

Jesus Showed Us the Meaning of Service (Servanthood for Childrens #1)

Christians often talk about serving others, but this concept is rarely explained in depth to children. The Bible is rich with examples of servanthood, but none greater than Jesus in himself. This lesson plan will introduce the meaning of service, specifically in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. It is part 1 of the "Servanthood for Childrens Series"

OBJECTIVE: To help students understand that active service for God and others is the true mark of a growing believer in Jesus Christ.

MAIN IDEA: Jesus was the ultimate servant during his life on earth because he willingly gave up his life for us. We honor his example of servanthood by humbly serving others in our daily lives.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: *James 2:26, Mark 10:45, Philippians 2:8, John 3:16, 2 Timothy 2:24, Ephesians 6:7-8, 1 Peter 4:10*

Lesson Introduction

OPENING PRAYER: "Lord, prepare our hearts as servants. Help us to follow your word concerning how we should serve you and serve one another. Amen."

Lesson

1. Say, "Today we are discussing what it means to be a servant. First, can anyone define the word 'servant'?" Allow a few moments for discussion and add the definition of a servant (someone who performs duties for other people) if necessary. Next, explain that there are many occupations which call for servanthood. Pass out index cards with listed occupations (students may have more than one card). Have each student tell the class the occupation on their card(s). For each card ask, "How is a [doctor, teacher, policeman, etc] a servant?" By the end of the activity, make the distinction that someone's actions show if they are a servant. Read *James 2:26* "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." and emphasize that our servant-like actions as Christians prove that our faith is real.
2. Comment, "There are many examples of people in the bible who were servants. Who can name one and tell us how he or she was a servant?"

(Possibilities include Jesus, Noah, Moses, David, Jesus, Mary, etc.) Transition into the understanding that Jesus was the greatest servant who ever lived. Ask students to look up the following verses and read to the class: *Mark 10:45*, For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. *Philippians 2:8*, And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross" *John 3:16*. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." Conclude the verses and say, "Jesus was the greatest servant who ever lived because He willingly gave up His perfect life so we would have the chance to be saved from our sin. We follow His example every time we serve!"

3. Continue by telling the students that Jesus set the ultimate example of servanthood through his humility, obedience, and love for others. Read the following verses to find additional characteristics of a servant: *2 Timothy 2:24*, And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, *Ephesians 6:7-8*, with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free." *1 Peter 4:10*. As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." Comment, "When we serve Christ, we must also serve others because Christ was a servant. This is one of the best ways to show others that we are a Christian – by being a servant."

Servanthood Activity Page

Pass out the activity sheets and explain that we are going to come up with ways to serve our families, church, schools, and community.

Conclusion

RECAP: Serving God and others should be a daily part of a believer's life. When we chose to think of others before ourselves, our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ shines the brightest.

CLOSING PRAYER: "God, help us to be humble servants. We want to honor Jesus' sacrifice for our sins by serving you and serving others. Amen."

Jesus' Birth and Childhood

(Servanthood for Childrens #2)

Jesus didn't wait until he was a "grown-up" to start serving others. Even as a child, he displayed the character of a servant. In this lesson children will learn about his example and how they can follow him.

OBJECTIVE: To teach students the aspects of Jesus' early life that supported his role as a servant.

MAIN IDEA: Jesus was a servant from birth. The circumstances surrounding his childhood gave him the opportunity to experience life, so we can trust and follow his example of servanthood.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: *Philippians 2:8, Matthew 2:1, Matthew 1:24-25, Luke 2:39-40, Matthew 13:55-56, Matthew 1:16, Luke 2:49, Hebrews 4:15, Matthew 1:18, Luke 2:25-38, Luke 2:52*

Introduction

OPENING PRAYER: "Lord, thank you for Jesus' life on earth. Help us to learn from his birth and childhood and how we can follow his example of servanthood. Amen."

PREVIOUS LESSON REVIEW: Ask, "Who remembers what the word 'servant' means (someone who performs duties for other people)? Why is Jesus the ultimate example of a servant (because he died for us – *Philippians 2:8*)?" Remind the students that serving God and others should be a daily part of a believer's life because thinking of others before ourselves gives glory to God and shows our true faith. Comment, "The next few weeks we are going to study Jesus' life to learn how to be servants."

Icebreaker

Say, "We are going to play a game to learn more about one another." Write the following prompts on the dry erase board or poster board:

1. Where were you born?

2. Are you a single child, the oldest, youngest, or middle child in your family?
3. When did you first learn about God and start coming to church?
4. What are your siblings' names?
5. What are your parents' names?
6. What is an activity you enjoy?

Explain that each person will roll the dice to get a number and then answer the question for that number (repeat if there is time). After the game say, "Did you know the bible tells us this same information about Jesus? In the same way we get to know each other by sharing information, we know more about Jesus by studying the bible."

