

Year 2

God is a Servant 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- a good servant is always willing to help others
- a servant does not think of him/herself as more important than others
- a servant will volunteer to do jobs that other people might not want to do
- Jesus served others willingly, lovingly, without looking for thanks or reward
- Jesus gave us the true example of being a servant

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Community servants: Firemen and police

Link between “God is a Servant” and classroom topics:

Children will learn the definition of a ‘servant’ and think about ways in which they can serve others. Community servants are an example to us in the way they help us.

Values

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

God is a Servant

Week 1

Jesus was a willing and helpful servant.

Jesus was a willing and helpful servant. God wants us to look out for the needs of others and be willing to help them.

Bible references

John 2:1-11 Jesus helped the hosts at the wedding.

Matthew 8:14-17 Jesus heals many people including Peter's mother-in-law.

Galatians 5:13 In love, serve one another.

Discussion

What is a servant?

A servant is someone who helps by doing work.

Discuss situations in which we would see servants today. Examples: restaurants, hospitals and shops. There are also servants to people in government, and servants to kings and queens.

Game

Ask the children to get together in threes. One child can be a servant to the other two. Choose a few groups to perform their role play for the class. The class must guess what kind of servant they are acting out, and what the servant is doing to help someone.

Discussion

Servants are people who like to help others. They are not forced to help. They help because they choose to.

Many years ago, there were cruel masters who forced people to work for them. The people who worked for the masters were called slaves. The slaves had to work hard for no pay. The slaves didn't like working for the masters.

Servants are different from slaves. Servants choose to work for others but slaves do not. God wants us all to be HIS servants. He wants us to work for Him because we CHOOSE to. People who love Jesus are happy to work for Him. Many people have given their whole life to serving Jesus because they love Him so much.

Jesus was a servant too. Imagine someone as important as Jesus being a servant. He just loved to help people. Once, all in the one day, Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law who had a fever, and healed lots of other people too. Jesus must have been very tired at the end of the day, but He didn't mind because He loved helping people. Another time He washed the dirty dusty feet of all the disciples. Another time He helped some family friends at a wedding party.

A willing servant

What does it mean to be a willing helper?

It means that you help whenever you are asked to without complaining.

It also means that you look out for people who need help, and you just get in there and help without being asked.

Bible Lesson: The wedding at Cana

In a little town called Cana, in the land of Galilee, lived some friends of Jesus' family. One day these friends invited Jesus and his family to attend a wedding in their home. They invited many other people also, and prepared a feast for them.

But they had not prepared enough wine for all the people who came to the wedding. And before the end of the feast the wine was all gone.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, saw that the wine had all been used, and she called Jesus aside to tell him about it. She knew of his wonderful power, and she believed he could surely help in a time like this. Then she told the servants who waited at the tables to do whatever Jesus might ask them to do; she believed that Jesus could help.

In every Jewish home there were large water-pots made out of clay or stone. There were no taps in the homes. People took their water pots to the village well and filled them up so there would be water in the home. In this home where the wedding-feast was being held, there were six large water-pots.

Jesus called the servants and told them to fill the water-pots with water. The servants went to the well and filled the water-pots to the top. Then Jesus told them to take a jug and dip into the water-pots. What a surprise! Instead of water, their jugs were filled with wine!

At these Jewish feasts one man was chosen to be the governor, or ruler of the feast. He tasted the food and the wine before it was placed on the tables to serve the people. Jesus told the servants to take this wine to the governor and have him taste it, just as he had tasted the first wine that had been served to the guests.

Now the governor did not know what Jesus had done. He did not know that the other wine had all been used. When he tasted the wine which Jesus had made from water he was surprised because it was so much better than the first wine which had been served. Calling the young man who had just been married, the governor said, "At other wedding-feasts the best wine is served first, but you have kept the best until the last."

Discussion

This was the first miracle Jesus performed, and it showed his willingness to help people who are in need. When the men who followed him saw what he had done they believed that Jesus was God, for they knew that no man could change water into wine.

