

People of Faith

Moses: Obedience

4th – 6th Grade

Before Class

- Prepare* Prepare for this lesson by reading Exodus 3: 1-22. Pray for understanding of what God would have you teach through His word.
- Plan* What materials and room arrangements will you need for this lesson? You can use figures, a flannel board or dramatization to tell the Bible story. Make sure all of your physical needs are planned for well ahead of time.
- Practice* Read through the lesson and time it. Make sure your plans fill the time allotted without being rushed.

Welcome

Introduce yourself to the children. Tell them your name and something about you. Since this is the first day, take time to ask each child their name, and if possible, to have their name on a name tag. If it is too many of them, hand out the name tags so they can write their name on the card themselves if able. Ask them to wear their nametag

Memory Passage for Today

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.
Luke 10:27 (NRSV)

Introduction

To start the day, we will have a little game about obedience.

Tell them you're going to play "Simon Says." As you begin, tell the children you will only give them 5 orders.

The following orders are suggestions; you can come up with others but do not ask for actions that would make the children move from one place to another so as to not lose their attention.

- 1. Turn around in place 5 times and stand on one foot.**
- 2. Bend over and touch your bellybutton with both hands.**
- 3. Sing together: "Row row row your boat"**
- 4. Touch a neighbor's back with your elbow.**
- 5. Don't move and pretend you're a statue.**

Obeying is doing what someone in authority tells you to do. In this game it was not too difficult to obey, because it was a game. The instructions were not difficult, but rather they were fun, you followed along willingly, you obeyed them. There is another type of orders... the ones we don't want to obey.

God is our highest authority, God is our King. But God is not a general that just gives us orders. God is our Father who loves us and asks us to do what is good for us. God asks us to do good and right things. God wants the best for us.

Obedience is the way in which we show that we love God. The Bible is full of stories from real life. They are stories from people of faith who listened to God and that as they obeyed God they showed they loved God.

Bible Lesson

Moses was a person of faith that lived a long time ago. Moses showed God that he loved God by being obedient.

Tell Moses' story (Exodus 3: 1-22)

Moses was a man from the people of Israel. The majority of Israelites lived in Egypt because they were slaves. The Israelites did all the heavy labor so that the Egyptians did not have to do it.

Moses did not live in Egypt with the rest of the Israelites. He had fled and lived in a place called Midian. Moses got married and he was working for his father-in-law taking care of sheep.

One day, while he was taking care of the sheep, he saw a bush that was in flames. This bush caught his eye because even though it was surrounded by the fire, it was not being burned up! So Moses got close so he could take a better look.

As he got close, Moses heard the voice of God from the midst of the burning bush that was calling him: "Moses, Moses." Moses answered: "Here I am." Again the voice from God said: "Do not come any closer, take off your sandals because the place where you are standing is holy ground."

*** Moses listened and obeyed.**

God continued to speak, saying "I am the God of your parents and grandparents. I have heard that my people Israel are suffering. I will get them out of Egypt, where they live, and I will bring them to a better land. So, I will send you to Pharaoh so that you may bring my people out of Egypt."

Moses answered "Who am I to go before Pharaoh?"

God answered: "Go, because I will be with you."

*** Moses listened and obeyed.**

God also told Moses: "Go and tell my people that I, the Lord of their parents and grandparents, have seen their suffering in Egypt and I will set them free."

*** Moses listened and obeyed.**

(As you tell the story, it is necessary to be very expressive, especially if you do not have a flannel board with figures to retell the story)

In this part of the story, God gives Moses three orders: What are they?

Allow the children to participate. The answer is

1. *Take off your sandals*
2. *Go and talk with Pharaoh*
3. *Go and talk with my people, the Israelites.*

Which of these 3 orders would have been easy to obey and which would have been hard?

Allow the children to participate. The answer is.

1. **Taking off your sandals is easy.**
2. **Speaking with Pharaoh would have been hard. Pharaoh was the ruler of Egypt, their king. Imagine! Moses would have to go in front of Pharaoh. Not only that, but Moses would have to tell Pharaoh to free the people of Israel. How could he tell the king what to do?**
3. **Speaking with the Israelites would have been hard. The Israelites did not know Moses. Surely they would say: What's wrong with this shepherd? How can he think that Pharaoh will do what he is telling him to do? And why should we follow him?**

Which of the 3 orders did Moses obey?