Lesson

Prepare the following questions on the dry erase board or poster board:

Was he the oldest, youngest, or middle child? *Matthew 1:24-25*

Did Jesus have brothers and sisters? *Matthew 13:55-56*

What was an activity he enjoyed? *Luke 2:49*

What were his parents' names? *Matthew 1:16*

When did he first learn about God? *Luke 2:39-40*

Where was Jesus born? *Matthew 2:1*

1. Ask for volunteers to read each passage to answer each question. Ask, "Why is this information important (because it shows that Jesus' can relate to our lives)? Jesus didn't just come to be crucified and resurrected- he came to live and serve within similar conditions we all face. We truly have a Savior who 'empathizes with our weaknesses'(Hebrews 4:15)!"
2. Go on to discuss additional important events regarding Jesus' birth and childhood. First, emphasize that he was born of a virgin (*Matthew 1:18*) and explain what that means. Second, he was born in the Roman Empire (the Romans had conquered and occupied his peoples' land). Third, there were people, other than his parents, who knew who Jesus was before he started his ministry (Simeon and Anna - *Luke 2:25-38*). Lastly, he was known for being wise even as a child (*Luke 2:52*)! Comment, "There are many similarities between us and Jesus because he lived a human life. However, the difference is he was perfect in everything he did! That is one of the reasons we look to Jesus as our ultimate example of servanthood."

Conclusion

RECAP: Jesus' humble childhood set him up for a life of service. Even though everyone has different families, abilities, and interests, God wants to use us as servants.

CLOSING PRAYER: "God, thank you for giving us the example of servanthood through Jesus' life. Help us to honor his example by serving you and others. Amen."

Jesus' Baptism and Satan's Temptation (Servanthood for Childrens #3)

The beginnings of Jesus ministry point to his character as a servant. Both in his baptism and while resisting the Devil's temptation, Jesus showed humility. This lesson teaches about those events and how children can also follow in his example.

OBJECTIVE: To help students understand Jesus' acts of service through his baptism and successful victory over Satan's temptations.

MAIN IDEA: Jesus clearly explained the reason for baptism and showed us how to resist the temptation to sin. When we follow his example, we grow stronger in our relationship with him.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: *Matthew 3:13-17, Luke 4:1-13, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Matthew 26:41, Hebrews 4:15*

Introduction

OPENING PRAYER: "God, please give understanding today as we continue to learn how Jesus was a servant. Help us imitate his obedience to you through baptism and turning away from temptation. Amen."

PREVIOUS LESSON REVIEW: Say, "Last week we learned about Jesus' birth and childhood. What do you remember about his early life (e.g. he had brothers and sisters, he was the firstborn, he liked going to the temple and learning about God, etc)?" Remind the students that Jesus was a servant

from the beginning of his life and they too can serve during their childhood years.

Lesson

1. Comment, "Jesus was baptized before he started his ministry. Can anyone tell me what the word 'baptism' means (to fully immerse someone in water – like Jesus)? Why do we get baptized when we become Christians?" After explaining who John the Baptist was, turn to *Matthew 3:13-17* and discuss why Jesus was baptized (not to be 'cleansed' since He was perfect, but to set an example of obedience to God). Ask, "So what would you say to a Christian who says they don't need to be baptized? What would you say to someone who thinks baptism is how they will get into heaven? Only through the repentance of sins and belief in Jesus' as God's son can we accept eternal life. Baptism is the first step of obedience when someone becomes a believer." Encourage students to remember Jesus' words in Matthew 3 and be willing to show others – friends, family members, neighbors – the truth about baptism. Say, "Part of being servants to others means lovingly sharing the truth when others are misled or confused."
2. Explain to the students that after Jesus had been baptized, he was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where he was tempted by Satan for 40 days. Say, "Before Jesus picked disciples, or even started preaching, Satan tried to get him off track!" Read *Luke 4:1-13*. Ask, "What does this true story about Jesus teach us about temptation (that we can succeed, that we should know the Bible, trust God when tempted, etc)?" Help students understand that just because we are tempted does not mean we have to sin! Write on the board, "When I am tempted, I can...". Look up these additional verses about temptation and make a list of things to do to fight our temptations: *1 Corinthians 10:13, Matthew 26:41, Hebrews 4:15*. Say, "Satan will try to tempt us as we serve to keep us from being obedient to God, just like he did to Jesus." Encourage the students to pray and read the previous verses when they feel too tired, grumpy, or annoyed to serve. Comment, "God will give us the strength and compassion we need to keep serving!"

Conclusion

RECAP: Jesus showed us that believer's baptism is an act of obedience to God. Also, he showed us how to resist temptation by using God's word and turning away from sin. Christ's servant-like example through his baptism and victory over temptation gives us understanding and hope.

CLOSING PRAYER: "Lord, thank you for Jesus who explained baptism and successfully overcame temptation. We know with your help we too can live a life of service. Please give us the desire and willingness to serve you and others. Amen."

