

Year 5

God is a Servant 4 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand that:

- Service is giving to others and wanting to make a difference in their lives
- The needs of others are just as important as our own needs
- True service requires giving our best effort
- Children can be God's servants
- We can change the world by serving God and others

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

Work and occupation

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

Work is an important way to serve others. We should always do our best work.

Values

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

Biographies:

William Carey (Heroes of the Faith)

God is a Servant

Week 1

Being a servant

Bible references

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

John 13:1-15 Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

1 Peter 4:10 Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others

Definition of serving

Serving is giving to others and wanting to make a difference in their lives. It doesn't have to be money. It can be just helping out. It can be showing kindness and care. A true servant of God has a willing heart. We do not serve to make ourselves feel good, or to get a reward. We see the need and do whatever needs to be done, without being asked. You always do your best.

Discussion

How could you be a servant?

- It is raining and your mother is coming up the road without an umbrella.
- A new student in your school looks a little lost.
- Your teacher is struggling to carry an armful of materials.
- A student who is physically handicapped is having trouble climbing the steps up into the bus with a heavy school bag.

Bible Lesson

Read Mark 10:45

Jesus didn't come for others to serve Him, but to serve and help others. Our reason for serving must come from our love for God and others and our desire to be more like Jesus.

Read John 13:1-15

Jesus washed the disciples' feet. This is an act of serving.

Jesus explained to the disciples that even though he was the Saviour, he still served them. He wanted them to understand that they should serve each other. Read John 13:15 again. Jesus wants us to follow his example and serve others.

Discussion

Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet?

What did Jesus want the disciples to do?

What does Jesus want us to do?

Serving isn't something that we should hate doing. It should be something that brings us joy! We don't have to wash feet as Jesus did to be serving. Children can serve by helping

their parents with jobs around the house. We can help out at church by opening a door for an elderly person. There are always ways to serve and help others.

Another way to serve is to pray for others. Instead of only praying for our own needs, we can be servants by praying for those around us. Serving is basically about others and not ourselves! When we serve, we should aim to become more like Jesus, caring for those around us more than we do for our own needs and wants. Jesus wants us to serve whenever we can, even if we are not asked to help or are not rewarded for our help.

Activity

Practice serving. Do some cleaning up around the school.

Questions

1. How do your parents serve you? List three ways.
2. How can you serve your parents? List three ways.
3. What attitude should we have to serving?
4. What difference does it make to your work when you have a right attitude?
5. How do you show that you care about others?
6. Describe some people who need others to help them.

God is a Servant

Week 2

Being faithful

Bible references

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

Luke 10:4; Matthew 17:27; John 21:15 Jesus loved and forgave His friends.

Luke 12:35-47 The faithful servant is the one who knows what his master wants, and does it.

Hebrews 2:17 Jesus, the faithful servant

1 Samuel 18, 19, 20 The faithful friendship between David and Jonathan

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loves at all times

Proverbs 18:24 There is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

Definition

Ask if anyone knows what 'faithful' means.

Faithful is another word for 'loyal'.

A faithful friend is one who sticks by you through good and bad times. They never let you down.

How would you show faithfulness to your best friend?

How can you serve your best friend?

Brainstorm

Jesus had twelve best friends and He was faithful to them all. How did He faithfully serve His best friends?

Write ideas on a large piece of paper. Discuss each idea. Some suggestions could be...

He LOVED them, PROVIDED & PRAYED for them

He TAUGHT them about God

He WASHED their feet

He always did what He said He would do

Jesus continued to be faithful to His friends even after He returned to Heaven. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to help them. When the Holy Spirit came He comforted them and gave them the ability to do great miracles.

Jesus promises that He will be our best friend too if we invite Him into our life. He will be just as faithful to us as He was to His disciples.

David and Jonathan

Here is a true story from the Old Testament about two faithful friends, David and Jonathan. David was the shepherd boy who killed Goliath.

King Saul had a son whose name was Jonathan. Jonathan was a brave young soldier. From the moment he met David he loved him. Jonathan admired David's bravery and strong faith in God. Jonathan, being a prince, had fine clothes. David was a poor shepherd boy and had no fine clothes. Jonathan gave David his fine belt and coat, as well as his sword and bow and arrows. David and Jonathan were like brothers. They promised to be faithful friends as long as they lived.

When King Saul became jealous of David, and could not control his anger, David's life was in danger. Both David and Jonathan knew that King Saul might kill David. Jonathan helped to protect David by warning him of the king's anger. Jonathan thought up a special secret sign to tell David that the king was angry, and that David must hide. This was the sign: Jonathan said he would shoot some arrows in a field, near a certain rock. David must hide behind the rock and watch. Jonathan would take a boy with him to the field to fetch the arrows. If Jonathan shot the arrows to land in front of the boy, then David would know that everything was safe, but if he shot the arrows beyond the boy, the David would know that it would be dangerous to come out from hiding.

At the palace, things were not good. "Why are you friends with David!" Saul shouted at Jonathan. Jonathan knew that he must warn David. The next morning he went to the field with a boy as arranged. He warned David with the special secret sign. David and Jonathan were sad to part. Jonathan went back to the king's palace, while David hurried off to hide in a cave. Although they could no longer be together, they always remembered each other as best friends.

Discussion

How was Jonathan faithful to David?

How did Jonathan serve David?

What is the definition of a good friend, found in Proverbs 17:17?

