

2010

July
K-1

[THE WILD]

Roadwork, Neighborhood Watch, Feet First, Secret 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: 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?

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

Walk This Way

SUPPLIES: none

Lead the kids to move in the following ways. They should take 10 “paces” of each one. You should participate, too!

- Crab walk
- Walk backward
- Monkey walk (both hands and feet—but not knees—on the floor)
- Skip
- Your choice

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “Those were some funny ways to ‘walk,’ weren’t they? *[Transition]* Let’s go to large group, where I want you to listen carefully for the word *walk*.”

Lead your group to Large Group Worship

7/4/10

Filler'er Up

SUPPLIES: prepared cups (with "Fill 'er Up Cards," Activity Page on them), tray, pitcher of water, tape lines

Divide the kids into two teams, and send each team to one of the tape lines. They should stand shoulder-to-shoulder along the lines, facing the other team. Give each child on one team a cup. The first child on that team will fill his cup halfway up with water, put the cup on the tray, and carry it to the first person on the other team. He then runs the tray back to the next person on his team, who fills a cup, carries it across to the next person on the other team, and so on. When that team is finished, repeat, with the other team pouring and carrying cups of water.

As kids finish drinking their water, explain that something is written on the bottom of each cup. On half of them are things they might "have to" do. On the other half of the cups is something they would do to "go the extra mile," to do something more than what they have to do. Ask kids to each read aloud (with your help, if needed) what's written on their cups, and to pair up with the person who matches their "have to" or "extra mile" statement.

Answers:

- take dishes to sink / put dishes in dishwasher
- put away toys / put away sister's toys
- kiss Mom good night / make Mom a card
- put toothbrush away / rinse bathroom sink
- play with little brother / play brother's favorite game

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: "When it comes to serving others, there's what you **HAVE** to do, and what you **CHOOSE** to do. **Jesus wants us to do more than we have to.** (*Read some of the examples from the cups. Like, if your mom asks you to play with your little brother, do her one better and play whatever he wants to play.*) **[Impress] What in the world are you doing that's more than you have to do?"**

7/4/10

Napkin Folding

SUPPLIES: "Napkin Folding Instructions" (Activity Page), paper towels, plastic spoons

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

- What did Jesus mean when He said to "go the extra mile"? (*To do more than you have to; to do "extra" things that are kind or helpful for someone else*)
- Why do you think Jesus wants us to serve others? If we do kind things for others, what could that show them about Jesus?
- What kind of attitude do you think Jesus wants us to have when we help others?
- **[Apply] What are some things you "have to do" at home?** (*Give kids time to tell you their chores or other jobs.*) **What is something extra you could do?** (*Give kids time to think about something extra they could do in addition to their chores. Be ready to prompt their thinking with some ideas like: If your job is to set the table, an extra thing you could do is make sure everyone has their favorite plate or silverware, or make fun place cards for everyone.*)

Tell kids another thing they can do is to fold the napkins in fun ways. Hand out the "Napkin Folding Instructions" for the Silverware Napkin Roll, and give each kid a paper towel and a spoon. Lead them through folding their napkins according to the instructions. Then do the same for the Cone Napkin Fold. **[Apply] Tell kids they can take their napkins and instructions home with them so they'll remember how to do the napkin folds for their families.**

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

Prayer

SUPPLIES: none

Guide kids to pray silently.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “Let’s close our eyes and get our minds and bodies ready to talk to God ... Now, tell God thank You for something He has done for you, like the family He’s given you or for good food to eat. *(Pause.)* Now, tell God thank You for the good things He does for your family and friends, like giving them a place to live or loving them so much. *(Pause.)* Now, ask God to help you serve your family and friends. *(Pause.)* Ask God to help you have a great attitude as you serve your family and friends. *(Pause.)* Thank You, God. We love You. Amen.

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT “When we go the extra mile, that means we do more than we have to do or are supposed to do. God wants us to go the extra mile and serve others in ways that aren’t always expected of you. This week, find ways to go the extra mile for the people in your family.”

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

Pathways

SUPPLIES: paper, tape, scissors

Use the paper and tape to create a path on your floor. You can make it a winding path, a circular path, a U-shaped path, or whatever you wish. Kids will be both walking and drawing on these papers later, so make sure they're taped down well.

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: "Hmmm. Are you wondering why we made this path? *[Transition]* **Let's go to large group and see if we can figure it out.**"

Lead your group to Large Group Worship.

7/11/10

What Would You Do?

SUPPLIES: "Scenarios" (Activity Page), paper path created during Plug In

Ask everyone to take his/her shoes off (you, too!). Lead kids along the path, stopping every so often to read a scenario from the Activity Page and let kids act out what they would do to help the person in that scenario.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT

"You did a great job of thinking of ways to help the people we pretended to see. **[Apply]** Remember that God wants us to LOOK for ways to serve others, and then DO it! **[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.)

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7/11/10

People to Serve

SUPPLIES: "People Pictures" (Activity Page), crayons, paper path created during Plug In

Fan the cards out facedown, and let each kid pick one. Help them read the captions on the cards. Then instruct them to spread out along the path and draw a picture (on one of the path papers) of them helping the person on their card. If your path is made up of lots of small papers, leave at least one blank paper between the kids, as you'll use the other papers in the memory verse activity below.