Jesus Served His Disciples (Servanthood for Childrens #4)

As Jesus called his disciples, he was also committing himself to become their servant leader. This lesson shows Jesus' humility and dedication to his disciples helped them learn how to serve.

OBJECTIVE: To identify Jesus' twelve disciples and learn that humility is one of the biggest qualities of a servant of Jesus Christ.

MAIN IDEA: Jesus was a true servant for his disciples because he equipped and taught them how to become leaders of the church.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: *Matthew 4:18-22, Matthew 9:9, Mark 2:14, John 1:43 & 49-50, Matthew 10:2-4*

Introduction

OPENING PRAYER: "Lord, today we accept your call of service on our lives. Teach us how to serve by studying Jesus' selection of his disciples and their willingness to follow him. Amen."

PREVIOUS LESSON REVIEW: Play a "True or False" game with the class to review what they have learned about Jesus' life as a servant. Pass out blank pieces of paper and writing utensils. Consider presenting the winner with a small prize. Suggested questions include:

1. Jesus was born in Jerusalem. (False, he was born in Bethlehem)
2. Jesus had brothers and sisters. (True)
3. Jesus was baptized. (True)
4. Satan tempted Jesus for 20 days in the desert. (False, it was 40 days)
5. Jesus' parents were John and Mary. (False, they were Joseph and Mary)
6. The word "baptize" means to sprinkle someone with water. (False, the meaning is "full immersion")
7. Jesus was 12-years-old when his parents forgot him at the temple. (True)
8. Satan tempted Jesus with water in the desert. (False, he was tempted with bread)

At the end of the game say, "This game teaches us that it can be easy for people to get minor details about Jesus wrong. But, if we keep reading the

bible, we will be able to notice errors when they arise. It's very important to read our bibles!"

Lesson

1. Explain to the students that after Jesus was tempted in the desert by Satan he began choosing specific people to mentor and teach. Ask, "Who can tell me how many disciples, or followers, Jesus picked? Can you name any of them?" Turn to *Matthew 4:18-22*. Read the passage and list the first four disciples on the board (Peter, Andrew, James, and John). Ask, "What do we know about these men from the scripture passage (fishermen, brothers, left immediately, etc)?" Point out that these first four disciples were all fishermen, a very humble job in Jesus day. Look up the rest of the disciples' names by turning to *Matthew 9:9* (Matthew), *Mark 2:14* (Levi, another name for Matthew), *John 1:43,49-50* (Philip and Nathanael, another name for Bartholomew), and *Matthew 10:2-4* (Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot).
2. Say, "Let's brainstorm for a moment: Why was it necessary for Jesus to personally teach disciples during his life on earth (because he was going to heaven and the disciples would have to lead the church as his appointed leaders)?" Make the distinction that Jesus didn't pick the disciples because they were perfect – for example, Peter denied him and Judas betrayed him – but because they had hearts that were ready and willing to serve. Say, "God doesn't care about our status, popularity, or physical characteristics. He cares about our desire to serve him! Do you have the desire to serve God?"

Conclusion

RECAP: Jesus chose his disciples not because they were more intelligent, gifted or prosperous than others but because they had willing hearts to follow him and serve. Service is not about what we can do from our own strength but what God can do when we are humble and submit to his will.

CLOSING PRAYER: "God, humble our hearts as we serve you this week, and give us the opportunity to tell others about Jesus as we serve. Amen."

Jesus' First Miracle and Healing (Servanthood for Childrens #5)

The miracles of Jesus were another form of service and in every instance this helped others come to know Jesus himself. In this lesson children will learn how their service can help bring people to Jesus too.

OBJECTIVE: To discover how Jesus' acts of service through the first miracle and healing pointed others to believe in him as the Son of God.

MAIN IDEA: Jesus served others through miracles and healings because he knew it would draw people into a relationship with him. Even though Jesus was perfect and had extraordinary powers given to him by God, we should strive to follow his example by leading others to him when we serve.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: *Matthew 10:2-4, John 2:1-11, John 4:46-54*

Introduction

OPENING PRAYER: "God, reveal to us how to lead others to Christ through our service to you. Amen."

PREVIOUS LESSON REVIEW: Say, "Last week we learned about the twelve disciples Jesus chose to personally teach during his ministry on earth. Let's list their names and anything else we remember about them." Use a whiteboard or blank poster to list the disciples and write down facts (read *Matthew 10:2-4* for an exhaustive list of the disciples' names). Remind the class that Jesus was more concerned about his disciples' heart condition than their occupation, status, or popularity. Comment, "The disciples showed their willingness to humbly serve others by leaving their old lives and following Jesus. We will also have to make sacrifices to serve God and others."

Lesson

Explain that Jesus became known for his miracles and healings once his ministry started and people travelled many miles to see him. Say, "The first miracle was when Jesus turned water into wine. Let's read why this was an

important event.” Read *John 2:1-11*. On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Now both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding. ³And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.”