Allow the children to participate. The answer is:

All 3.

Connecting With The Passage

Discuss the following questions, and encourage responses from all participants.

The Bible tells us in the book of Exodus how Moses went to Pharaoh not once, but many times. It also tells us how Moses spoke with the people of Israel, not once but many times. Moses was a person of faith who listened to and obeyed God. You too can be a person of faith that listens to and obeys God

We get to know what God wants us to do by reading the Bible. The Bible is like a letter that God wrote to us and there it says what God wants for you. Do you know some of the instructions or orders that God has for you?

Allow the children to participate

As minors, there are two orders, which God has given that you should not forget:

1. **Children should obey their parents in everything.**
2. **Treat others as you would like to be treated.**

How good at you at listening to and obeying these orders?

- **Obeying is not always easy because we might have to do things that we do not like or things that are difficult or things that no one else is doing**

Give the children some examples and ask them to come up with some examples also. What things do they not like doing that they know they have to do in order to be obedient? It might include being kind to a kid we don't know or it might be picking up your toys or go to school or take out the trash, etc.

- **Obeying is not always easy because I have to stop doing what I want to do in order to do what GOD wants me to do.** *Give the children some examples and ask them to come up with some examples also. What activity do you like doing but have to stop doing in order to be obedient? Perhaps stop playing or watching TV. Perhaps it is stop cheating and start studying.*
- **In order to be obedient I have to do what God wants me to do, not what I want to do.**
- **God expects obedience from us. God asks that we obey our authorities, that is, our parents, teachers, police officers, etc.**
God does not ask us to obey only when you like these people, or when you are in the mood, or if they ask you to do something you want to do. God simply asks for obedience.
The only time when you can disobey is when they are asking you to do something that is sinful. For example, to steal or lie or something illegal. In these cases it is necessary to obey God instead of obeying people.

Let's Take It One Step Further

- *Share with the kids a time when you were a person of faith who showed your love for God by obeying what the Bible asked you to do. Try to be specific and open.*
- *Ask the kids to share a time when they have been obedient.*
Very well! That is how you show how much you love God!

Application

You are a person who can obey or disobey God. If you obey God, you show God you love him just like Moses did.

The Bible gives us the instructions or orders we must follow.

A way in which you as children can obey God is by obeying the people in authority, like you parents and teachers. In this way we are being God. Obedience should be done completely, without delay, or complaints. Is that how you obey?

When God instructs you in the Bible to do something, you should do as God says willingly, completely, without delay, without complaining.

When your parents give you an order you should follow it willingly, completely, without delay, without complaining.

When your teacher at school gives you instructions to do something, you should follow it says willingly, completely, without delay, without complaining.

Decide to obey in this way:

I will obey,

- I will follow orders
- Completely
- Quickly
- Without complaining

I will do it

Next time you may feel like being disobedient, force yourself to obey.

Some times being is difficult but it is not impossible if we ask God to help us.

When we don't obey, we have to ask God forgiveness, because we have offended God.

Optional Activity

Obeying is doing what someone in authority asks me to do. But not just that, but it is doing it willingly, completely, without delay, without complaining.

How obedient are you? Do you obey willingly, completely, without delay, without complaining. Never, some times, always?

Evaluate your actions.

Hand out the self-evaluation worksheet and pencils.

Explain that they are not going to turn in or show their answers, unless they want to.

Give them a few minutes to fill it out and then ask:

How did it go?

Do you obey willingly, completely, without delay, without complaining?

It is difficult to obey when the order or instruction they give you interferes with what you like to do, with your comfort. Even so, you need to obey willingly, completely, without delay, without complaining. That is the obedience that pleases God.

Conclusion

People of faith love God and show it by being obedient.

Obeying God means doing what God tells me to do in the Bible.

The Bible tells us what we should and should not do. So we need to listen and God some times asks us easy things, and sometimes asks us hard things, but God will never ask us to do something bad or something impossible.

When obeying seems hard to us, we can ask God to help us make a decision to do what is right. God gives us the desire and the strength to be obedient.

You can show that you love God just like Moses did.

You should obey because in this way you show that you love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind. This is the way you show you are one of the people of faith.

