

2010

July
4-5th 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

Long Jump

SUPPLIES: colored tape, paper place markers, pens or markers

Mark a starting line on the floor with colored tape. While you are doing this, direct the kids to write their names on their paper place markers. Then have kids line up at the starting line and jump forward, one at a time. Each child gets two tries to jump before it's the next child's turn. Place a marker where each one lands, moving the marker ahead if the second jump is better than the first. Have them jump for a second and third round, if time permits. Whoever jumps the farthest wins.

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: **“Great job jumping, guys! For the most part, every time you jumped, you guys seemed to go a little farther. Can anyone guess by our game what today’s Bible story might be? Well, [Transition] let’s go to large group to hear a story about what it means to go a little farther, and then we’ll see if you were right.”**

Lead your group to Large Group Worship.

7/4/10

Backpack, Backpack

SUPPLIES: bathroom scale, backpacks, heavy objects

Invite each small group to pick the kid in their group who they think is the strongest. When you say go, each group should send two kids to walk to the heavy object pile to pick something out. They will return, pack the object in their team's backpack, and then send two more kids to the pile. They'll continue doing this until the pack is full. Once their packs are completely full, the strong kid will carry the pack on his or her back to you, who will weigh the pack on the scale. The team with the heaviest pack is the winner.

Note: As the teams will be packing the pack while it is on someone's back, they should be extremely gentle and careful not to hit his or her head or to pack more than he or she can handle. Prompt SGA's to supervise this process carefully.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: "You know, when Jesus said, 'Go the extra mile,' He wasn't just saying to do a little bit more. That's the principle, but what He was really saying to them was to do something they were already being forced to do—with a good attitude—and then also offer to do more. The Roman Empire ruled most of the world back then, including the country of Israel. That was enough for most Jews to hate the Romans. To make matters worse, a Roman soldier could require a man to carry his pack. It was the law that, if asked, a citizen must carry the pack of the soldier—which could weigh almost 100 pounds—one mile. Many Roman soldiers abused this law and mistreated the Jews. To offer to go twice the distance, which is what Jesus meant by the 'extra mile,' was unheard of.

"Service isn't always about doing stuff you choose to do, like meeting with friends to do a service project in your free time. Jesus said it is also about agreeing to do something you didn't want to do and still choosing to do more. **What in the world are you doing that's more than you have to do?**

How can you do what you're asked to do in a way that looks more like the real idea here—obedience and sacrifice? Going the extra mile with something—in anything, really—allows you to show others how much Jesus loves them. What will you do with the opportunity?"

[Personalize] Tell about a time someone forced you to do something. How did you feel? What would it have been like if you had agreed to do even more? Would it have changed the person who made you do it?

7/4/10

An Extra Mile

SUPPLIES: Bibles, paper bag with an apple or toy fish in it, purse with a penny in it, purple cloth, blue mural paper/cloth, rock, blanket, stick horse

Divide your group into four teams. Assign each team to act out one of the following Bible stories about people who did more than they had to. Encourage them to be creative. Everyone on the team must be used in the sketch in some way, even though these are stories primarily about one or two people. They may use the props you've provided as needed. Teams will look up the Bible story and then plan how to act it out. Invite teams to take turns acting out their stories for the others in your small group. The whole group should try to guess what the Bible story is about.

- The boy who shared his lunch—John 6:5-14
- The widow who gave all her money—Mark 12:41-43
- Lydia offering hospitality to Paul, Silas, and Timothy—Acts 16:6a,13-15
- The good Samaritan being kind to a stranger—Luke 10:30-37

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “All these people had some things in common. Can you name them? *(Allow time for answers.)*
[Apply] In each of these situations, someone did more than she or he had to, and God's love was shown. How can you doing more than you have to show others God's love? *(Possible answers: When someone knows you are a Christian or that you go to church, they believe your actions reflect the way God thinks or feels about them. So, when you're kind, even when someone else isn't, it shows that person God is kind. When you help someone with a good attitude instead of with resentment, it helps that person feel God's love.)* **What are some 'have to's' for you? What are some things required of you at home or other places?** *(Give kids time to list their chores or other responsibilities.)* **How could you go the extra mile with some of your have to's?** *(Answers might include: If it's your responsibility to make up your bed, you could help or teach younger siblings to make their beds. If a parent tells you to unload your luggage after a trip, offer to unload more than your fair share. If your coach requires team members to put away equipment, ask if he or she needs anything else done.)* **[Impress]** **What in the world are you doing that's more than what you have to do?** Ask yourself that question this week as you do your chores and meet your responsibilities. Think about what your 'extra mile' could show someone about God and His love.”