⁴Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.”

⁵His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do *it*.”

⁶Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece. ⁷Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸And He said to them, “Draw *some* out now, and take *it* to the master of the feast.” And they took *it*. ⁹When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. ¹⁰And he said to him, “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the *guests* have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!”

¹¹This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

1. Explain to the students that wine was a common drink in Jesus’ day (much like sodas today), and it was especially used for celebrations. Ask, “Why do you think it was a big deal that there was no more wine left?” Add that a wedding feast during Jesus’ day usually lasted about a week, so running out of wine (because there wasn’t always clean water to drink) would have been a catastrophe. Question, “So why was it meaningful that Jesus provided more wine? What should we take away from this miracle?” Emphasize that this first miracle showed Jesus cared about others, had power as Messiah, and could easily provide something of incredible worth. Also make the distinction that Jesus turned the water into “good wine” because he only gives the best of himself (as pictured when he gave up his perfect life to die on the cross).
2. Transition into Jesus’ first healing by reading *John 4:46-54*. Point out that his first healing was also in Cana of Galilee – the same place where he had turned water into wine. Also show the bible map and explain that Capernaum was approximately 20 miles from Cana (but still in a Galilee), or approximately a day’s worth of travel on foot. Ask, “So, what is amazing to you about this healing?” Explain that an official in that day would normally send a messenger, but because of the terrible situation the official came in person. And all Jesus had to do was speak and the boy was healed! In addition, the

official's entire household believed in Jesus because of the healing. Say, "Jesus healed the boy just by saying a few words. Never underestimate Jesus' ability to help us in our struggles! Through this first healing he showed us that even his words have power." Remind the students that when we serve we will witness God doing amazing things not only in our lives, but in others' lives as well.

Conclusion

RECAP: Jesus' first miracle and healing showed that he truly was the Son of God and that service should be about leading others into a relationship with him.

CLOSING PRAYER: "Please remind us, Lord, to lead others to you as we serve. We ask that your Holy Spirit would draw those we encounter into a relationship with you. Amen."

Service Leads to Blessings (Servanthood for Childrens #6)

Blessings come in many forms, and Jesus told us we will be blessed when we obey, serve, and follow his example. It's important for kids to understand the biblical promises of rewards. However, it's equally important for them to know that wrong motives will get in the way of God's blessings.

OBJECTIVE: To familiarize the students with the Beatitudes ("to be blessed") and make the connection that blessings follow obedient service to Christ.

MAIN IDEA: God's word promises blessings when we are obedient. When we serve we should remember that God knows our true motives and will reward us for serving him.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: *John 2:1-11, John 4:46-54, Matthew 5:1-12, Psalm 41:1, Psalm 84:12, Acts 20:35*

Introduction

OPENING PRAYER: "Lord, help us understand that you will bless us when we are obedient to you. Amen."

PREVIOUS LESSON REVIEW: Say, "Who remembers the first miracle Jesus performed from last week's lesson (water to wine – *John 2:1-11*)? And what were the details of his first healing (*John 4:46-54*)?" Remind the students that Jesus performed signs to show people that he was the Son of God and to lead them into a relationship with him. Through these signs he also showed people that he cared and sympathized with what was happening in their lives. Comment, "Never forget that Jesus wants to help us –He always has something good in store for those who have faith (just like the people in Cana). But, most of all, Jesus showed perfect servanthood when he willingly gave up his perfect life to die for our sins."

Lesson

Announce to the students that today's lesson is about Jesus' first formal sermon, the Sermon on the Mount. Say, "After Jesus called his first four disciples (Peter, Andrew, James and John), he gave a special sermon while sitting on a hill. Let's read *Matthew 5:1-12* to learn about the first part of this sermon called, 'The Beatitudes.'" And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. ²Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

³"Blessed *are* the poor in spirit,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed *are* those who mourn,

For they shall be comforted.

⁵Blessed *are* the meek,

For they shall inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

For they shall be filled.

⁷Blessed *are* the merciful,

For they shall obtain mercy.

⁸Blessed *are* the pure in heart,

For they shall see God.

⁹Blessed *are* the peacemakers,

For they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰Blessed *are* those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,

For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. ¹²Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

1. After reading the passage, write the definition of beatitude (“to be blessed”) on the board. Explain that we will also find God’s favor and protection when we are obedient to him. Next, go verse by verse to explain each of the beatitudes:

Vs. 3: “Poor in spirit” means those who humbly accept their need for Christ.

Vs. 4: “Those who mourn...shall be comforted,” is possible because Jesus is our Comforter.

Vs. 5: “The meek,” describes being gentle, slow to anger, and having controlled strength.

Vs. 6: “Hunger and thirst for righteousness,” means longing to be more like Christ.

Vs. 7: “The merciful,” means responding with compassion toward others when they deserve to be punished.