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Is my obedience complete, without delay, or complaints?

Read each sentence and underline if this phrase happens **always**, **some times** or **never**.

1. My parents have to tell me what to do more than one time. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> Always Some Times Never </div>
2. I do what my parents ask me to do, without complaining or arguing <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> Always Some Times Never </div>
3. When my parents ask me to do something, I say “Yes mom” or “Yes, dad.” <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> Always Some Times Never </div>
4. When my parents ask me to do something, I complain and ask “why me?” <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> Always Some Times Never </div>
5. When my parents ask me to do something, I complain and say “C’mon, mom!” <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> Always Some Times Never </div>
6. When my parents ask me to do something, I complain “Oh, no: Not me!” <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> Always Some Times Never </div>
7. I pretend that I did not hear what mom asked <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> Always Some Times Never </div>
8. I make faces when someone in authority asks me to do something <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 5px;"> Always Some Times Never </div>

People of Faith

David: Trust

4th – 6th Grade

Prepare Prepare for this lesson by reading I Samuel 17:1-58 Psalm 22:4-5 Psalm 28:7.
Pray for understanding of what God would have you teach through His word.

Plan What materials and room arrangements will you need for this lesson? Consider how you will make the telling of the Bible story come alive for the students. Make sure all of your physical needs are planned for well ahead of time.

Practice Read through the lesson and time it. Make sure your plans fill the time allotted without being rushed.

Welcome

Welcome the children.

Review the theme from yesterday (Obedience)

Go over the memorized passages for yesterday and today.

Memory Passage for Today

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13 (NRSV)

Introduction

Tell the students: Today we are going to focus on what it means to trust God. We are going to discover how God is always with us and makes us strong, so we don't have to be afraid.

Bible Lesson

Passage for the day: I Samuel 17:1-58

You may use a flannel board or make your own drawings to represent the characters as you tell the story. If these are not available, tell the story dramatically, to draw the students into the story.

Another option would be for you to read the story and then have several students act out the story as you read it.

Today I am going to tell you a Bible story about a boy named David and a giant named Goliath.

David lived in Israel and was a shepherd (he took care of sheep) and Goliath was a soldier for the Philistines. There was a war between the army of Israel (the people of God) and the Philistines (who were Israel's enemies). The king of Israel, Saul, was with the army as they set up camp across a valley from where their enemies, the Philistines were. They were getting ready to go to battle. Just as they were getting ready to fight, the Philistines sent to

the front of their army a soldier whose name was Goliath. Goliath was a giant of a man! He was nearly 9 feet tall (almost as tall as a basketball hoop!) and his armor alone weighed as much as a person! Goliath stood there and yelled at the soldiers from Israel: “Why do you come to fight us? Look, choose one of your soldiers to come up and fight me, one on one. I dare you! If your soldier wins, then we the Philistines will be servants to Israel. BUT, if I win, then all of Israel will become servants of the Philistines.” When king Saul and all of Israel’s army heard this giant Goliath, they became very afraid. Morning and evening for forty days Goliath would shout at the Israelites like this, and they didn’t dare send a soldier to fight him.

David was a young shepherd who had three of his brothers as soldiers in Israel’s army. David came to where the army was to bring some food for his brothers because David’s father was worried about them. While David was there, he heard Goliath come out to threaten the army of Israel, and David saw that Israel’s soldiers were afraid of Goliath. David said: “This is terrible! Goliath is offending God’s army and poking fun at our God. What would King Saul do for the person who defeats this giant Philistine soldier?” The soldiers responded: “The King would be glad and reward that person.”

Someone told King Saul what David had said, and King Saul asked to speak with David. David told Saul: “Don’t be afraid, King Saul, because I will go and fight this Philistine.” Saul told David: “Look, you are much too young and inexperienced. You could never defeat him!” David replied “Listen, I have been out in the field watching my father’s sheep, and there have been times when lions or bears have come to try to eat the sheep. God has been with me in those moments, and with God’s help I have been able to kill these lions and bears. The God who saved me from lions and bears will save me from this Philistine.” So Saul said to David, “Fine, go, and may God be with you!”