7/4/10

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “We’re going to pray in a minute, but first let’s think about someone who always did more than He had to, for everyone. He lived His whole life for other people, including us. He spent His time teaching and showing us what God is like. His life and death were non-stop examples of doing more than He had to. Who am I talking about? *(Pause.)* Yep, Jesus. How did Jesus do more than He ‘had to’? *(Give kids time to think and answer. Answers might include any of the miraculous things He did, the way He made time for people, ways He helped people, and that He died on the cross for us.)* Right, Jesus didn’t HAVE to die on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. He CHOSE to do that for us. Jesus consistently did more than He had to for people. That’s one of the things that drew people to Him and why they paid attention when He taught them about God.

Prayer

SUPPLIES: mural paper, markers, tape *(optional)*

Lay your paper out on a large work area or tape it to a wall. Ask a volunteer to write: **“What in the world are you doing that’s more than you have to do?”** Then ask each student to draw a symbol or write a word or phrase on the paper that represents going the extra mile. Give kids a little time to think. They can write/draw about a way Jesus went the extra mile or how they can go the extra mile.

When they finish, guide them to place their hands on their symbol or word and take turns praying one or two sentences aloud, (1) recognizing the service Jesus did for them—not just for the disciples or other people in the Bible, but for them, too, and (2) asking God to help them look for ways to serve others or go the extra mile this week. Close the prayer by thanking Jesus for coming into the world and showing us a new way to live. Ask Him to help us do what’s pleasing to Him and to lead us into service that is ultimately for His glory.

7/11/10

Lesson 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

Just like the gift of His natural world, God has entrusted each of us with the gifts of some “natural resources”: talents, skills, abilities, possessions. And like we said last week, with these gifts comes (1) responsibility, which is showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you. (2) Because God is responsible and has entrusted these resources to us, (3) He wants us to be responsible and put them to good use, to use them in ways that accomplish His purposes. The parable Jesus told about the three guys and how they used their “talents” is a great example of the importance of using what you have responsibly. So today, help kids understand that God gives everyone (including them) stuff to be used for good: their brainpower, musical ability, athletic ability, possessions, their time—whatever they have. (4) When we choose to take care of what God’s given us and to put it to His use, He’ll not only use it for our good, but to benefit others as well.

7/11/10

Common Differences

SUPPLIES: none

Break your small group up into pairs. Ask each pair to find something they have in common that they are sure other kids in the group will not have in common with them. Give them a few minutes to decide on their difference, and then go from pair to pair finding out what they've chosen. As you do, tell the group what the pair has in common. If another pair has the same thing in common, the first pair is out. The pairs who stump the group are the winners.

Note: If this activity goes quickly, you may ask other small groups if they'd like to compare.

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: "Often our tendency is to look at the differences that separate us from others instead of the similarities. But you all managed to find some unusual things you had in common. ***[Transition]*** **Let's go to large group now to hear about someone else who saw what he had in common with someone else.**"

Lead your group to Large Group Worship.

7/11/10

Prejudice

SUPPLIES: tear sheets, markers, tape, small treats

Divide kids into groups by an arbitrary category, like hair color, eye color, where they live—anything that will divide them up unfairly. Next, only give a treat to the kids in the largest group, like those with blue eyes, or the girls. Then tell all the kids to go sit down to prepare for the next activity. Kids will likely protest. When they do, regroup them by different categories and arbitrarily choose which group gets treats. Then seat everyone to get ready for the next activity. When they say it isn't fair, ask them why it isn't fair. Why isn't it fair that only girls get the treats, or only the blonde kids get a treat? Then give them all a treat and ask them to stand or sit around the tear sheets. Very quickly, let them name several groups of people who are sometimes judged unfairly. Break the group into two teams. Give each team a tear sheet and ask them to design a campaign poster to stop unfair treatment.

Note: Give them plenty of time to work. If they are really thinking and creating something good, you can let this activity go a little long.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “Today we’re asking, ‘**What in the world are you doing to help someone others won’t help?**’ We’re talking about how important it is to serve anyone and everyone, not just people who are like us, but also people who might be very different from us in any number of ways. **Why would serving people who are different from us be so important? Why would Jesus want us to do that? I mean, He even told a parable about that!** *(Pause for responses, like it shows people God’s love, it can make people want to find out more about Jesus if they know you follow Him, etc.)* **What does it mean to serve without prejudice?** *(It means serving like we don’t see someone is different from us. We serve everyone the same—as people who are very valuable to God.)* **Have you ever served people the same way, regardless of how different they were from you?”**

7/11/10

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- What do you think makes people pass by someone who needs help?
- If you can identify the reasons why people pass others by, how can you overcome them?
- Jesus came to earth to teach, serve, and save us. But we have a tendency not to be as focused as Jesus. We get busy. We have other things on our plate. How do we become more like the Samaritan in Jesus' story? How can we become more like Jesus?