Note: Collect the "People Pictures" when kids are done, as you will use them again in week 4.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT:

(Hold up one of the 'People Pictures.') "We may not meet someone every day who needs help. **[Apply]** But God wants us to **LOOK and DO: be on the lookout for people who need help and then do something to help them. He also wants us to help all kinds of people, not just people who are like us. [Personalize] (Tell about a time you helped someone who wasn't like you, such as a homeless person, someone who was new to your country, or someone you helped on a mission trip, local or faraway.) [Impress] What in the world are you doing to help someone others won't help? [Apply] How can you help someone at home this week, especially if no one else is around to help?"** *(Give kids time to think and answer. Ask them where else they will go this week and how they can help someone there. For instance, how could they help someone at ball practice? How could they help their parent when they go to the grocery store? How could they help someone if they go out to eat?)*

7/11/10

Prayer

SUPPLIES: paper, pencil

Comment that there are people in the world that other people don't seem to want to help. So **[Impress] what in the world are you doing to help someone others won't help?** Ask kids if there was anyone in their neighborhood or class at school last year who got picked on. Write their answers on the paper. Anyone who didn't have many friends? Anyone who joined their class in the middle of the year? Anyone who didn't get picked for partners or games very often? Write their answers on the paper. Then pray, incorporating the people on the list into your prayer.

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."

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."

7/11/10

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

Feet

Supplies: some thin card – a piece for each child – and another, larger rectangular piece that will represent the table at The Last Supper., pencils, scissors

Sit the children in a circle for this. Ask each child in the group to draw around her or his **two feet**. Do not put any names on these.

Take one ‘foot’ from each child. Play a guessing game, in which the group tries to guess whose foot is whose. The one whose foot it is should keep quiet .

Let the kids arrange the feet on the ground around a largish rectangular piece of card. This represents the table in the Upper Room and the **feet** are now the **disciples’ feet**.

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP LEADER: “You did a great job of lining feet up around the “table.” *[Transition]* You know, I bet we’re going to hear something about feet in large group today. Let’s go find out!”

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

Close With Prayer:

“Jesus, thank You for putting us first. *(Pause.)* Thank You for coming here to be our Savior *(pause)* so that we can live in heaven forever. *(Pause.)* In Jesus’ name, amen!

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: “When we put others first, we are doing what Jesus would do. And we all want to be more like Jesus, don’t we? Okay, everybody, I want you to go out and put others first this week! See you next time!”

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

Double Pass

SUPPLIES: 20 small pieces of individually wrapped candy (age appropriate), two containers that the items will fit in.

Make sure the small items are all in one container. Guide kids to sit in a line, shoulder-to-shoulder. Put both containers at the right end of the line (from the kids' perspective—the containers should be by the first kid's right hand). The first kid will pick an item out of the full container with his right hand, pass it to the right hand of the kid next to him, who passes it to the right hand of the kid next to him, and so on down the line. The first kid continues to pick items with his right hand and pass them down the line. When each item gets to the other end of the line, that kid moves the item to his left hand and passes it back down the line, from left hand to left hand, until the kid by the containers puts it into the empty container. This will undoubtedly get confusing, but it will also be fun, as kids are passing items one direction with their right hands and the other direction with their left hands.

WRAP UP

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: "That was crazy! What do you think that was all about? *[Transition]* Let's go to large group, where I want you to listen carefully for something about right hands and left hands."

Lead your group to the large group area.

7/25/10

Only God Knows

SUPPLIES: clay or modeling dough

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

- What did you learn about right hands and left hands? (*Not to let the right hand know what the left hand is doing*)
- What does that mean? (*To do good things for others in secret; to not tell people when you do something for God or others because that sounds like bragging; to do something only God knows about*)
- **[Apply] Think silently about something you have done for someone in secret, OR think about something you could do in secret this week for someone.**

Give each kid a lump of clay or modeling dough. Ask them to make something with their clay that shows that thing they have done (or will do) that only God knows about. For instance, perhaps someone picked up his sister's toys and didn't tell anyone about his good deed, in which case he could make a doll out of his clay. Remember, this is secret service: avoid asking kids to tell what they're sculpting!

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: "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

Close With Prayer

SUPPLIES: "Prayer Pages" (Activity Page)

Explain that we don't always have to pray out loud. We can write or draw our prayers. Give kids a "Prayer Page," guiding them to fill a name in the first blank and then write and/or draw how they want to serve that person this week.

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: *[Apply]* "Did you know that serving others is a way to worship God? It is! So when you serve others, do it in a way that pleases God. Be unselfish, and serve in ways that only God knows. *[Impress]* What in the world are you doing that only God knows?"

Wrap Up

SMALL GROUP ASSISTANT: "When we serve wholeheartedly, that means we help someone with all our might. God wants us to serve others because we love Him and want to please Him, not because of selfish reasons. *[Apply]* So when you serve someone, make sure you don't show off. Don't help others for selfish reasons. *[Impress]* What in the world are you doing that only God knows?"