Saul tried to help David prepare for this battle by putting on David a helmet on his head and an armor on his body and giving him his heavy sword. But David was so small that all these heavy things made it very difficult for him even to walk! So, David took these things off and instead of a sword he took his sling and chose five smooth rocks from a nearby riverbed and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch. With his sling in hand, and got close to the Philistine, and the Philistine began to make fun of young David and curse at him. “Is that the best you have? You send a little boy to come fight a man? You won’t last!” But David answered: “You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have offended. Today, God will give me victory over you! And just so everybody can see it was God, I will defeat you not with a sword or spear, because this battle belongs to God and God will defeat you.” Goliath was furious and ran towards David, but David took a stone from his pouch and with his sling he flung it at Goliath. The rock hit Goliath in the middle of his forehead so hard that the giant soldier fell and the battle was over. When the Philistines saw that their champion was defeated, they ran away in panic and the Israelite army ran after them

David alone could never have defeated Goliath, but with God on his side, God gave David the victory over Goliath and the Philistine army.

Connecting With The Passage

Discuss the following questions, and encourage responses from all participants.

1. **Why were the soldiers of Israel so afraid in this story?** *They were very afraid of Goliath, because he was such a giant. They did not think they could defeat him one on one.*
2. **Why do you think Goliath wanted to fight one on one with another soldier and have that fight count for the whole war?** *Goliath wanted the Israelites to be scared, and since he had such a size advantage of any individual soldier from Israel, Goliath knew that he would win. He taunted the Israelites for forty days! Without God, it is certain that they could not defeat Goliath or the Philistines. It is interesting that the Israelite army seemed to forget that God was on their side.*
3. **Why was David so upset about what Goliath was saying?** *Because he was disrespecting God and the army of God.*
4. **When talking with King Saul, what did David say had prepared him to fight Goliath?** *David tells Saul about the times when David had killed lions and bears threatening his family's sheep. Notice that David realizes that he was only able to kill these animals because he trusted in God, so he actually says it was God who saved him from the lion and the bear.*
5. **What made it look like David could never defeat this giant?** *David was not a soldier, was young and much smaller than Goliath. David didn't have the same weapons that Goliath had.*
6. **What did David know would make the difference to make David defeat Goliath?** *David knew that putting his trust in God alone would bring him victory, because he knew that God wanted Israel's army to win.*
7. **How did David make sure that anybody seeing this fight between him and Goliath would have known that it was God who was going to win the fight and not David?** *With no weapon other than his sling, David didn't seem well equipped to defeat the giant. David made it clear that the victory would come not from David's might, but from God's might. David says: "You come at me with weapons, but I come against you in the name of the Lord and with the Lord's power"*
8. **Do you think that David was afraid? Why or why not?** *Perhaps he was a little nervous, because he was human, but he was not afraid because God had delivered David before and so David knew that God would do it again, and David felt that God was definitely on his side against the Philistines.*
9. **Did David brag about being the one who defeated Goliath?** *No, instead he said it had been God all along who defeated Goliath.*
10. **What does it mean to trust in God?** *Let the class offer their thoughts, then read to them Psalm 28:7 "The LORD is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him." Trust implies knowing that the strength we need does not come from us, but comes from God. Trust means not relying only on ourselves, but completely relying on God. The more we trust in God and rely in God's power, the more God is able to do through us.*
11. **What are times when it is easy to trust in God and times when it is harder?** *How easy or difficult it is to trust God varies from person to person. Knowing that God has helped us in the past helps us trust God: **In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered***

them To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

Psalm 22:4-5. Still, it is human nature to try to be independent, and so we all need to grow in how we trust God to lead us in our lives.

12. What kind of difficulty or problem would frighten you if you had to face it all alone?

How can you trust God completely in these situations so it is God fighting the battle, not you?

Application

Using the activity sheet, have the students write how their limits may be overcome if they put their trust in God. Encourage them to consider that it was not David who defeated Goliath, but rather it was God working through David. Encourage them to think of places in their lives (school, family, friends) where they might feel overwhelmed by themselves, but with God's help they could overcome their difficulties. Our strength or courage comes from God, so it is not really our strength or courage but rather God's.

Remember that when you are doing something, no matter how difficult or scary it is, you are never alone. God is always with you and God will guide you to do the right thing. God helps you be smarter, braver, nicer, more patient and obedient. If we try to do things all by ourselves, we might not be able to get too far. But with God, we can do all things! (review the verse for today)

Let's Take It One Step Further

(This section is optional: if you decide to skip this section, go straight to Conclusion)

Let's practice what it means to trust.