7/11/10

Muslin Wristbands

Supplies: 1x10-inch strips of muslin cloth for each child, permanent markers

Distribute a strip of cloth to each child. Have them write: "Serve all others" on the strip with the permanent marker. Help them tie it around their wrist.

Neighbor

SUPPLIES: "Neighbor" (Activity Page), pencils

Talk with your group about why people are treated unfairly or ignored. Ask how people could get sucked into playing along with meanness like that. Pass out the Activity Page cards. Ask kids to number the people printed on their cards in order from who they would most like to be to who they would least like to be. Tell them to keep their lists private. This will not be a very easy task if kids are thinking it through, so don't rush them.

7/11/10

Wrap Up

Small Group Assistant: “As you remember what we talk about today, think about this, too: In the story of the good Samaritan, Jesus is the Samaritan, and you are the one who no one would help. Jesus came for you because no one else was going to save you. No one else COULD save you. He did this for everyone. Anyone who asks, Jesus will save. And everyone needs to hear the good news about Jesus. When we help someone, including someone others won’t help, we’re showing them Jesus’ love.”

[Personalize] Tell about a time you noticed someone who needed help. Did you do anything about it? How did the person respond?

Prayer

Have the kids quietly pray for the people on their “Neighbor” list, asking God to help them see the people on this list the way He does.

SMALL GROUP LEADER: *(To close)* “God, thank You for not forgetting us when we are the person who is unnoticed. Thank You that You are always aware of us and always love us. Please help us to see others more like You do. Amen.

Week 3- *FEET FIRST*

7/18/10

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

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

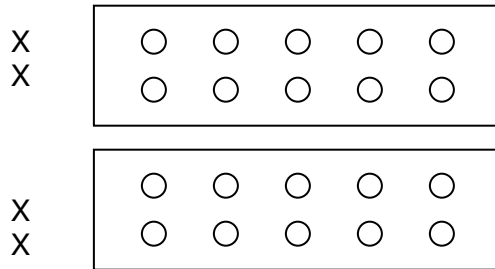
Lead your group to Large Group Worship.

7/18/10

Following Feet

SUPPLIES: long pieces of art paper, markers

Give every two kids a piece of art paper. Let them use markers to trace their bare feet across the paper. Each kid should make five pairs of footprints on the paper. Place all the pieces of art paper side by side. Your set-up will look like this. = a pair of footprints;
X = kid



(Tip: If you choose to use paint, be sure to follow this activity with the “Clean Feet” prayer activity.) Ask kids to move carefully back to their first set of footprints. They will answer the questions below to try to reach the last set of footprints. The first kid to raise his hand and answer the question correctly gets to move forward and stand on the next set of footprints. The first one to the end is the winner.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “Okay, so foot washing—how many of you have ever been to someone’s house and they offered to wash your feet when you got there? Anyone ever had a pedicure? *(Allow them to respond.)* Nice service, huh? Still, it’s not quite the same because those people in salons get paid and tipped.

7/18/10

“Foot washing was the work of a servant, a slave. Almost everyone in Jesus’ time believed they were above doing that. When Jesus got down on His knees and started washing the disciples’ feet, it definitely got their attention. The Son of God washing their feet? Maybe that’s one reason Peter told Jesus no at first. But that foot washing was just a taste of what Jesus was going to do for all the disciples—for all of us—the following day. You know what that was? *(Pause for responses.)* That’s right, this was the night before He was going to be crucified, only the disciples didn’t know it. When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment for our sin—He put us first by taking our place. He gave His life for you so you could live with God forever!

“No one can top what Jesus did for us, but He still wants us to have a servant attitude toward others. Have you ever had to do a chore or something you felt was really gross or beneath you? *(Possible answers: taking out the trash, cleaning up messes after the dog, scrubbing toilets and floors)* When we put others first, when we do things for them that we might not particularly want to do, we give them a little glimpse of that servant attitude that Jesus has. So **[Impress] what in the world are you doing to put others first?** **[Apply] What can you do this week to put someone else first?**” *(Allow time for responses.)*