Vs. 8: “Pure in heart,” means having the right motives and being blameless before God.

Vs. 9: “Peacemakers,” seek to bring peace among opposition or bad circumstances.

Vs. 10: “Persecuted for righteousness’ sake,” means being mistreated for being obedient to God.

Vs. 11: “Revile...say all kinds of evil against you,” means when we’re wrongly accused of evil.

Vs. 12: (Goes with verse 11) “Rejoice and be exceedingly glad...” is hard to do when we are mistreated, but Jesus promises we will be rewarded for doing the right thing!

1. Say, "There are additional verses in the bible that tell us we will be blessed when we do certain things." Read *Psalm 41:1* (when we help others/the poor), *Psalm 84:12* (when we trust in God), and *Acts 20:35* (when we give without receiving). Emphasize that we should never do good things simply to be blessed by God because he looks at our hearts and our motives and knows if we are sincere! Comment, "If our motives are wrong when we serve, then we will not be blessed. Blessings are part of God's rewards and encouragement to believers, so if we serve him for the right reasons and with all our hearts, then we can expect his blessings!"

Conclusion

RECAP: We can expect blessings when we obey God's word. Also, Jesus assured believers through his Sermon on the Mount that rewards are in store for those who wholeheartedly serve God and others.

CLOSING PRAYER: "God, thank you for the blessings in our lives! Please help us continue serving you with the right motives. Amen."

Jesus Taught Us How to Serve (Servanthood for Childrens #7)

Jesus showed by example how to serve, but he also preached how to serve. In part 7 of the "Servanthood for Childrens Series," the Sermon on the Mount is again discussed to point out additional verses about service. Jesus knew that part of his leadership role as a servant required teaching others how to serve. In this lesson, children will see how their words and actions must work together to be a true servant of God.

OBJECTIVE: To identify verses in the Sermon on the Mount that tell us how to be Christ-like servants.

MAIN IDEA: A true Christian servant will put others' needs first, trust God, and treat others with respect, love, and kindness.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: *Matthew 5:22 & 40-44, Matthew 6:19-21, 24, & 25-26, Matthew 7:1-5, 12, & 24-27*

Introduction

OPENING PRAYER: "Lord, we want our lives to be known for serving you and serving others. Give us the wisdom we need to learn and act on the truths found in the Sermon on the Mount. Amen."

PREVIOUS LESSON REVIEW: Pass out the half-sheet handout "The Beatitudes – Review" to remind the students of last week's lesson. Consider discussing the first question as a class to get them started. Upon completion say, "Remember that God promises us blessings when we are obedient to his word. When our motives are right, God will reward us for serving him and others."

Lesson

Transition into the lesson by telling students that the Sermon on the Mount is very long, but one of the main points is how to be a true, servant-like follower of Jesus. Say, "We are going to focus on some verses that teach us how to be better servants." Make index cards with verses ahead of time to pass out for each person to read:

Matthew 5:22 – Being angry with someone is like wanting to murder them in your heart.

5:40-44 – Give to others, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Matthew 6:1 – Don't practice servanthood to receive praise and attention from others.

6:19-21 – Store up treasures in heaven such as wisdom, love, righteousness, and service.

6:24 – You can't serve God and money.

6:25-26 – Don't worry!

Matthew 7:1-5 – Don't have a spirit of criticism (e.g. hypocrisy within accountability).

7:12 – Treat others the way you want to be treated.

7:24-27 – We have a solid foundation if we follow Christ’s teachings.

Conclusion

RECAP: Being kind, generous, loving, humble, and trusting in God helps us be Christ-like servants. When we put our selfish desires aside we will truly be able to show the world how a relationship with Jesus matters more than anything else.

CLOSING PRAYER: “God, help us keep our eyes on you and our desires on your will. Give us opportunities to serve you this week and tell others about Jesus. Amen.”

Jesus Served Through His Crucifixion, Part 1 (Servanthood for Childrens #8)

Jesus didn’t just serve during the good times. In the events leading up to his crucifixion, Jesus remained obedient and dedicated to serving God even though he was betrayed and faced unfair treatment. This lesson is part 1 of, “Jesus Served Through His Crucifixion” (Lesson 8 of the Servanthood series) and explores the preliminary events leading up to his arrest and crucifixion.

OBJECTIVE: To examine how Jesus served others and was obedient to God even as his death drew near.

MAIN IDEA: Jesus had plenty of opportunities and reasons to disobey God’s will for his life. However, he never stopped serving and continually trusted God through the events that lead to his death.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: *Matthew 7:12 (review), Matthew 7:24-27 (review), Matthew 26:14-16, Matthew 26:1-2, Luke 22:14-16, Luke 22:34, Luke 22:54-62*

Introduction

OPENING PRAYER: “God, we want to understand how Jesus willingly accepted your will for him to die on the cross. Give us the assurance and faith we need to trust in your will for our own lives. Amen.”