Trust Walk

Materials: Blindfold

Have the children each get a partner. Blindfold one of each pair. The other person in the couple will lead the one blindfolded giving verbal instructions (and should only reach out to hold them to keep them from stumbling over something). If possible, lead the kids on a walk around the building and outside (if it's not possible to go outside, guide them within the church building). Have the seeing partner guide the blindfolded partner describing what they are passing and being sure to steer them away from all objects in their path. Midway through the walk have the partners trade jobs. When you return to the classroom discuss the activity with the children.

Ask: What was it like to be blindfolded? What was it like to be the guide? How did you have to trust each other? Trust the guide not to let us run into things, trust them to tell us the truth about what they were seeing. How is trusting in God like trusting your guide? Trust him even though you can't see him, listen to his word (the Bible)

Conclusion

It is easy to think that David was the one that defeated Goliath, that even though David may have been young and inexperienced it was his ability to use the sling that won him this battle. But what the Bible tells us is clear: it was God working through David. What David did was trust God so completely, that it was God acting through David to defeat the Philistine and show the people that they needed to trust in God. David didn't brag and say "I am a giant killer" but instead he proclaimed "God gave us this victory." Continue to think about areas in your life where God wants you to trust him more, so that it is not you alone fighting, but instead it is God giving you these victories to honor God. And when God gives you those victories, don't go bragging about what YOU did, but tell others that because you TRUSTED in God this happened, so therefore the one that deserves the credit is God.

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David: Trust
4th – 6th Grade

*By himself, David...
Would have been too scared to
fight Goliath*

*Putting his trust in God, David...
Was able to feel God's power
and God used David to defeat
Goliath.*

By myself I ...

Putting my trust in God, I ...

Dad by himself or Mom by herself, they ...

Putting their trust in God, Mom or Dad...

People of Faith

Ruth: Love

4th – 6th Grade

Before class

Prepare Prepare for this lesson by reading Ruth 1 - 2:12. Pray for understanding of what God would have you teach through His word.

Plan Materials you will need for this lesson: a sign that says “To treat someone with love is to decide to invest time and effort to seek the person’s wellbeing. For the story telling: flannel board illustrations for the characters. Or you may make silhouettes from different color cardboard. Two signs, one that says Moab and one Bethlehem. Cards with the names of people in our daily life: dad, mom, brother, teacher, grandparents, etc. A black bag with these items: a toy police badge, a stethoscope, a helmet, a passport (or another photo ID)

Practice Read through the lesson and time it. Make sure your plans fill the time allotted without being rushed.

Welcome

Greet the group.
Briefly go over the lesson learned yesterday.

Memory Passage for Today

By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:35 (NRSV)

Introduction

Ahead of time, prepare the black bag with these items

Take out of the bag the toy police badge and ask

What kind of people use this? (police officers)

Put away the badge and take out the stethoscope and ask:

What kind of people use this? (Doctors, vets, etc.)

Put it away and take out the helmet and ask:

What kind of people use this? (Someone riding a motorcycle or a bicycle, etc.)

Put it away and take out the passport and ask:

Do you know who uses these? (people traveling in a foreign country)

Put it away.

You can show more articles depending on the children’s interest. Ask after showing each item: what kind of people use this? and allow them to participate

These items say something about the people who wear them.

The items we wear or use say something about us. But, what could we use or wear that would tell others that we are people of faith? Let the class give some answers

Do we use a uniform to show we are people of faith? *(No)*

Do we wear a sign that says “People of Faith”? *(No)*

The Bible does not tell us about something we can wear or use to show others we are people of faith, but it does tell us something we can do to show that we are people of faith

Listen to John 13:35. *Read the passage or make previous arrangements for a student to read it at this point.*

According to this passage, how will EVERYBODY know that we are disciples and followers of Christ? *Let the class give answers (If we have love for one another).*

People do not only see how we dress but they also see how we treat one another.

Treating someone with love is to decide to invest time and effort to seek their wellbeing.

When saying this, put up the sign with this definition of love on the wall or write it on the board. When you’ve done that, read the definition again.