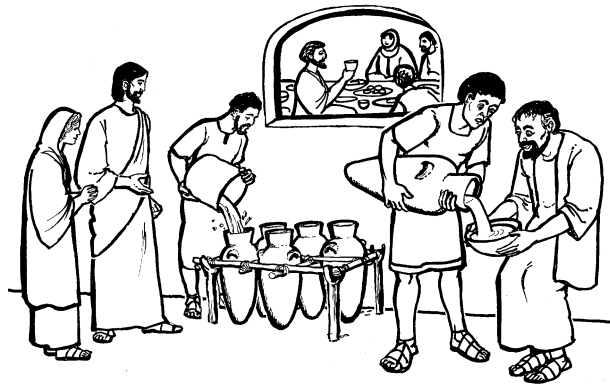
How did Jesus help out at the wedding? Who did He help? What would have happened if he hadn't helped?

How did the followers of Jesus know that Jesus was God?

How can people serve Jesus today? How can we be servants for Jesus?

Activity

Draw the six water-pots. Draw the servants serving wine from the water pots.



God is a Servant

Week 2

Serve even when the job is not much fun

God wants us to be willing to help, even when the task is difficult, and to even do more than what we are asked to do.

Bible references

Matthew 5:41-42 The extra mile.

Matthew 21:1-11 The disciples served Jesus by bringing the donkey.

Hebrews 13:16 Share what you have.

Ephesians 6:7 Serve wholeheartedly.

Puppet sketch or play: Helping

(Read this play holding a puppet on each hand. Use different voices for each.)

Mum:

Billy, will you set the table please?

Billy:

Why should I help? I hate setting the table, AND putting the dishes away, AND sweeping the floor. Why should I do all those things when I don't want to?

Mum:

Billy, where are you?

Billy: *(thinking to himself)*

I always try to get out of helping. I hide in my room and read a book, or sneak outside to play. I hate helping. Mum and Dad are always forcing me to do things...a bit like a slave. Slaves get forced to do things. There were slaves in Bible times. That reminds me of a story in my Bible. Here it is. Jesus said, "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go two miles with him, and then if someone asks for a coat, then give him two."

Wow! Imagine going two miles. That's actually 3 and a half kilometres. I get tired even going one! And imagine giving my only two coats away. I suppose Jesus was saying that we should be willing to do things for others, even difficult things. I suppose setting the table is not really so hard after all.

Mum:

Billy, please come and set the table.

Billy:

Yes, right away Mum.

Discussion

What are some things we might get asked to do for others? Do we always feel like doing those things? Make a list of some of the jobs that are not a lot of fun to do.

When Jesus said to 'go the extra mile', He meant to do even more than we are asked to do. What are some extra things you could do for your family this week?

Bible Lesson: The donkey that helped Jesus

Jesus was always helping others, but this time He needed some help. He asked his two friends to go and get the donkey. Now getting a donkey may seem like an easy job, but this donkey had never been ridden before. A donkey that has never been ridden usually bucks and kicks the first time someone sits on its back because it is not used to the heavy weight. Like a horse, a donkey has to be trained to take riders and heavy loads.

The two friends of Jesus knew that the donkey had never been ridden. They might have been wondering whether the donkey would kick them as they untied it. They may have thought, 'What does Jesus want with an untrained donkey,' but even though they didn't understand, they obeyed. They did exactly as Jesus said, without arguing or complaining, and to their surprise, the donkey came with them very willingly. It didn't even buck when they laid coats on its back.

The two disciples were being servants because they were helping Jesus. Though he didn't know it, the little donkey was going to be a servant for Jesus too, because he was going to carry King Jesus into Jerusalem. As soon as Jesus got on to the donkey's back, the donkey must have known that Jesus was someone special. The donkey didn't feel afraid with Jesus. He stood quite still as Jesus climbed on to his back. Then he walked along quietly into Jerusalem, carrying Jesus. The donkey wasn't even afraid when he came to the crowds of people who lined the roadway, cheering and shouting 'Hosanna'. How noisy it was. But the little donkey just kept going.

