’s not always easy to put others first. Most of us are pretty selfish—we want to do what we want to do rather than think about anyone else. But God wants us to look for ways to put others first. *[Impress]* **What in the world are you doing to put others first?**”

Lead your kids to Large Group Worship

7/18/10

Foot Washing Kit

Supplies: Lunch bags, sponges (small piece for each child), Epsom salt foot soak supplies, markers or crayons.

Epsom salt foot soak: regular sea salt or Epsom salt; snack size ziplock bag, labels, essential oil

DIRECTIONS:

1. Put sticker label on bag. (Jesus washed their feet. John 13:1-17)
2. Decorate the bag (or adhesive label if using plastic bags) with the markers or crayons.
3. Place one sponge, one foot soak mixture, and one cloth in bag.
4. Attach label to bag:

Ask someone you love if you can show your love to them by washing and rubbing their feet.
Ask them to sit down in a comfortable chair.
Pour some warm water into a bowl.
Add a Tbs. of foot soak mixture to water.
Wash and dry the feet of the one you love.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: Transition directly into Foot Washing

7/18/10

Foot Washing

Supplies: Basin with water, Epsom foot soak mix, sponge, paper towels
Add a few tablespoons of the Epson Salt Foot mixture to the water and mix well.

Divide kids into pairs. For younger kids, teachers can wet the sponge and “wash” the student’s feet. Kids can dry each other’s feet with paper towels. Older kids can wash and dry each others’ feet.

Wrap Up:

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “Jesus knew his time on earth was ending. He still had important lessons to teach his disciples. Jesus said “loving your neighbor as yourself,” was the second greatest commandment. It is second only to loving God with all our heart, mind, and being. We know that Jesus loved his disciples, and in love, he taught them one last lesson - humility.

We should not be surprised that Jesus would teach this lesson, but it is the way he taught it that surprises us, and surprised his disciples. The disciples, who Jesus called fishers of men, would need to serve. Pride and arrogance would ruin the disciples' relationship to God, to each other, and to the people they were trying to save. Humility and service to others is the evidence of love.

This is an important lesson for us, too. People line up to do the tasks that are considered important, glamorous, or respected. But Jesus showed humility by doing the task that no one wanted to do. He washed the disciples' feet -- a dirty job usually performed by the lowest ranking person in the room.

Was Jesus the lowest ranking person? No. He was Lord and Teacher. He knew he was God’s Son, and would be at God’s side in heaven. Did he think it was too lowly a task for him to do? Absolutely not.

Are there tasks that we won't do because they are hard or unpleasant? Because they are dirty? Can you think of “dirty jobs” that must be done?

Jesus said that all work was God’s work. Taking care of people, loving others, caring for the sick and helpless. The list is endless. And won't God reward those who do His work? We need to be willing to do whatever is needed. Jesus was not only willing, he prepared himself to do this service. Have we made plans to serve others?

7/18/10

Tattoo Time

SUPPLIES: washable markers, temporary tattoos (*optional*)

Review the Bible lesson with the kids. Ask such questions as:

- What did Jesus do for His disciples? (*Washed their feet*)
- Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet? (*Their feet were dirty; to put them first; to show them they should serve others, just like He did*)
- Who can you put first? (*Parents, brothers/sisters, teachers, friends*)

Guide kids to either apply the temporary tattoos or draw their own tattoos on a partner's feet.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: "I am so glad that Jesus always put others first. You know what? We need to follow Jesus' example. If Jesus, God's Son, could put others first, then we should, too. [*Impress*] What in the world are you doing to put others first? [*Apply*] How have you put others first at home, at school, or with a friend?"

7/18/10

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: "God wants us to serve as if we're serving Him. None of us is too important to serve others. So ***[Impress]*** what in the world are you doing to put others first? ***[Apply]*** How does your serving others show honor and respect to God?"

Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for bringing ____ to our small group. I thank You for making him just as he is. Thank You for giving Him talents like ____ and _____. God, You want us to put others first so that they can know Your love and so that ____ can learn how important service is to You. Give him opportunities this week to serve and put others first. Amen."

7/25/10

Lesson 4- *SECRET SERVICE*

Bible Story: Secret Service (Jesus teaches about giving to the needy) • *Matthew 6:1-4*

Bottom Line: What in the world are you doing that only God knows?