7/18/10

Review Questions for Following Feet

- What were the disciples sitting down to do when Jesus washed their feet? (*eat; have the evening meal; have the Passover feast*)
- What did Jesus pour the water into? (*basin; bowl*)
- What did Jesus dry their feet with? (*towel*)
- What did Simon Peter ask Jesus? (*"Are You going to wash my feet?"; "No, don't wash my feet."*)
- When Peter asked Jesus not to wash his feet, what did Jesus say? (*Jesus insisted on washing his feet.*)
- Why did Jesus insist on washing Peter's feet? (*to demonstrate His love for the disciples, to model for them how to serve others, to show them that following Jesus means living a life of service to others*)
- Jesus said, "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet" (*John 13:13-14, NIV*). Did Jesus mean they all needed to be washed again? (*No*)
- What did Jesus mean? (*He meant they should love and serve each other as He did them.*)
- Why did people need their feet to be washed back then? (*Roads were dusty and dirty; people walked in sandals or barefoot; their feet got dirty.*)
- Who usually washed people's feet in Bible times? (*Slaves or servants*)
- What did it mean to wash someone's feet in those days? (*It was the lowest act of humble service.*)
- What might it mean to "wash someone's feet" in our day? (*To serve, even in the lowest, most humbling jobs*)
- Jesus said a servant is not greater than his master. You might think that's obvious, but Jesus meant something important by this. What do you think He meant? (*Jesus, our Master, got down on His knees and did a dirty job for the disciples, one of the most despised jobs in His culture. What is most despised in our culture? THAT is what we should be willing to do as well.*)

7/18/10

You First!

SUPPLIES: none

Divide your small group into pairs. Give each pair one of the following scenarios. Ask them to make a plan to first act out how to respond the wrong way (not putting others first), and then act out how to respond the right way (putting others first, and even going beyond that).

- Your parents ask you to empty the dishwasher before they cook dinner. You're playing tennis on the Wii™ that you just got for your birthday.
- Your sister asks for the last piece of pizza. You're still hungry.
- Your teacher asks you to clean up a mess on the floor of the classroom. You didn't make the mess. In fact, the person who did make the mess is standing right next to you and doesn't say anything.
- You see your little brother struggling with one-digit multiplication. You're struggling with four-digit long division and are already frustrated.
- You hear about someone in another country who doesn't have enough food. It's far away, and you can't go there.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: "Great job, guys! It's a good idea to look at some of these things from both angles, because these scenarios—or at least some a lot like them—all play out in our homes at some time or another.

What in the world are you doing to put others first? When you were doing this activity, what examples did you think of in your own home? What will you do differently?"

7/18/10

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- In John 13:17, Jesus says we will be blessed if we do like He did—humble ourselves to the status of a servant. But we usually don't go after service for the blessing. Why do you think we don't?
- What if we saw every opportunity for service, especially the ones we'd least like to do, as a chance to gain God's blessings? How might this change us?
- Okay, so what if you do take us up on this and start putting others first all the time. What if you end up doing it so often that it becomes a habit? Do you end up stronger, or do you end up a doormat? How do you know when you're developing character and when you're letting people take advantage of you?

7/18/10

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “Service isn’t all about gritting your teeth and bearing something. It may be about doing something unpleasant, but we may find a blessing if we have a right attitude—for example, a feeling that Jesus is proud of us, a new understanding of something, or a new or better relationship with someone. Jesus promised that we would be blessed if we served. Pay attention when you serve so you’ll recognize the blessing, whatever it may be.

What in the world are you doing to put others first? Jesus’ example to us is for us to humble ourselves, to not see ourselves as being above certain tasks. If the Son of God could put others first, you can, too. You and I are not too good or too important to do things for others.

Put aside your reputation or your title and do what needs to be done to meet others’ needs. For now, what you are doing to serve may matter less than how you’re going about doing it. Attitude is everything.”

Prayer

SUPPLIES: none

“God, bless _____. Let him (*her*) receive Your kindness and learn to serve others with his (*her*) whole heart. (*All together*) ‘Now that you know these things, you’ll be blessed if you do them.’ (*After praying for the last child*) In Jesus’ name, 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

Spy Top 10

SUPPLIES: a marker, a tear sheet, pencils, paper

Invite kids to make a top 10 list of spy tools a secret agent might use. Encourage them to think of anything they might have read about or seen in a movie about secret agents or spies. If there's enough time, give kids some paper and let them work together or on teams to design a tool that would hold all 10 spy tools in one gadget. Be creative!

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: "Excellent work. Using your super sleuthing skills, what do you think this might have to do with our Bible lesson today? (*Discuss.*) **[Transition] All right, let's move on to large group and hear about something top secret!**"

Lead your group to Large Group Worship.

