



SERVING LOVE

Curriculum Fall 2023



SERVING LOVE

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SERVING LOVE

Memory Verses

Week 1

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.

Week 2

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.

Week 3

EPHESIANS 5:2

...walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Week 4

COLOSSIANS 3:12

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.



SERVING LOVE

Lesson 1: What is Serving Love?

Passage

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MARK 10:42-45, ACTS 20:35

Serving love is putting other people's needs before our own. Jesus put our needs before His own when He died on the cross.

Serving love is an important part of following Jesus. Today we will talk about what serving love is and why it is so important.

WHAT IS SERVING LOVE?

Serving love is putting other people's needs before our own

When we serve, we give up what we want so someone else can get what they want

- Ex: sharing your toy with someone, letting someone else go first in line, listening instead of talking, giving a gift

There are different aspects of serving love, such as being humble, sacrificial, and compassionate. We will talk about these in the upcoming weeks.

WHY IS SERVING LOVE SO IMPORTANT?

1. Jesus served us first! (Mark 10:45)

- Jesus was God. He could have made everyone else serve Him.
- Instead, He served us by dying on the cross
- He gave up what his life so we could have eternal life
- Jesus served in many other ways while He was on earth, like washing His disciple's feet, healing the sick, and helping the poor.

2. Serving is the best thing for us to do

- One day, the people who serve will become great (see Mark 10:44)
- Jesus says it is better to give than to receive (see Acts 20:35)
- Serving love is what makes following God fun!

If we don't serve, we will be like the Gentiles in Mark 10:42-45. People who don't serve "lord it over" others and are not like Jesus.

Learn about how Jesus showed us serving love. Learn about different ways that you can show serving love. Try serving your family and friends!

- How did Jesus serve us?
- Who has shown serving love to you? In what ways have they served you?
- Why is it hard to give up something we want so someone else gets what they want?
- What would happen if nobody served?
- Can you think of a time you served? What was that like? Was it worth it?
- How could serve someone this week at school? In your family? At TNT?



SERVING LOVE

Lesson 1: What is Serving Love?

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FRIENDSHIP BRACELETS

Practice serving love by making a friendship bracelet for someone else!

Beads, string, scissors

1. Cut a piece of string about 14" long
2. Tie a bead to the end of the string with a knot to hold the beads in place
3. String about 20-30 beads onto the bracelet
4. Tie the ends into a double or triple knot
5. Trim the ends
6. Show serving love by giving the bracelet to a friend or family member!





SERVING LOVE

Lesson 2: Serving with Humility

Passage

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-8, GALATIANS 5:13, 1 PETER 5:6

Main Point

Jesus was the perfect example of serving with humility. We should serve with humility, too.

Intro

Last week we learned about serving love and why it is important. Today we're learning about serving with humility. Humility is viewing other people as more important than ourselves. Jesus set a perfect example of serving with humility when he was on earth.

Supporting Points

HOW WAS JESUS HUMBLE?

- Jesus gave up his comfort in heaven to live on earth with humans.
- Jesus served people. He didn't demand special treatment even though He was God.
- Jesus died on the cross for our sins.

Because of Jesus' example, we should "serve one another humbly in love" (Galatians 5:13)

WHY IS SERVING WITH HUMILITY HARD?

We think we are more important than other people, when we are actually equal
It's difficult to stop thinking about ourselves and focus on others

HOW DO WE SERVE WITH HUMILITY?

We can put other people's interests before our own (Philippians 2:4)

- Ex: watching a movie someone else likes, letting someone else have a turn first, asking someone what game they'd like to play

Rather than demanding things, we should seek to give things to others.

Humility means not honoring ourselves and letting God honor us instead! (1 Peter 5:6)

Thinking I am the most important person. Demanding to be treated a certain way.

Learn more about Jesus' humility in the Bible. Put other people's interests before your own (see examples above).

- What is humility?
- Read Philippians 2:6-8. How was Jesus humble?
- Why is it hard for us to serve with humility?
- God says he will honor humility in heaven. What will heaven be like?
- What are some ways we can serve our friends and family with humility?

Antithesis

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SERVING LOVE

Lesson 2: Serving with Humility

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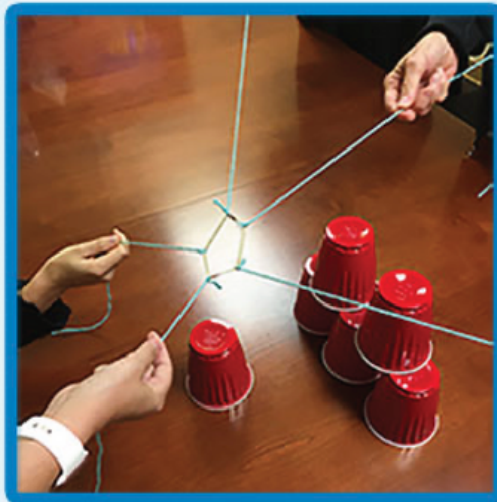
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GROUP CUP STACKING CHALLENGE

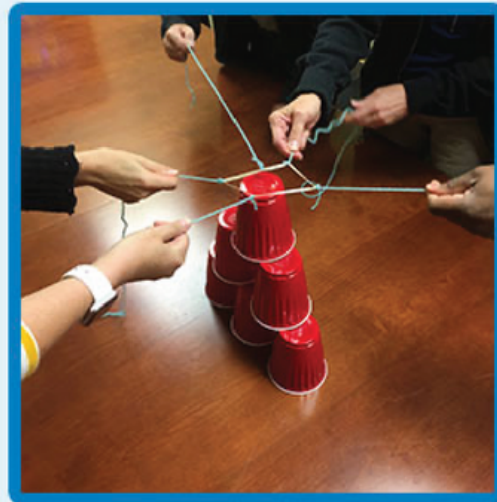
We learned that serving with humility means viewing other people as more important than ourselves. For this activity, each group member has an important role, and all group members must humbly work together to succeed.