PREVIOUS LESSON REVIEW: Say, "Last week we discussed parts of Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount' to better understand how to serve. When we treat others the way we want to be treated (*Matthew 7:12*) and follow Christ's teachings (*Matthew 7:24-27*) then we will be servants who honor God with our lives." Remind students to share their faith as they serve like Jesus did through his healings, miracles, and teachings.

Lesson

1. Pass out the "Jesus' Crucifixion (Part 1)" worksheets and ask the class to fill in the blanks as the lesson is discussed. Ask, "Does anyone know what the word, 'crucify' means? The definition is: to put someone to death by tying or nailing to a cross. Let's write this definition on number one of our worksheet." Explain that the Romans, those in power in Jesus' day, were known for inventing extremely cruel and harsh punishments for criminals as an example of their strength and authority. Comment, "Jesus certainly wasn't a criminal, but we're going to learn about the events that lead to his death on the cross. We're going to discover how Jesus continued to be a servant of God's will even though it resulted in his death."
2. Explain that Jesus' physical journey to the cross began with one of his disciples' betrayal. Say, "After Jesus had spent so much time with his disciples – teaching, leading, and rebuking them – Judas Iscariot went to the priests and agreed to betray him (briefly clarify that the religious priests didn't like Jesus because many people followed him instead of their leadership)." Read *Matthew 26:14-16*.¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests¹⁵ and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.¹⁶ So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him." Ask, "How much silver did Judas receive for betraying Jesus (30 pieces)? This is significant because it was the price of a slave! Judas, after encountering Jesus and having a relationship with him, turned him over to the priests as a slave." Add that while Judas' actions were certainly a part of God's plan, he still chose whether or not he would betray Jesus. Comment, "Judas ended up hanging himself because of the guilt he felt after betraying Jesus. While God worked out the betrayal for his glory, we should learn from Judas that disobedient decisions can ruin our Christian testimony."
3. Say, "Jesus told his disciples that he would suffer and die. Even though he faced upcoming trials, Jesus still served his disciples by trying to prepare them for what was to come." Read *Matthew 26:1-2*, Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, *that* He said to His disciples,² "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified." and *Luke 22:14-16*. When the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve^[a] apostles with Him.¹⁵ Then He said to them, "With *ferve*nt desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer;¹⁶ for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Comment that servants must warn others about spiritual matters and not knowingly

withhold information that could damage another person's relationship with God. Say, "Jesus knew it wasn't easy for the disciples to hear that he would suffer and die. However, a true servant does what's best for others even if it makes them feel uncomfortable.

4. Lastly, Jesus was a servant by warning Peter that he would deny him, but Peter didn't listen. Read *Luke 22:34* Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me." and *Luke 22:54-62*. Ask, "How did Peter react when he realized Jesus' warning had come true (he left and wept bitterly)? What lesson can we learn from Peter's disobedience (to be humble and accept what the Lord tells us, to be aware, to ask God for help through trials, that everyone messes up, etc)?"

QUESTIONS:

1. Who baptized Jesus? (John the Baptist)
2. Where was Jesus born? (Bethlehem)
3. What was Jesus' occupation before he started his ministry? (a carpenter)
4. How many disciples did Jesus choose? (twelve)
5. Which disciple denied Jesus three times? (Peter)
6. Which disciple betrayed Jesus? (Judas Iscariot)
7. What was the name of Jesus' first sermon? (Sermon on the Mount)
8. What was the first miracle Jesus performed? (turned water into wine)
9. What was the first healing Jesus performed? (healing the official's son)
10. What was the name of the city where the first miracle and healing took place? (Cana - of Galilee)
11. Give an example of a reward God will give us when we are obedient. (Peace, joy, security, etc.)
12. Who should we serve first, second, and last? (God, others, ourselves)

Conclusion

RECAP: Jesus' entire life was about obedient service. Even as he made the journey to the cross, and was betrayed and denied by his own disciples, he remained obedient to God's will for his life. So, no matter what others do to us, we too can be committed, obedient servants.

CLOSING PRAYER: "Lord, thank you for sending Jesus to earth to die for our sins. Help us follow his example by trusting you and serving others even when we face struggles. Amen."

Jesus Served Through His Crucifixion, Part 2 (Servanthood for Childrens #9)

Jesus fulfilled his earthly life of service by dying on the cross. In part 2 of "Jesus Served Through His Crucifixion" (Lesson 9 of the Servanthood Series), children will learn how Jesus' arrest, appearance before officials, and mockery from others didn't stop his service. Through his example we see that trials and obstacles can be endured when we are committed to obedient service to God.

OBJECTIVE: To discover how Jesus served others and was obedient to God by dying on the cross.