What does this mean?

Let the class give answers.

When we treat others with love, we show God that we love him as well.

The Bible tells us stories of people who treated others in the family of faith with love and in this way they showed God they loved God too.

Bible Lesson

Read Ruth 1-2:12 ahead of time to prepare for the class.

Prepare a folder with the silhouettes or flannel board illustrations of the characters in this story.

Ruth was one of these people. *Show the image representing Ruth.*

Ruth was a woman of faith who showed love for her family and in this way showed God that she loved God.

Ruth lived with Naomi in Moab. *Take out the image representing Naomi and show it to them. Place them both next to the sign reading: Moab.*

They were not blood relatives, that is, they were not mother and daughter or sisters or cousins, or anything of the sort. They lived together because Ruth had gotten married to one of Naomi’s sons. They also had living with them Orpah, who had married Naomi’s other son. *Show Orpah’s silhouette.*

But after being married, both Orpah and Ruth were widowed, because their husbands died. So now the three women were widows. *Place the 3 silhouettes together.*

Naomi, seeing she had no husband and no sons, decided to return to her hometown of Bethlehem to live.

Ruth and Orpah did not have to go to Bethlehem because they were both from Moab, where their families still were.

Do you think would have been easier for Ruth to stay in Moab or go to Bethlehem with Naomi? *Let the class give answers*

If Ruth stayed in Moab, she would have been staying in a place she knew well, with people she knew and her relatives nearby. If Ruth decided to go to Bethlehem, she'd be living in a place she did not know where she would not know anybody, she'd be away from her family and she'd live with an older woman whom she would need to help.

When Naomi went from Moab to live in Bethlehem, Orpah stayed behind, but even though Ruth could have stayed, she decided to go to Bethlehem with Naomi. *Put away Orpah's image and place the other two next to the sign reading: Bethlehem.*

For Ruth to go live in Bethlehem with Naomi was an act of love. It was an act of love because it was a decision that implied time and effort so that Ruth would look after Naomi's wellbeing. Ruth left what would have been easier, in order to seek Naomi's wellbeing. She thought of Naomi. Ruth knew that leaving would mean not only leaving her land and relatives, but also her comfort zone. She knew that she'd have to work not only for her to eat but also so that Naomi could eat.

Ruth and Naomi were part of the same family: the family that forms the people of faith. Both Naomi and Ruth loved God and this made them both members of this special family we call the family of the people of faith.

When they got to Bethlehem it was the time for the barley harvest. Ruth went out to work to get food for both Naomi and herself. But the work she had to do was hard. It involved gleaning in the field. She had to bend over and pick up the barley stalks, all under the hot sun. *Show the movements related to gleaning.*
It would have been much easier for Ruth to pick up only what she would need to eat, but she was also picking up enough barley to feed Naomi. *Put away Naomi's figure.*
In order for Naomi not to have to do this hard work to find something to eat, Ruth would do it for her. Ruth invested time and effort to seek Naomi's wellbeing. She decided to take on a sore back and the heat of the day to show her love for Naomi, who is a member of the great family of faith.

Ruth was gleaning in the field when the field's owner came. *Show Boaz's figure.*
His name is Boaz and when he saw Ruth he asked one of his workers: Who is this woman? *Put away Ruth's image and take out one of a gleaner.*
The worker reply is in Rut 2: 6. Read the passage or make a previous arrangement for a student to read it at this time.

As you can see, the worker already had heard about Ruth. Did Ruth have a uniform or a sign that showed the worker that Ruth was a member of the faith of faith? (No) The worker knew about her because he had heard what Ruth had DONE. Boaz then came to Ruth and spoke with her *Put away the worker's figure and take out Ruth's* **and one of the things he said to her was: "All that you have done for your**

mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, and how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. May the LORD reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!" (Rut 2:11-12.)

Boaz had already heard about Ruth. He had heard what she had done. We know he had never met her because he asked who she was, but we also know that he knew about her because of the loving things she had done for Naomi.

Ruth had decided to invest her time and effort in order to seek Naomi's wellbeing, and for that she was becoming famous. Everyone knew that she was a member of the family of faith by the way she showed her love for Naomi.

Put away all the figures.