Discussion

Why do you think the little servant donkey was not afraid?

Story: Saint Nicholas

This is a well-known story from Holland, about someone who was a servant.

Long ago, in Holland, lived a man called Saint Nicholas. He had a very important position in the church. Nicholas had a kind heart. Even though he was very busy, he did not forget about poor people. He wanted to help them.

It was almost Christmas. Nicholas was sad because he knew of many boys and girls who would not receive any Christmas gifts. Their parents did not have enough money to buy them. Then he had an idea. Nicholas was very good at making things. "Yes," he thought. "I'll set to work and make some gifts for these children."

Nicholas worked hard, for he hadn't much time. "Only a few weeks until Christmas," he thought. He hammered and chiselled away in his workshop making toy trains, dolls and little horses. When it was almost Christmas he gathered up the toys and set off for the homes of

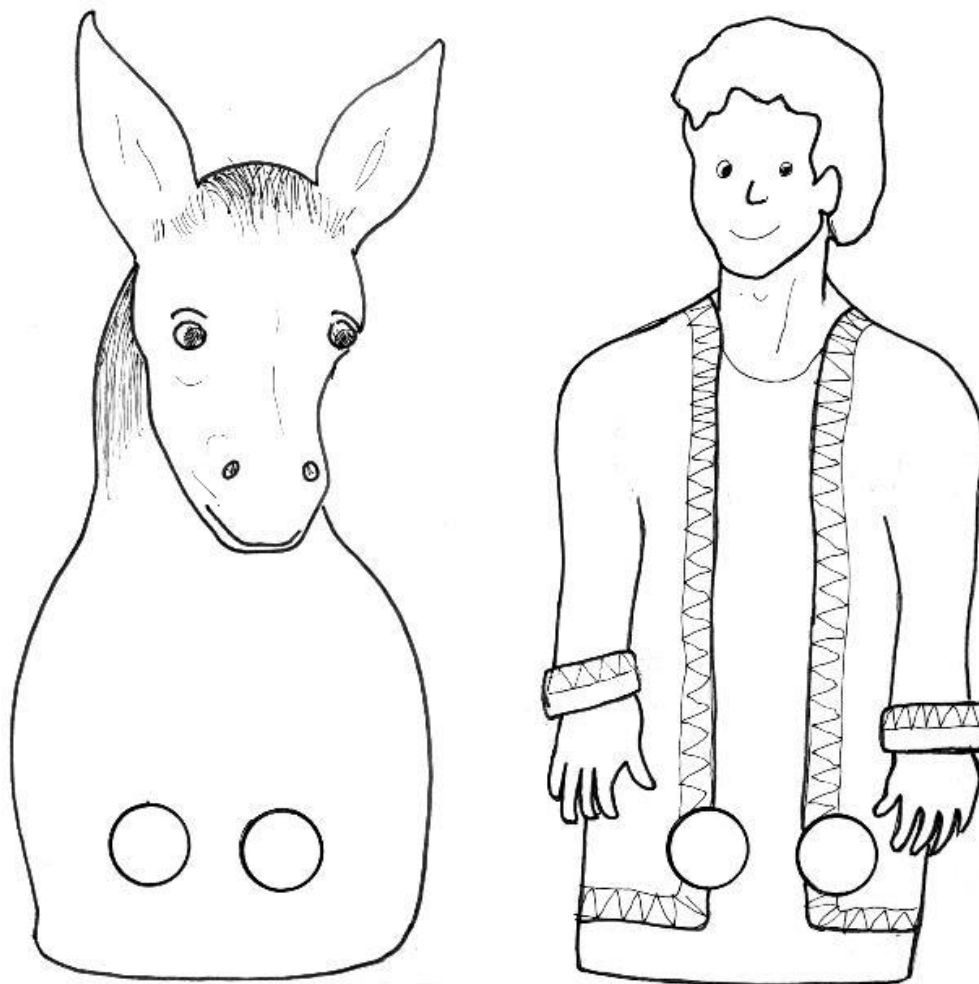
the poor children. He didn't want anyone to know who had made the toys so he delivered them secretly, slipping them quietly through open windows or leaving them on doorsteps.