MAIN IDEA: Jesus was abused and mistreated before he died on the cross. He is the best example of a servant because he gave up his life so we could have a relationship with him.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: *Mark 14:32-41 & 43-46, Luke 22:66-71, Luke 23:13-19 & 25, Matthew 27:27-31, 35, 45 & 50*

Introduction

OPENING PRAYER: "God, it's hard to discuss the abuse Jesus faced as he died on the cross. Please help us understand and accept the love he displayed for us by giving up his life. Amen."

PREVIOUS LESSON REVIEW: Say, "Last week we learned the definition of 'crucify': to put someone to death (as a punishment) by tying or nailing them to a cross. We discussed several things that happened before Jesus was arrested, beaten, and crucified. Can anyone name the disciple who betrayed Jesus (Judas Iscariot)? And which disciple denied Jesus three times (Peter)?" Emphasize that we will continue to see in today's lesson how Jesus willingly went to the cross as a servant in spite of betrayals and false accusations.

Lesson

Comment, "After being betrayed by Judas Iscariot and sharing the Lord's Supper with his disciples, Jesus went to a garden to pray." Read *Mark 14:32-41*. Then they came to a place which was named Gethsemane; and He said to His disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³And He took Peter, James, and John with Him, and He began to be troubled and deeply distressed. ³⁴Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, *even* to death. Stay here and watch."

³⁵He went a little farther, and fell on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. ³⁶And He said, "Abba, Father, all things *are* possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You *will*."

³⁷Then He came and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "Simon, are you sleeping? Could you not watch one hour? ³⁸Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."

³⁹Again He went away and prayed, and spoke the same words. ⁴⁰And when He returned, He found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy; and they did not know what to answer Him.

⁴¹Then He came the third time and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and resting? It is enough! The hour has come; behold, the Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of sinners.

1. Discuss the intense emotions Jesus felt as he prayed – deep distress, overwhelming sorrow, etc. Ask, "Which disciples did Jesus take with him to pray (Peter, James, and John)? Why was he frustrated with them (because they kept falling asleep)?" Explain that Jesus was trying to teach his disciples that physical barriers – such as exhaustion – can get in the way of important, spiritual matters. We have to rely on the Lord for strength as we serve!

Next, announce that Judas came with the priests to arrest Jesus while he was in the garden praying. Read *Mark 14:43-46*. And immediately, while He was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, with a great multitude with swords and clubs, came from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders. ⁴⁴Now His betrayer had given them a signal, saying, "Whomever I kiss, He is the One; seize Him and lead *Him* away safely."

⁴⁵As soon as he had come, immediately he went up to Him and said to Him, "Rabbi, Rabbi!" and kissed Him.

⁴⁶Then they laid their hands on Him and took Him.

2. Ask, "Why is it strange that the crowd came with swords and clubs? Do you think Jesus could have escaped?" Reiterate that Jesus wasn't a criminal yet they arrested him like he was dangerous and unpredictable. Furthermore, the betrayal of his disciples continued because they fled when Jesus was taken away. Comment, "Again Jesus shows us that obedient service to God is a personal commitment. When everyone else had abandoned him, Jesus chose to continue following God's will for his life."

Jesus was then sent before the Sanhedrin (a council of religious leaders and elders) and they decided he was guilty of blasphemy. Read *Luke 22:66-71* As soon as it was day, the elders of the people, both chief priests and scribes, came together and led Him into their council, saying, ⁶⁷"If You are the Christ, tell us."

But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe. ⁶⁸And if I also ask *you*, you will by no means answer Me or let *Me* go. ^[a]⁶⁹Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God."

⁷⁰Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?"

So He said to them, "You *rightly* say that I am."

⁷¹And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

. Say, "Even though Jesus spoke truthfully that he was the Son of God, the religious leaders saw his words as a curse and challenge to God's authority. The Sanhedrin sent him to the governor, Pilate, to be punished." Read *Luke 23:13-19, 25*. Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, ¹⁴said to them, "You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined *Him* in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; ¹⁵no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him;^[a] and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. ¹⁶I will therefore chastise Him and release *Him*" ¹⁷(for it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast).^[b]

¹⁸And they all cried out at once, saying, "Away with this *Man*, and release to us Barabbas"— ¹⁹who had been thrown into prison for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder

3. Ask, "What is unbelievable about this passage (that the people wanted an actual criminal to be released instead of Jesus)? What does this teach us about the power of sin and denial of truth (that it corrupts everything good)? Again, Jesus continued to serve God in the midst of unfairness and persecution."
4. Lastly, discuss the details leading up to Jesus' crucifixion by reading *Matthew 27:27-31*. ²⁷Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole garrison around Him. ²⁸And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. ²⁹When they had twisted a crown of thorns, they put *it* on His head, and a reed in His right hand. And they bowed the knee before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰Then they spat on Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the head. ³¹And when they had mocked Him, they took the robe off Him, put His *own* clothes on Him, and led Him away to be crucified. Ask, "What would have been your reaction to being mistreated this way? Jesus' love for us is amazing because he took the abuse on our behalf." Next read *Matthew 27:35, 45 & 50*. Discuss the verses: the mockery and ignorance of dividing Jesus' clothes, the effect on nature as Jesus was dying, and the final release of his spirit that marked his death. Say, "Jesus suffered and died for us because he knew our sin separated us from God. Without the service of giving his life, we wouldn't be able to have a relationship with him and go to heaven. Isn't that message worth sharing with others? We honor Jesus' sacrifice when we serve God and others."

