

SECTION

4.5

Serving



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: To Serve or Not to Serve

What You'll Need: Nothing

STEP 1: Give kids the following scenarios:

- Mom asks you to take out the trash while you are playing a game.
- Your little brother wants you to help him build his new Lego® set. You want to read a book.
- Mom asks you to unload the dishwasher after dinner. You want to go and relax.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- What choice do you have in the scenarios above?
- To whom do you have the opportunity to show kindness and love in the scenarios above?
- What do you have to give up in order to show kindness toward that person?

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- Doing something kind for others is an example of being a servant. Being a servant is a deliberate choice we make.
- Being a servant requires us to be humble.
- The greatest example of a servant is Jesus Christ.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids recognize the importance of serving others.

Notes:

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: First Response

What You'll Need: Nothing

STEP 1: Ask three volunteers to come to the front of the room. Explain to them that they are going to be the first responders. Their challenge is to act out the response with the attitude you describe.

- Ask your first responders to respond to this situation with a bad attitude.
 - o Your dad tells you to clean the bathroom.
- Ask your first responders to respond to this situation with a delayed attitude.
 - o Your mom needs you to help your little sister make her bed.
- Ask your first responders to respond to the situation with kindness and a good attitude.
 - o Your mom wants you to feed the dog.

STEP 2: Ask the following questions:

- What are some ways kids your age might respond to serving others if they do not want to do it?
- Do you think it is possible to serve others with a bad attitude? Why or why not?
- Why is your attitude important in serving others?

STEP 3: Share the following concepts:

- Doing something kind for others is an example of being a servant. Being a servant is a deliberate choice we make.
- Being a servant requires us to be humble.
- The greatest example of a servant is Jesus Christ.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids recognize the importance of serving others.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Others First!

What You'll Need: Two poster board pieces, a marker, two pieces of string, a hole punch (optional: costumes for the kids to use to make it funny)

PREP: Write SELFISH on one poster board, and SERVANT on the other. Punch holes at the top corners of the poster board, and tie the string so that each of the poster boards can be worn around the neck of a kid.

STEP 1: Explain to the kids that today's lesson is about serving.

Share these concepts:

- Jesus is the perfect example of humility. He came to serve others and offer His life as the payment for our sin (Matthew 20:28). He displayed His humility by leaving heaven and becoming a man and choosing to die on the cross (Philippians 2:5-8).
- God calls us to follow Christ's example and be a servant, willing to do whatever He asks us to do (Romans 12:1-2).

STEP 2: Ask for two volunteers, and give each volunteer a poster board sign to wear around his or her neck. The word that each kid has is the way they need to pretend to respond to the different situations. (Optional: Give the kids the choice of what costumes they can grab to act out their response, with extra points for goofiness.) Choose situations from the list below, according to the time you have and the needs of your group. If you have a large group, have the two volunteers rotate out with other kids so that the activity involves more kids. Congratulate the kids that do the best job at acting it out.

Selfish or serving situations:

- Your mother is working late this evening. You are the first one home from school, and you notice there is still a mess on the table from breakfast.
- Your dad worked hard in the backyard all weekend, and it looked spotless. But after the windy afternoon, there are now leaves all over the yard, and most of the chairs and the trash can lids are scattered around the backyard. You have an hour before Dad gets home and you eat dinner.
- Your next door neighbor fell and broke her hip. She won't be home for several weeks. Her husband said she is very sad.
- Your classmate is really struggling with math, and math is your favorite subject. You notice that he is frustrated with his homework, which you finished earlier that day.

STEP 3: After each volunteer has presented his or her scene, ask the following questions.

- How might the person you are serving respond?
- What would you have to sacrifice or give up in order to be a servant in this situation?

STEP 4: Share these key concepts:

- We serve others when we choose to love them as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:39), and put their needs and wants ahead of our own (Philippians 2:3-4). This often requires sacrifice (giving up something that we want) on our part, but we must always remember Christ's sacrifice for us (Ephesians 5:2).
- Following Christ's example of being a servant strengthens our relationship with God as we seek to glorify Him with our lives (1 Corinthians 10:31).

STEP 5: Ask: "Who can you serve this week?" After kids all have a person in mind, close in prayer, asking God to give kids the courage and the strength to serve that person this week.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Servant Characteristics

What You'll Need: Bible, Servant Characteristics Handout, (optional: tape)

PREP: Print handout and cut characteristics apart. Mark the pages in your Bible for the Scripture you will use (2 Timothy 2:24-25, Romans 12:18, Philippians 2:3-4).

STEP 1: Explain to the kids that this week's lesson is on serving, and you will be needing volunteers to complete a challenge about knowing what a servant is.

Share these key concepts about being a servant.

- Jesus is the perfect example of humility. He came to serve others and offer His life as the payment for our sin (Matthew 20:28). He displayed His humility by leaving heaven and becoming a man and choosing to die on the cross (Philippians 2:5-8).
- God calls us to follow Christ's example and be a servant, willing to do whatever He asks us to do (Romans 12:1-2).

STEP 2: Ask for three volunteers to help you with the game. Hand the Bible to the kids and let them read the following verses:

- 2 Timothy 2:24-25
- Romans 12:18
- Philippians 2:3-4

STEP 3: After the verses have been read, tell the kids that their challenge will be to identify characteristics that a servant should have.

STEP 4: Arrange (or have another adult help you arrange) the characteristics from the handout on the floor (or taped to the wall). The kids will have one minute to look through the words that give different characteristics and find all the ones that could be used to describe a servant. Each servant characteristic is worth one point. If they pick one

that isn't right, it will count half a point from their score. If you have a large group, divide up the room into three parts and have each part cheer for one of your volunteers. Make sure your volunteers understand the game, and then have them start.

STEP 5: After one minute, tell them to stop, and then go over with the group which words each kid picked up, and tabulate the final score. Congratulate the winner, and remind all the kids that we can't be a servant without remembering what a servant is like.

Share these final key ideas with your kids.

- We serve others when we choose to love them as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:39), and put their needs and wants ahead of our own (Philippians 2:3-4). This often requires sacrifice (giving up something that we want) on our part, but we must always remember Christ's sacrifice for us (Ephesians 5:2).
- Following Christ's example of being a servant strengthens our relationship with God as we seek to glorify Him with our lives (1 Corinthians 10:31).

STEP 6: Follow up with the Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

Notes:



Servant Characteristics Handout

Grumpy

Doesn't argue

Grouchy

Selfish

Complaining

Gentle

Irritable

Patient

Sleepy

Mean

Humble

Lazy

Teachable

Mad

Peaceful

Uncaring

Tricky

Not Selfish

Doesn't need praise