

Year 4

God is a Servant 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- That a servant is one who helps others without complaining.
- That a servant always does one's best.
- That the life of Jesus is the greatest example of a servant.
- That a faithful servant can be trusted and will never let you down.
- That a faithful servant will continue to serve even when things get difficult.
- That God wants us to be faithful in little jobs, and then He can trust us with bigger jobs.
- The definition of diligence and how to practice diligence.

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Serving through gifts and talents

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

God has given each individual gifts and talents to be used to serve Him and others.

Values

Compassion, flexibility, service, humility, willingness, thoughtfulness, sacrifice

Biography:

Joel Bulu

God is a Servant

Week 1

A faithful servant

Jesus showed us how to be a faithful servant by His own example.

Bible references

John 17:1-26 Jesus was faithful to His friends. He prayed for them; He provided for them.

John 5:19 The Son was faithful to His Father, doing nothing on His own.

John 13:4-5 Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

Luke 12:35-47 The faithful servant is the one who knows what his master wants, and does it.
A faithful servant is ready for the return of Jesus.

Hebrews 2:17 Jesus, the faithful servant

Phil 2:14 Do all things without complaining.

Introduction

What is a servant?

A servant is one who helps another person, doing the job well without complaining.

What is a faithful servant?

A faithful servant is one that you can rely on; one who never lets you down.

Serving at school

Who are servants in our school?

Teachers – help the students to learn

Students – help one another and help the teachers

What are some ways in which students can help to keep the school running well?

Listening to the teacher and doing what the teacher says.

Working well without getting distracted

Keeping the classroom clean

Keeping the playground clean

Asking the teacher if there are any other jobs to be done

What would our school be like if no one did these jobs?

What would it be like if one person had to do all the jobs?

Serving at home

What are some of the jobs that need to be done at home?

What are some of the jobs that need to be done every day, and which jobs don't need to be done every day? (Make two lists.)

Who does the tasks? (Write names next to the jobs)

Which jobs do you do at home?

What would it be like if one person had to do all the jobs?

Bible lesson: How did Jesus serve?

As a boy, Jesus would have helped his earthly father Joseph in the carpenter's shop. Maybe he would hand Joseph the tools, or clean up the wood shavings and sawdust. Jesus would have helped his mother in the home too, carrying water, (because there were no taps in the houses), helping to wash the dishes and clean the floor. Jesus also worked hard at his studies. He went to the synagogue, (like a church), and there he listened to the teachers. He learned to read from the Scriptures which were written on a scroll.

When Jesus grew up, the first time we hear of Him performing a miracle was at a wedding. It was the wedding at Cana. His mother came to Jesus very worried that the drinks had run out and there were no more for the guests. Jesus showed that He was a servant by performing a miracle. He told the waiters to go and fill the jugs with water. Then Jesus, by His mighty power, turned the water into wine so that there were enough drinks for all the guests. The guests even commented that this wine was better than the first lot of wine.

From this time on, we read about Jesus being a servant in many ways. He healed people who were sick, He talked with people who had problems and He even raised people from the dead. He taught twelve friends about God and helped them get ready for the job they would do after Jesus had gone back to heaven.

Jesus taught His friends to always rely on God when they helped others, and never to do anything without Him. He also taught them never to think you are too important to do the humble jobs. He showed them this by washing their dirty, dusty, smelly feet. The disciples did not want Jesus to do this for them, but Jesus said that it was okay. He showed them that He loved them by caring for them in this way. He set an example for us to follow.

There are some jobs that no one really likes to do, but doing the humble jobs is the sign of a true servant.

Discussion

What are some jobs that most people do not like to do?

What is the best way to get these jobs done?

God is a Servant

Week 2

Serving when things are difficult

Bible references

Acts 1-2 The disciples receive power to work for Jesus.

Acts 4:13-22 The disciples were warned not to speak about Jesus.

Acts 7 Stephen was faithful.

Acts 8:1-4 The disciples continued to be faithful in the face of danger.

Luke 12:35-47 Be faithful in doing what Jesus wants us to do.

Acts 4:20 We cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.

Game: Masters and Servants

Work in pairs. For each pair, one acts as the 'master'; the other as the 'servant'. The master must give the servant a series of instructions to be followed. The servant must follow the instructions faithfully, without forgetting any steps. (You may prefer to limit the number of steps.)

The group may like to draw up a list of suitable instructions first.

EXAMPLES:

1. Walk to the table.
2. Take ... paces backwards.
3. Touch your toes ... times.

Discussion

In the game you needed to listen carefully in order to remember what the master wanted you to do. If we are to understand what Jesus wants us to do, then we must also listen carefully.

What does 'listening to Jesus' really mean?

A master wants his servants to know the right things to do, and to do them well. This is being faithful. Read what Jesus said about being a faithful servant: Luke 12:43.

What does Jesus expect us to do, as faithful servants?

Just as Jesus was faithful to His twelve best friends, the friends, (except for one), were faithful to Jesus.