Rubber band with 4 strings tied to it, plastic cups (6 per set, 2-6 sets per class)

1. Split into groups of 4 kids each
2. Give each group 6 cups, facing down on the ground.
3. Give each group one rubber band and string contraption. Each kid gets one string.
4. Teams work together to build a cup pyramid without ever touching the cups with their hands. The group must stretch the rubber band over the cup, move the cup into place, and drop it.
5. For a more competitive version, groups race each other to see who can stack their cups the fastest.



Working together to pick up a cup



Completing the challenge!



SERVING LOVE

Lesson 3: Giving Things Up (Sacrificial Service)

Passage

Main Point

Intro

Supporting Points

EPHESIANS 5:2, HEBREWS 13:16

Serving involves sacrifice. Sacrifice means giving something up for the good of someone else. This is what Jesus did when he gave up his life on the cross.

Last week we learned that we should serve with humility. This week, we will talk about how to serve sacrificially, or how to give things up for the good of others.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO SACRIFICIALLY SERVE?

Give something up for the good of someone else

- Ex: Giving my old toys to a child who doesn't have any toys, sharing food with someone who is hungry, spending my time helping someone else

This is difficult! We don't want to give away our money, things, or time.

- Ex: Raise your hand if you want to give away your Xbox. Or your stuffed animals. Why is no one raising their hand?

We like to hold on to the things that belong to us

WHY SHOULD I GIVE UP (SACRIFICE) SOMETHING?

Because Jesus gave up his life for us first (see Ephesians 5:2)

Because our things don't ultimately belong to us. They belong to God.

- God gives us things to enjoy, but he also gives us things so that we can be generous.

Because we will get something better in return

- Ex: Imagine I ask you to give me a dollar. You know you will never see that dollar again. But then I give you \$10 in return. This is what it's like to sacrifice for God.
- Remember our first lesson? Jesus said it was better to give than to receive.

Because when we give things up, we get to see God provide for us.

If we always keep our things for ourselves, we won't get to see God provide for us in unexpected ways!

Keeping everything to myself. Never giving good things to the people around me. Never experiencing the better things God has for us when we make sacrifices.

Learn more about Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for us on the cross. Consider what you might be able to give up for someone else.

- Why is it hard to give something up for the good of someone else?
- Can you think of a time when someone gave up something for you? What was that like?
- What did Jesus give up for us?
- Why does Jesus want us to give up things for others?
- What could you give up for someone else this week?

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SERVING LOVE

Lesson 3: Giving Things Up (Sacrificial Service)

Craft

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Image

STYROFOAM CUP FRIENDS

We learned that when we choose to give something up for God, He will always provide for us. Imagine we are the styrofoam cup. When we “pour out” ourselves for someone else, God always fills us back up!

Styrofoam cup, wiggle eyes, pipe cleaners, markers, glue, scissors, tissue paper

1. Give each student a styrofoam cup, 2 googly eyes, 1 pipe cleaner, and tissue paper
2. Cut the pipe cleaner into 2 pieces
3. Insert the “arms” into the side of the cup
4. Glue the googly eyes onto the cup
5. Draw a nose and mouth on the cup
6. Cut the tissue paper into small pieces and glue “hair” on the cup





SERVING LOVE

Lesson 4: Serving with Compassion

Passage

Main Point

Intro

Supporting Points

2 CORINTHIANS 1:3-4, COLOSSIANS 3:12

To serve others, we should be compassionate, like God. God comforts us so that we can comfort others.

We have been learning about different ways to show serving love. For our last week, we will talk about serving with compassion. Compassion is suffering together and comforting one another.

WHAT IS COMPASSION?

Compassion means suffering together

- If our friend is going through a hard time, we should show them that we care.
- Sometimes, their sadness will make you sad, too.
 - Ex: If your friend has a bad day, you can listen to them talk about what is making them sad.

Compassion means comforting one another

- Sometimes we need to cheer up our friends
- We can comfort someone by making them laugh, showing them a verse in the Bible, giving them a hug, or praying with them

WHY SHOULD I SERVE WITH COMPASSION?

Because God was compassionate to us first! He is the "Father of compassion" and the "God of all comfort" (see 2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

- God comforts us because he dearly loves us! (see Colossians 3:12)

Because when we serve with compassion, we are an example of God's compassion

Because serving with compassion helps us become selfless instead of selfish

Not understanding what God's compassion to us is like. Not caring about or noticing other people's problems.

Learn about God's compassion to you. Think about people who might be suffering or need comfort. Practice showing compassion to your friends and family.

- What is compassion?
- How was Jesus compassionate to us?
- Can you think of a time when someone comforted you? What was that like?
- Why is suffering together better than suffering alone?
- What would happen if someone tried to serve but didn't have compassion?
- How can show compassion to a friend or family member this week?

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SERVING LOVE

Lesson 4: Serving with Compassion

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PAPER CHAIN OF COMPASSION

There are many ways to show compassion. We can visualize this in a paper chain of compassion! The more acts of compassion the class can think of, the longer the chain. See how long you can make the chain!

Construction paper, scissors, stapler, staples, markers

1. Cut strips of paper
2. Use the markers to write messages on each strip that offer acts of compassion. For example, "give a hug when a friend is hurting."
3. Staple the end of one strip to the other end to create a circle. Make sure the words are facing out.
4. Insert one end of another strip through the circle and staple it to the other end of the strip
5. Keep doing this with all the strips so that you end up with a chain.