What happiness Nicholas brought to those children that Christmas! Nicholas continued to make toys for poor children every Christmas, but he always delivered the toys in secret.

Jesus said that when we do something for others, we shouldn't boast about how good we are, or expect a reward. That's why Nicholas didn't tell anyone who had made the toys. Nicholas could have forgotten about the poor children because he was so busy organising things to do with the church. But he didn't. He wanted to help. That's really being a servant.

Activity

Make finger puppets to tell the story of the donkey that helped Jesus. Back cut-outs with card and cut holes for fingers to poke through. Fingers act as the puppet's legs.



God is a Servant

Week 3

It's not always easy.

God wants us to be willing to help others, even at times when we would rather please ourselves.

Bible references

Luke 18:10-28 Jesus healed a crippled woman.

Isaiah 1:19 Be willing and obedient.

Galatians 6:2 Help to carry one another's burdens.

Puppet sketch 1: Time for work and time for play

Betty:

Guess what Billy! I've got a new toy. Do you want to come over to my house and see it?

Billy:

Wow, Betty. That's fantastic. I'd love to! I'll just check with Mum...

...Mum, can I go over to Betty's house and see her new toy?

Mum:

Well Billy, I did ask you to clean your room when you came home from school...and don't forget to hang up your clothes. I need that job done before you go.

Billy:

But Mum, by the time I've done all that, there won't be any time left to play before dinner!

Mum:

Sorry Billy. You should have thought of that earlier.

Discussion

- Why was it difficult for Billy to be willing and helpful?
- Think about times when you have wanted to do something special, but jobs needed to be done first.
- What if Mum asks you to do a job when a favourite T.V. program is on, or when it is your time to play? Would that be difficult?

Puppet sketch 2: Helping a friend

Teacher:

Billy, would you be kind enough to stay back with Ben for five minutes at lunch time to help him with his spelling?

Ring, ring. (lunch bell)

Billy's Friends: (after teacher has left the room)

Come on Billy. You don't want to stay and help him. He's not one of our friends. He started a fight with Tim yesterday. If you're going to help Ben, then you can't be one of our friends!

Discussion

Why was it difficult this time for Billy to be helpful?

It wasn't always easy for Jesus to help people. There were some people who would try to stop Jesus from helping others. They were the Pharisees. Once they told Jesus that He shouldn't be helping a person because it was God's day, Sunday. Do you think we should help people on Sundays?

Bible Lesson: Jesus heals a crippled woman

There was a lady who could not stand up straight. She had a sore back and could only walk bending over. One day Jesus came to her town. When Jesus saw her He told her to come to Him. He put His hands on her and said, "You are now healed."

Straight away she stood up. She was not bent over any more. She was so happy. She gave thanks to God.

There were some leaders of God's people who made sure that everyone obeyed the rules of the Scriptures. They thought that obeying rules was more important than loving people. In fact they made up extra rules.

They saw that Jesus had healed the woman. They talked among themselves and said to Jesus, "You are breaking the law! The law says that you must not work on Saturdays." (Saturday was a special day called the Sabbath).

"By healing this woman, you are doing work, and that is not allowed."

Jesus said to them, "Don't you feed your animals and give your animals water to drink on Saturday? Isn't that work too?"

They knew that Jesus was right and they left Jesus.

All the other people who saw Jesus heal the woman were excited about the wonderful things that Jesus was doing. They knew that it was by the power of God.