Bible lesson: The faithful friends

Imagine that you are one of the eleven faithful friends. You are feeling sad because Jesus has gone to be with his Heavenly Father. Jesus has told you to tell others about Him, and to heal people in his name, but you don't know how you can possibly do these things. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come and give you power. "How would this happen? What is the Holy Spirit like?" you are thinking.

Then, as you are waiting and praying with the other disciples, it happens. There is a mighty rushing wind. The sound is almost deafening. Then there appear to be little flames of fire on everyone's head, including your own! What is happening? No, your hair doesn't catch alight. It's not that kind of fire. You feel so happy, and just full of God's love.

The wind and fire leave, but you feel different. You are no longer sad that Jesus has gone. You can feel Him right there with you all the time, even though you can't see Him. You are no longer afraid. You want to go and tell others about Jesus. You want to pray for people and help them just like Jesus did. Your friends feel the same way.

All the friends of Jesus are now speaking about Him in the streets and market places, healing people and seeing other miracles. People are being healed and set free from their problems. Thousands of people are becoming followers of Jesus.

However it is not long before there is trouble. It's the religious leaders again. They do not like everyone following this new religion called Christianity. Peter and John have been told not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John cannot keep quiet. "We must speak about what we have seen and heard," they say.

One of the followers called Stephen speaks very boldly about Jesus and even puts down the teachings of the religious leaders. The older religious leaders talk amongst themselves. "This man is always saying things against the old way of Moses. He talks about a new way... that Jesus can forgive sins and there is no need to offer sacrifices anymore! We don't like the new way. Let's get rid of him!" they say.

Stephen does not stop talking about Jesus even though he knows what the religious leaders are thinking. It is not long before the religious leaders decide to get rid of Stephen.

Read Acts 8:2-4.

Now all the followers of Jesus are faced with a choice. It is obvious that following Jesus from now on will be very difficult, and very dangerous. If you want to stay out of trouble, then you will have to give up following Jesus. Or, you could choose to be faithful and continue speaking about what you know to be true.

With the other followers, you decide that you will continue to speak about what you have seen and heard. You continue to meet together to pray and sing and learn about God's kingdom, but you now have to do it in secret. You often meet in underground caves so that the Roman soldiers will not find you. On the walls of the caves there appears the special secret sign that shows you are Christians. It is the sign of the fish.

Discussion

Why do you think the early Christians chose a fish for their secret sign?

The early followers did not give up following Jesus, even when it was difficult. When might it be difficult for us to be Christians today?

What can we do when things get difficult?

Act it out

Make up endings to these sketches, to show how a Christian might react in these situations.

Person A is not a Christian.

Person B is a Christian.

Sketch 1

Person A is handing out sweets. He/she boasts about stealing the sweets from the shop down the road.

Person B is offered a sweet.

Sketch 2

All the children are having great fun teasing a new boy/girl. They decide to play a mean trick on him/her.

Person A asks person B to join in.

Puzzle

Code: a= ■ e= ◆ i= + o= ● u= ◆

Decode the following sentence:

W◆ c■nn● t st● p sp◆■ k■ng ■b●◆t wh■t w◆
h■v◆ s◆◆n ■nd h◆■rd.

God is a Servant

Week 3

Be faithful in little things

Bible references

Luke 16:10 Be faithful in little things.

Matthew 25:14-29 Parable of the talents.

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you find to do, do it with all your heart.

Galatians 6:3 You are never too important to help someone else.

John 13:15 "I have set you an example. Do as I have done."

Introduction

We learned in Term 1 about using our talents to serve God.

What is a talent?

Do we all have the same talents?

Jesus told a story about three men who were given different amounts of money. The Bible tells us that the money was called 'talents'. The word 'talent' could mean 'dollars' today. The master gave the money to the men, not for themselves, but to look after while he went on a long trip.

Two of the men used the money wisely to make more money. When the master returned they were able to give him back more money than they had originally received. But the third man was afraid of losing the money. He buried it in a hole in the ground. So when the master returned the third man gave the master back the same amount of money that he had originally received.

Jesus tells us to use the talents He has given us to serve Him. This is being faithful in using the gifts God has given us.

Bible lesson: Be faithful in little things

Jesus said, "Whoever is faithful in small matters will be faithful in large ones; whoever is dishonest in small matters will be dishonest in large ones." (Luke 16:10 GNB)

A faithful servant does everything with their whole heart. Read Colossians 3:23.

It doesn't matter how small the jobs is. God wants us to do it well. No one is too important to help with ordinary jobs. No one is too important to help someone in need.

The Bible also says, "If you think you are too important to help someone in need, you are only fooling yourself. You are really a nobody" (Galatians 6:3 NLT).

It is in the small jobs that we grow to be the servants that Jesus wants us to be.

Jesus did many ordinary jobs that other people tried to avoid: washing feet, helping children, fixing breakfast, and serving lepers. Nothing was beneath him, because he came to serve. Jesus wants us to follow His example (John 13:15).

Jesus got tired just like everyone else, but he did what everyone needed. No task is beneath you when you have a servant's heart.