Conclusion

RECAP: Jesus' was arrested, beaten, mocked, and killed even though he never sinned. He equips us through the Holy Spirit to serve even when we face struggles and hard circumstances.

CLOSING PRAYER: "Thank you, God, for Jesus. We know by studying his life that we too can be servants and lead others to you. Please give us the desire and strength we need to serve you and others. Amen."

Jesus Served By Being Resurrected (Servanthood for Childrens #10)

When Jesus was resurrected he proved to the world that he lived a perfect life as a servant by dying on the cross for our sins. In this final part of the "Servanthood for Childrens Series," Childrens will become intimately aware of the assurance we have in salvation and in God's promises for the future. In addition, they will be encouraged and gain confidence in their ability to serve because we have a risen Savior!

OBJECTIVE: To identify Jesus' resurrection as proof of his life as a servant and as God's son.

MAIN IDEA: Jesus' life of service was completed by his resurrection. Because he died and came back to life we can have a relationship with him and be sure of an eternity in heaven.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES: *Mark 15:43-47, Matthew 28:1-10, John 20:3-8 & 19-21, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, Acts 1:6-11, Hebrews 4:14*

Introduction

OPENING PRAYER: "God, thank you for Jesus' resurrection! Give us encouragement today as we discover the fulfillment of your will for Jesus' life. Amen."

PREVIOUS LESSON REVIEW: Ask, "Who were some of the people Jesus met as he was arrested and crucified (the soldiers, the priests and elders, Pilate, etc)? How did these people treat him (mocked, beat, and killed him)?" Assure the students that Jesus' mistreatment was overcome by the fulfillment of his resurrection.

Lesson

Say, "Last week we learned how Jesus died on the cross as a servant. After his death, he was buried in a rich man's tomb." Read *Mark 15:43-47*. Ask, "Why is it strange that a member of the council would ask for Jesus' body (because they had taken part in sentencing him)? How do we know Joseph truly cared for Jesus (because he took the time to care for his body and gave

him a dignified burial)?” Emphasize that Jesus’ mother, Mary, and Mary Magdalene saw where Joseph had buried Jesus, and they went to visit the tomb a few days later and encountered an amazing event. Read *Matthew 28:1-10*. Ask, “How would you have responded to the empty tomb and the angel’s message? What did the two women do when Jesus greeted them (clasped his feet and worshipped him)?” Explain that Jesus’ resurrection led the women to worship, and it should lead us to worship him too.

Next, discuss how Jesus appeared to the disciples and other believers. Read *John 20:3-8* “Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. ⁴So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. ⁵And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, ⁷and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. and *John 20:19-21*. ¹⁹Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled,[a] for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

²¹So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

1. Ask, “Which two disciples went to the empty tomb (John and Peter)? What was their reaction (they believed)? And what was the reaction of the other disciples when they saw Jesus (they were overjoyed)?” Discuss how Jesus’ resurrection and appearance to the disciples gave them courage and boldness to preach the gospel. Then read *1 Corinthians 15:3-8*. Emphasize that Jesus also appeared to more than five hundred other believers including Paul and James (Jesus’ brother). Say, “There were many witnesses who saw Jesus after his resurrection, so we never have to doubt that the event actually happened. Some of these witnesses went on to write the books of the New Testament, such as Peter, Paul, and John.” Further discuss that Jesus continued to serve and teach his followers after his resurrection to help them become the initial leaders of his church.

Lastly, talk about Jesus’ ascension into heaven as his final act of service during his first coming. Read *Acts 1:6-11*. ⁶Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. ⁸But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses

to Me^[a] in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

⁹Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, ¹¹who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

2. Ask, “What promises are in this passage (the coming of the Holy Spirit, the gospel message reaching the whole earth, and Jesus’ second coming)? How do we know these promises can be trusted (because Jesus was resurrected as he promised and we already have the Holy Spirit)? If we remember these promises then they will motivate us to serve and love others.” Read *Hebrews 4:14*. Explain that Jesus’ ascension into heaven means we can find strength in our faith because he is there preparing for the fulfillment of his second coming!

Conclusion

RECAP: Jesus’ resurrection and ascension into heaven finalized his service during his first coming on earth. God equips us to lead our own lives of service by giving us strength and fulfilled promises so we will trust and act according to his will.

CLOSING PRAYER: “Lord, we are your servants. Use us to tell others about Jesus and fulfill your plan for the world. Amen.”