Activity: 'helping hands'

Make some hand prints. Use sponges saturated in paint for stamp pads. Print hands on to paper. If you find this too messy, draw around hands and colour in.

God is a Servant

Week 4

Give what you have to help others.

God wants us to be generous servants.

Bible references

Matthew 25:35-40 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me into your house. I needed clothes and you gave me clothes. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Mark 12:41-44 The story of the widow's offering

Introduction

Ask the children to tell you about a favourite gift they have been given for a birthday or for Christmas.

Are there times when people receive gifts and it is not Christmas or their birthday? (For example, Fijians give mats, baskets, *tabua*; Indians give sweets, jewellery; all cultures give money, food and flowers when there is a funeral.)

Why do people give gifts? (Because they love the person they are giving to; because they want to say thank you; because they want to help a person; because they want to say sorry.)

Definition: Generosity

When we give to someone it is being generous. It means that we are happy to give our time to help others, to share the things we have, or to give money.

Ask the children to answer Yes or No:

- Vili shared his lunch with Jone because Jone had no lunch. Was he being generous?
- Mere wouldn't let Litia play with her new toy. Was she being generous?
- Mum and Dad put aside some of their money each week to give to the church. Is this being generous?
- A poor man came to the door and asked for some food. You told him to go away and you shut the door. Is this being generous?

Discussion

What generous things can we do for our families?

How can we give our time to help others?

How can we share the things we have?

In many countries of the world people do not have enough food to eat. Children are very hungry every day. In countries where there is enough food there are groups who collect money to buy food for those who don't have enough.

Bible Lesson: Helping others is serving Jesus

Jesus wants us to be generous. Jesus once said to his disciples:

“When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat. When I was thirsty you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you invited me into your house. When I needed clothes and you gave me clothes. When I was sick and you looked after me. When I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

This puzzled the disciples. They asked Jesus:

“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in? And when did we see you in need of clothes and clothe you? When did we see that you were sick and help you? And when did we see you in prison and visit you?”

Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, if you do these things for people in need, then it is as if you have helped me.”

Discussion:

What if you don't have much to give?

God wants us to be generous servants and give what we have.

Let's think about a family that has only enough food to last until the end of the week. They have no more money to buy food once the food has run out.

What could this family do?

(Ask the children for ideas.)

Now just imagine that this family found out that their next-door neighbour had no food at all. What should this family do? Think about this but don't give an answer just yet. Listen to this story first.

Bible Lesson: The poor widow's offering

One day Jesus was with his disciples at the temple. The temple was like a church building in the time of Jesus. Jesus wanted to teach the disciples about giving.

He said to his friends, “See the people passing by the offering box? Some people are putting in lots of money. You can see that they are rich by the way they are dressed. It is good that they are giving money. But see this lady coming now? She is not dressed in beautiful clothes. Her clothes are very old. This lady's husband has died. She does not have a husband to earn money. This lady hardly has enough money to buy food. But did you notice that she put two small coins into the offering? She gave more to God than all the rich people, even though the rich people put in lots of money.”

The disciples thought about this. “How can two small coins be worth more than the large amounts of money the rich people put in?” they thought.

Then Jesus explained. “The rich people gave God what they could easily afford. They still had a lot of money for themselves after giving to God. But the poor lady gave everything she had. She kept nothing back for herself. That’s why she gave the biggest gift of all.”



Discussion:

Now let’s answer our earlier question about the family who didn’t have much food. Should they give food to their neighbour who had no food? What do you think God would want the family to do? What could God do for both families?

What can children give to Jesus?

Children usually don’t have money to give, unless their parents give them money. But children can give other things to God.

1. Helping others and being kind to others
- Remember what Jesus said about helping someone in need? (Mat 25:35)
2. Sharing what we have with others – our toys, our pencils, and our food
 3. Giving our time to God.
 4. Singing and praying to God.
- God loves it when we talk to him.
5. Doing what God wants us to do.
- This is a wonderful gift to God.

Activity

Draw a picture of how you can give to God.