

Year 1

God is a Servant 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- The definition of a 'servant'
- That Jesus was the greatest servant that ever lived
- That Jesus always obeyed his heavenly Father
- We can learn to be a servant by following what Jesus did
- To God's helper we must obey God

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Serving in the home

Link between "God is a Servant" and classroom topics:

Students will learn the definition of a servant, and be encouraged to think of ways in which they can serve in the home. They will also look at ways in which family members carry out jobs and serve one another. Students will be encouraged to show appreciation for the jobs their parents do for them.

Values

service, compassion; flexibility, humility, willingness, thoughtfulness, sacrifice

God is a Servant

Week 1

What is a servant?

Bible reference

Matthew 23:11, "The greatest among you will be your servant."

Bible Lesson: Jesus was the greatest servant

To be a servant is to be a helper. Jesus always helped people, even when he was tired, even when he had things to do for himself. He always thought about others first.

Jesus helped people who were sick and sad. Even though he was the Son of God, he didn't think of himself as important. Once he showed his friends that to be a servant you have to be prepared to do ordinary jobs for others.

In the land where Jesus lived it was very dusty. People wore sandals. One day when Jesus friends arrived at a house after a long dusty journey, Jesus washed their feet. His friends at first didn't want Jesus to wash their feet. They felt that they should be washing HIS feet.

Jesus told his friends, "If you want to be great, then you must be the servant of all." That means that we should never think of ourselves as being too important. We should be on the look out all the time for ways of helping others.

Let's think about ways that we can help other people:

Here are some suggestions to add to theirs.

At home...

Tidy up for Mum. Make the bed and take the dirty clothes out.

Empty all the garbage bins in the house.

Help wash the dishes.

Help look after younger brothers or sisters.

At school...

Let others go ahead of you in the lunch line. Do not argue about being first.

Serve the teacher by offering to clean the blackboard.

Ask the teacher if you can do any jobs.



God is a Servant

Week 2

Children can be God's helpers

Bible Reference

1 Samuel 3 The boy Samuel obeyed Eli, and also obeyed God. Because of his obedience the Lord could trust him to tell others the word of God.

Bible Lesson: The boy Samuel

Here is a story about a lady named Hannah. We find this story in the Old Testament. Hannah lived before Jesus came into the world.

Hannah wanted a baby very much. So Hannah asked God if she could have a baby boy. Hannah went to God's house to pray.

"Dear God," she prayed, "If you give me a little boy, I will let him work for you."

Eli was the minister in God's house. He heard Hannah's prayer. "Go in peace, Hannah. May God answer your prayer," he said.

Hannah had prayed for a baby. God was good to her. She had a baby boy the next year.

"I will call him Samuel, because I asked the Lord for him."

When Samuel was three years old Hannah called him to her.

"Samuel, I made a promise to God when you were born. I promised God that you would work for Him."

So Hannah took Samuel to Eli. Samuel lived in God's house with Eli.

One night, Samuel was asleep. He woke up. He heard a voice call him:

"Samuel! Samuel!"

Samuel ran to Eli.

"Did you call me, Eli?" Samuel asked.

"I didn't call you, Samuel.

Go back to sleep."

Again Samuel heard a voice: "Samuel! Samuel!"

Again Samuel ran to Eli.

"No, my boy, I did not call you.

Go back to sleep."

Again Samuel heard a voice: "Samuel! Samuel!"

Again Samuel ran to Eli."

This time Eli said, "Samuel, it must be the Lord calling you. Go back and listen to Him."

Samuel went back and lay down.

"Samuel! Samuel!" came the voice.

"Yes, Lord. I'm listening to you."

"Samuel, I want you to tell the people to do good and right things. Then I will help your land and your people."

All his life Samuel listened to God. He told people what God wanted them to do.



Listening game:

Whisper a message around the circle. Does the last person hear exactly the same message whispered by the first person?

Discussion

In that game, we had to listen carefully to what the person said in order to hear the message. In the story, the boy Samuel learned to listen carefully to God.

- How do we listen to God?
- What are some of the things that God wants us to obey? Which people does He want us to obey?
- Samuel was a servant because he was a good helper. How can you be a good helper?

Activity

Be a servant. Act out or draw some ways in which you can be a servant for Jesus. How can you serve others?

e.g. serving a meal, washing dishes, picking up toys.

God is a Servant

Week 3

To be God's helper we must obey God

Bible Reference

Luke 2:41-52 A visit to the temple - Jesus obeyed His Heavenly Father.

Bible Lesson: The boy Jesus visits the temple

When Jesus was a little boy, Mary and Joseph left Bethlehem where Jesus was born, and moved to the town of Nazareth. When Jesus was 12 years old Mary and Joseph travelled with their family to the temple in Jerusalem. It was a long journey. They had to walk, and their animals carried their food and blankets.

They arrived in Jerusalem and found that it was very crowded. Jesus could easily get lost in the crowd. But he didn't get lost. He went to the temple to hear the teachers teach from Scripture. He was so interested in what the teachers were saying that he didn't realize how much time had passed.

Now Mary and Joseph were ready to go home, but they couldn't find Jesus. They were worried. Was Jesus lost? For three days, they looked for Jesus. At last they found Him. He was in the temple. He was listening to the wise teachers and asking them questions.

"We have been so worried about you," said Mary.

"Didn't you know that I would be in my Father's house?" said Jesus.
Jesus knew that God was His Heavenly Father.

Although Jesus would love to have stayed longer, He obeyed Mary and Joseph and went home with them. God blessed Jesus and He grew wise and strong.

Discussion

- How do we obey God?
- We obey God by doing what He tells us in the Bible.
- What did Bibles look like in the days of Jesus? (Make a scroll.)
- What did the church building look like then? (The temple)
- Jesus knew that to obey His Heavenly Father, He needed to learn about the Bible. What are some of the things that the Bible tells us?
- What is serving?
- How do you think Jesus would have served His parents when He was a boy?
- How did Jesus serve His Heavenly Father?
- How can we serve God?

Activity: Dramatize the story or draw a picture from the story.

God is a Servant

Week 4

We can help God by caring for our world.

Bible references

Genesis 6-8

Matthew 6:26

Bible Lesson: The animals went in two by two

God looked at the world that He had made. People did bad things. It made Him sad. "I will send lots of rain," He said.

God looked for a good man. There was Noah.

God said to Noah, "Make a big, big boat. I am going to send lots of rain."

"How big?" asked Noah.

God said, "Make it very big. It will be for your family, and two of every kind of animal."

Noah made the boat. It took him a long time. People laughed. "Why are you making a boat?" they laughed. "There will be no flood!"

Noah finished the boat. His family got in. Then God sent two of every kind of animal... two dinosaurs...

two tigers...

two lions...

two giraffes...

two elephants...

two zebras...two cows...two dogs....two cats...and lots and lots more.

God shut the door of the big boat. It began to rain. It rained for forty days and forty nights. There was a big flood. The bad people were drowned, but Noah and his family and the animals were safe.

They stayed in the boat for one year. Then they all got out on to dry land.

God said, "I will never send such a big flood again. This is my promise. I will send a rainbow."

Discussion

Noah was God's servant. He did as God said. He obeyed God, even when people laughed at him. God chose Noah to save the beautiful animals that God had created. God wants us to be his helpers too. He wants us to look after his beautiful world.

God says, "Look at the birds...your Father in heaven takes care of them." Matthew 6:26

How can we help take care of God's creation?

Ask the children to think of some ideas, e.g.

- Not leaving rubbish around
- Not breaking trees and plants
- Looking after our pets
- Weeding our vegetable gardens