Don't just look for great tasks to do for God. Just do whatever around you needs doing. Then when God sees that you are faithful in doing these small jobs, He will give you greater things to do for Him.

There will always be more people willing to do "great" things for God than there are people willing to do the little things. But God is pleased when we do the little things.

Discussion

What are some of the 'little things' that we can do to be helpful? (Make a list)

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Week 4

Serve with diligence

Bible references

Ecc 9:10 Work hard at whatever you do.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 Warning against laziness

Acts 9:36-42 Dorcas showed diligence in sewing

Genesis 6:14-16 Noah showed patience and diligence in building the ark.

Hebrews 6:10-12 Diligence in helping others.

Proverbs 31:10-29 The diligent wife.

Discussion

Have you ever wanted to be really good at something? Maybe you would love to be able to play a musical instrument well, or to be a ballet dancer, or even an Olympic gymnast. People who are good at difficult things can only become successful with lots of practice. They need to listen to their instructor carefully with concentration, and then do exactly as the instructor says. It is important to keep trying and not give up, even when things seem difficult.

Activity

Take a survey. Find out how many in your group are learning to do something that requires particular skill. It might be gymnastics, sport, ballet, or learning a musical instrument. Record the information on a chart. Find out about practice routines. Is practicing always easy?

Working hard at something, and doing the best job you possibly can, is being diligent. If we really want to do well at something then we must be diligent. Diligence is the opposite to being lazy.

Without diligence:

People don't get much done

People act as if it doesn't matter

People will not be successful

If you are diligent:

People will trust you and rely on you to do something well

You will get something done with excellence and enthusiasm

What kinds of distractions could make it difficult to be diligent in these situations?

- doing homework
- training for athletics
- practising a musical instrument
- keeping your room tidy
- doing jobs for Mum

Bible lesson: Diligence

The Bible speaks about two women who were very diligent in what they did. One was Dorcas who was very diligent in making clothes for the poor. She was one of the followers who became a Christian after Jesus went back to Heaven.

Sewing is a job that requires a lot of patience and diligence.

In Bible times there were no sewing machines. Imagine how much patience you would need to make an entire garment by hand. Dorcas never gave up. She kept working because she knew that God wanted her to serve Him in this way.

Read her story in Acts 9:36-42.

Another person who showed diligence was Noah. Think about the size of the ark. What a huge job for one man! God wanted Noah to be very exact in how he built the ark. Noah didn't just throw it together. He made it exactly according to the plans that God had given him. He took time to find special materials and also took time in making exact measurements.

Read about it in Genesis 6:14-16.

God wants us all to be diligent in doing good things. That means working at something even when we don't feel like it. It means finishing something we start, even if we are not so excited about it anymore.

Here are some people who serve with diligence:

a) artists and craftsmen

b) farmers

Farmers need to get up early, especially if they have animals to feed or milk. When crops need harvesting, or hay needs to be brought in from the paddocks, the work must be done as quickly as possible before the crops spoil.

What would happen if these people were not diligent?

c) doctors, especially surgeons performing operations

d) construction workers who build bridges

e) aircraft crews and pilots

Read this verse which tells us about working hard:

2 Thessalonians 3:10.

Story: The Little Red Hen

Once upon a time there was a little red hen who wanted to make a loaf of bread, but she had no flour.

"I shall grow some wheat," she said.

The little red hen asked her chicks to help her.

"First we must plant the wheat," she said.

The little red hen asked the other farmyard animals to help too.

"Who will help to plant the wheat?" she asked.

"Not I," said the dog.

"Not I," said the cat.

"Not I," said the mouse.

So the little red hen and her chicks planted the wheat by themselves.

The wheat grew, and the heads turned to golden brown.

"We must harvest the wheat," said the little red hen to her chicks. "Then we must collect the grain and put it into sacks."

"Who will help me harvest the wheat?" the little red hen asked the other farm animals.

"Not I," said the dog.

"Not I," said the cat.

"Not I," said the mouse.

So the little red hen and her chicks harvested the wheat and put the grain into sacks all by themselves.

"Now we must take the sacks of wheat to the mill to be ground into flour." said the little red hen. "Who will help me?" she asked the other animals.

"Not I," said the dog.

"Not I," said the cat.

"Not I," said the mouse.

So the little red hen and her chicks took the wheat to the mill and brought back the freshly ground flour.

"Now it is time to make the bread," said the little red hen.

"Who will help me knead the dough?" she asked.

"Not I," said the dog.

"Not I," said the cat.

"Not I," said the mouse.

So the little red hen and her chicks made the bread by themselves. Soon some hot brown loaves were taken out of the oven. They smelled delicious.

"Who will help me eat the bread?" the little red hen asked.

"I will," said the cat.

"I will," said the dog.

"I will," said the mouse.

"Oh no," said the little red hen. "You wouldn't help me to plant the wheat, or to harvest the wheat, or to put the grain into sacks, or to take the sacks to the mill, or to knead the dough. My chicks and I will eat the bread all by ourselves. And they did."

Discussion:

Which animals were diligent?

Which animals were not diligent?