Who is the friend who sticks closer than a brother? (Proverbs 18:24)

Activity

Think of a way in which you can serve your best friend this week.

Make a card or gift for your friend with the Bible verse: A friend loves at all times. Proverbs 17:17

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Week 3

Serving with humility

To be great in God's kingdom you must become a servant.

Bible references

Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45 A servant of all

Matt 9:27-31 Humility in asking for help

Luke 14:7-11 Don't make yourself important

Luke 18:9-14 The Pharisee and the tax collector

Introduction

Think of some ways in which we can help others.

(Some members of the group can mime helping activities. Others can guess what they are miming.)

Bible research

What is a servant?

Read Matthew 20:26b.

What did Jesus mean when He told His disciples to be servants?

Read Matthew 20:28.

How did Jesus give us an example of serving?

Story 1: Don't make yourself important

Read the story from Luke 14:7-11.

What point was Jesus trying to make in this story? (Verse 11)

Story 2: The Pharisee and the tax collector

Two men went into the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee, (one of the proud leaders of the temple) and the other was a tax collector. People hated tax collectors because they stole money and cheated.

The Pharisee said out loud, "God I thank you that I am not wicked like other men who are unkind and selfish and evil. I'm glad I'm not like this tax collector. I pray every day and I give money to the poor."

The tax collector was praying in the corner where no one could see him. His prayer was quite different. He stood with his head bowed and said quietly, "God please forgive me for the wrong things I have done."

Jesus told his disciples that the tax collector was praying in the right way; he was being humble. But the Pharisee was being proud. The Pharisee was not even praying. He was telling God and all those around him who could hear him, how wonderful he was. He did not think he needed anything from God. The tax collector knew he needed God's forgiveness and God answered his prayer. He went away feeling happy.

Think...

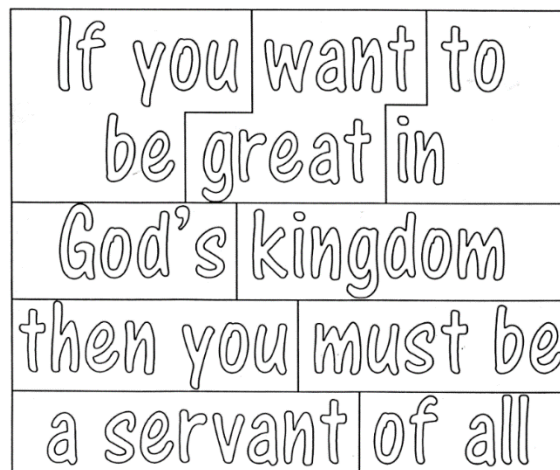
Which of these things will make a person greatest in God's kingdom?

- Having beautiful clothes
- Being rich
- Being an important person in the church
- Telling God, " I'm sorry"
- Telling God that you need Him
- Being really clever
- Admitting that you have a lot to learn
- Being a good runner
- Being kind
- Being humble
- Knowing Jesus

Puzzle

Who said this? (Mark 10:44)

Children can make this puzzle: cut out the pieces then put them together again.



God is a Servant

Week 4

Serving through giving

Bible references

2 Cor 9:7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Mark 2:1-12 Jesus healed a paralysed man (Giving to people with special needs)

Luke 16:10 Be faithful in little things.

Matthew 25:14-29 Parable of the talents

John 6:1-13 The boy who gave his lunch to Jesus

Introduction

We have been learning about serving. What are some ways in which we can serve? (Students may suggest 'doing jobs').

Explain that we can also serve by giving our time, our talents and our money.

Let's think about giving our talents.

What are some examples of talents?

Make a list, e.g. drawing, singing, sport.

Some people have a talent in being friendly towards others and sharing happiness.

God has given each person not just one talent, but many. If we are to be faithful servants, we should ask God how we can use our gifts and talents for Him. Our whole life can be a gift to Him.

Bible Story: The Three Servants

Read the story from Matthew 25:14-29

Discussion

This story is a parable told by Jesus. Jesus meant the story to have another meaning. It is not just a story about servants receiving bags of money. The hidden meaning is to do with God's servants receiving gifts from Him. The servants received different amounts of money. We cannot measure God's gifts to people in 'amounts', but we can say that God gives people different *kinds* of gifts.

To some He gives a gift of music. To others He gives the gift of caring. There are many different ways in which we can serve Him.

Just as the men in the story had to use their money to earn money, we can use our talents to serve God.

What talents can we use to serve God?

One man in the story did not use his talent. What was the result?

What if God has given you a talent and you do not use it? What will be the result?

How can we grow and develop our talents?

How can we serve with money?

Make a list of ways in which money can be used to serve God, e.g. helping those who don't have enough food; giving to the church.

Read 2 Cor 9:7. What should our attitude be when we give? Should we be annoyed about giving away something that belongs to us?

How can we serve by sharing the things we have?

Remember the little boy who gave his lunch to Jesus? (John 6:1-13) Many hungry people were helped by what the little boy gave. Jesus performed a miracle by turning the 5 bread rolls and 2 fish into enough food to feed five thousand people. The little boy didn't think about how hungry he might be if he gave his lunch away. He just willingly gave his lunch to Jesus.

How can we serve with our time?

Make another list, e.g. giving up our free time to help our parents or spend time with someone who is sick, lonely or sad.

How did Jesus help people in need?

Jesus used His healing power to heal those who were sick and disabled.

Read Mark 2:1-12