7/25/10

Secret Code

SUPPLIES: markers or pens, small notebooks

Ask the following questions about the Bible story:

- How did Jesus tell us to do our service? *(In secret, without the left hand knowing what the right hand is doing, without showing off or in order to get praise)*
- According to Jesus, what is the reward for doing your acts of service in order to show off or to get praise from people? *(You may be noticed or praised, but that's all; you won't get a reward from God if you do this.)*
- Does this mean that you can't ever do service if someone is looking? *(Of course not. These verses are about the motive behind our service. When we serve or help others, sometimes it will have to be done in front of others.)*

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT:

"The people who protect the President of the United States are called secret service agents. When a new president comes into office, the secret service always gives the president and his family code names. President Obama is called 'Renegade.' His wife, Michelle, is called 'Renaissance.' And their kids are called 'Radiance' and 'Rosebud.' Today, you're going to come up with code names for your families. Write these down in your books, one code name per page. Don't decorate the outside of your notebooks, though, because a spy would never do anything to call attention to him- or herself."

Have them think for a bit and then write each code name in their books. They can include a code name for their best friend as well, if they like. **Next, ask them to think of some secret acts of service they can do for each code-named person.** If they want, they can jot down their ideas in their notebooks.

"It's important when you do acts of service that you're really doing them for God. So, **what in the world are you doing that only God knows?** I would like to ask if anyone wants to share what they're going to do in secret for someone in their family this week, but if you tell us, then it won't be a secret anymore. So ... does anyone have any ideas for what someone COULD do for someone this week? Of course, this isn't necessarily what you're going to do." *(Allow time for answers.)*

[Personalize] Tell about a time you did something for someone. Did that person find out? Did it stay a secret? How did you feel about doing it? Did it bring you joy or strengthen your relationship with God?

7/25/10

Service-Charades

SUPPLIES: "Service Charades Ideas" (Activity Page), a paper sack

Divide kids into groups of two or three. If your group is very creative, let teams brainstorm creative ways to serve people secretly and then pantomime their ideas. If your group needs a little more help, provide the sack of charade ideas and let them draw out a slip of paper with an idea on it. Give them time to plan and perform their charades. Have others in the group guess what act of service they are doing.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT:

"We tend to think that worship is about singing songs or praying. We less often think of doing chores in obedience to Jesus or stopping to help someone as serving God. **But serving others is one way we worship God.** Jesus once said, 'Whatever you do for the least of these (meaning other people in need) you have done for me' (Matthew 25:40).

When we serve others, we're really serving God. People might not see it, but God will. He is who we honor with our silent service, and He is the one who holds our reward.

What in the world are you doing that only God knows? Remember last week, we talked about working to please God instead of people. How does that apply here? (*Allow time for responses.*) There really is reward in doing things as if you're doing them for God.

As you do your acts of service as worship, you get away from always having to worry about what others think of you and you grow closer to God. He will always love you no matter what, but He is very pleased when you do your service in secret."

7/25/10

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- Doing service in secret means giving up honor from people. What do you get in return when you do this? *(You have God's pleasure, and your own as you know that what you're doing is good and right.)*
- What's wrong with getting praise from people? Why would it bother God? *(Of course God isn't threatened by our receiving compliments. But as His followers, we are always supposed to be pointing people toward Him. And God wants to be the most important person in your life. When you serve others, He wants you to do those things as His servant, in order to please Him, just as a servant would try to please his master.)*
- Does it always mean you'll have to do your service where no one can see it? Or is it possible that Jesus is talking more about motives than about actually doing things where no one sees? *(Of course there are some acts of service that will have to be done where people can see, but we should do them as if no one is watching but God.)*

7/25/10

Wrap Up

“What in the world are you doing that only God knows? Sometimes when we are serving others, we do it grudgingly. We may be reluctant or feel ‘put upon’ because someone is making us do something. But doing service in secret means privately our attitudes are right with God. Our motives—what’s in our hearts when we’re serving—matter to God maybe more than the service itself.

[Apply] You know, if you have a servant’s attitude, service isn’t always a planned act. More often, it’s recognizing an opportunity for service and realizing that it’s a gift from God. How do you think you can make yourself more aware of the opportunities that God is putting in front of you?” *(By looking for them, by keeping close to God through prayer and Scripture reading, by putting yourself around others who seek to serve, etc.)*

Prayer

SUPPLIES: Activity Page

Give each child in your small group an Activity Page. Have them find a quiet place in your meeting space where they can be alone to pray and fill out their sheet. When they are finished, pray that God will help them see their acts of service as He does and that they will feel what it’s like to experience God’s pleasure in what they do.