FOR LEADERS ONLY

Today we wrap up our month-long look at (1) service, which is lending a hand to help someone else, by focusing on “secret service.” (2) Of course we know from Scripture many things that Jesus did to serve others, but we also know there were occasions in which He told the recipient to keep quiet about it. Which didn’t always work, since we can read about those events in the Bible, but the point is *motive*. Our motives count. Why we help and serve others matters. (3) Jesus wants us to serve others for good and right reasons. He doesn’t want us to serve in order to be seen. In fact, He said if we do serve in order to be seen and praised by people, that’s all the reward we’ll get! (4) Instead, He wants us to serve others as if we were serving God, which will mean occasionally not letting the left hand know what the right hand is doing. Then our reward will come from Him. And God will get the credit.

7/25/10

I, Spy

SUPPLIES: paper, pencil

As a group, compile a list of “Top 10 Rules for Being a Spy.” Encourage kids to think of their favorite spy movies or books for reminders of the rules a spy follows. If time permits, share your list with other small groups. Which rules did you think of that others did not? Which rules did you leave off your list?

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “A spy’s role is to get a job done when no one is watching and without being seen. These rules would help a spy do that. ***[Transition]* Let’s go to large group and learn one serious and important thing God wants us to do when no one is watching.**”

Lead your group to the large group area.

7/25/10

Secret Service Notebook

SUPPLIES: notebooks; pens, pencils, or markers

Start by reviewing the Bible story with these questions or others like them:

- How does Jesus want us to serve others? (*In secret, without calling attention to ourselves*)
- Who sees what you do for others, even when no one else does? (*God*)
- What does God think of your secret service? (*He is pleased and rewards it.*)
- Bonus question: What reward do we get when we do acts of service just so others will think well of us? (*Jesus said God will not reward that kind of behavior.*)

Remind kids that a spy is always prepared—even for worst-case scenarios. They can be prepared for secret service by making spy notebooks. Pass out the notebooks and let kids customize them as follows.

- Write the numbers 1-31 at the top of the page, one number per page. These are the days of the month.
- In the middle of each page, write a person you can help or a method of helping someone. (You'll need to help kids think of one item for each of the 31 pages, such as: mom, dad, sister, brother, neighbor, mail carrier, store clerk, teacher, classmate, say something nice, carry something, fix something, straighten something, read a book, make a card, water something, and feed something. If kids don't finish, that's okay—they can finish at home.)

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “What in the world are you doing that only God knows? [*Apply*] Each day you can do something to serve someone. These notebooks can help. No matter how you serve, God sees what you do and knows why you do it. He will reward you appropriately, just as Jesus promised He would.”

“God sees what you do and knows why you do it, and He will reward you for it. He wants us to do good things for Him and for others, but not to always tell people about the good things we do. Shhhh! [*Impress*] What in the world are you doing that only God knows?”

7/25/10

Motives Count

SUPPLIES: “People Pictures” (Activity Page), CD Player and CD of music.

Explain to kids that *motives* are the reasons you do something. Sometimes we do things for good reasons, and sometimes we do them for bad reasons. And sometimes we do good things for selfish reasons—because of what we might get in return, like helping Mom clean up after dinner because we might get an extra cookie for doing so. **[Personalize] Tell kids about a time you helped someone because of what you would get in return.**

Scatter the pictures face up around your space. Tell the kids to scatter around, too. When you say go and play the music, kids should wander around the space. When you pause the music, they should stop and pick up the nearest picture and say one selfish motive or something they might get in return if they were to help that person. For instance, they might decide to help the new kid at school just so the teacher will see them and give them a sticker.

Repeat several times. The final time, guide them to say together, “We serve others because Jesus wants us to!”

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “Jesus wants us to serve others, to help them, but He wants us to do it for the right reasons. Our motives count. So be careful not to do things for others just so someone will praise you. *[Impress]* What in the world are you doing that only God knows? *[Apply]* What are some kind things you could do for your family without them seeing you do it?” *(Give kids time to think and answer. Be ready to whisper some ideas, like quietly make up someone’s bed, quietly fill the dog’s water bowl, take your glass and plate to the dishwasher without making a big deal of it, etc.)*

7/25/10

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: **What in the world are you doing that only God knows? [Apply] Are you serving others in secret so that only God knows what you are doing?"**

Prayer

SUPPLIES: secret service notebooks from the first activity

Lead kids in a fill-in-the-blank prayer, with kids listing ways they will serve others and in turn worship God. Use the suggested conversation below, pausing at each blank to let kids go around the circle and fill in the blank. Suggest that kids look in the notebooks they made if they have trouble coming up with something on the spot.

"Dear God, we worship You by _____. We worship You with prayer and singing and giving. This week, we want to worship You with serving. We will worship You when we serve others by _____. We love You, God! Amen."

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: **"Serving others is one way we worship God. When we serve others, we're really serving God. Let's pray to God right now and ask Him to remind us that serving others is really worshiping Him.**