Connecting with the passage

- *Share with the children an example from your life when someone has decided to invest time and effort with the purpose of helping you or seeking your wellbeing. Make the example specific and closely related to your life.*
- *Ask the children to share stories of occasions when a person looked after them even when it represented a sacrifice for that person (if they don't come up with any suggestions, you could point out the loving things which their parents do for them).*

Application

Just as Ruth decided to show love for Naomi, you can make a decision to show love for others.

We should show love even when we are tired or when we don't feel much like doing it. At times it will be hard because we seem to prefer things over people. For example, when we don't want to share our toys We care more that our toy doesn't get lost or damaged than what a person will feel.

How can you show your love to other people?

Ask the children to come up with examples. (sharing, giving up your seat, speak kindly, etc.)

A good way to know if you are showing love is to ask yourself: Do I like to be treated as I am treating this person? If the way you treat a person is not the way you like to be treated, then it is very likely that you are not showing love.

If you are not being kind and showing love to others, it is necessary that you ask God for forgiveness. God will forgive you.

If it seems hard to show someone love, then ask God to help you do it, and God will help you.

Optional Activity

Divide the class in groups. Give each group a card with the name of a person in their daily life: dad, mom, brother, sister, teacher, pastor, etc.

Each group will make up a drama to show the way to show love to that person.

Option 2. If time is short or if the group is too large, you can simply read aloud the person's name (mother, father, etc.) in each card and ask the group to share examples of they can show love to that person.

Be sure that the examples are specific. It's not enough to say "Respond when my mom tells me to do something." It should be "When mom calls me, I should say 'Yes mom' even if I am not in the mood or if I don't want to hear a lecture."

Just an observation: When using drama, the examples may tend to be very specific, but when simply sharing aloud, the tendency might be to be more general. If you decide to have the verbal sharing of examples, encourage the kids to be as specific as possible.

Conclusion

In the Bible we read that people of faith make themselves known in the way they treat others. We should treat each other with love.

If we treat each other with love, others will know that we are people of faith and that we love God. If you decide that you love God but you do not love others, then you truly don't love God.

We show others love when we decide to invest our time and energy in seeking the wellbeing of another person.

Just like other people saw in Ruth her love for Naomi, people should see that you love each other.

We would then be doing what God asks of us. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27

People of Faith

Martha and Mary: Service

4th – 6th Grade

Before Class

- Prepare* Prepare for this lesson by reading Luke 10:38-42, Matthew 25:31-46, 1st Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-31. Pray for understanding of what God would have you teach through His word.
- Plan* What materials and room arrangements will you need for this lesson? Make sure all of your physical needs are planned for well ahead of time.
- Practice* Read through the lesson and time it. Make sure your plans fill the time allotted without being rushed.

Welcome

- Welcome the children.*
Review the themes for the previous days (Obedience, Courage, Love)
Go over the memorized passages for the week and for today

Memory Passage for Today

The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. I
Corinthians 12:7 (Today's English Version)

Introduction

Tell the students: **Today we are going to focus on what gifts God has given us (things we do well naturally or do well after much practice) and how we are to use them in the way God wants us to use them. Our focus will be the word Service, that is, how we serve God. God wants us to serve God with our unique gifts.**

Bible Lesson (Using Bible Drama)

Passage for the day: Luke 10:38-42
Time permitting, you may want to perform the drama more than once to include several students in the different roles. You may encourage the students to improvise and be creative.

Suggested Bible-time costumes for Martha, Mary and Jesus
Materials Clay dishes
& Props Wood utensils
Dusting cloth
Rug? Plastic fruits, bread, etc?
(if some of these items are not available, help the students use their imagination)

Characters Martha
(speaking Mary (non-speaking part)
and Jesus
non-speaking Narrator (teacher)
parts) People in the crowd (non-speaking parts)

Tell students: In the Bible we read that Jesus had twelve special followers whom he called “disciples” or “apostles.” These twelve were always with him and they helped him as Jesus taught, healed and spoke with the crowds. The Bible also tells us that Jesus had many friends in many towns, and they were always happy to have Jesus come and stay at their homes when Jesus was traveling. One day, Jesus was visiting the town where his good friends Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived.

Could one of you read aloud the Bible story for the rest of the class?

After we read it, we are going to act it out, so pay attention to what happens in the story (*Encourage the actors to memorize their parts*)

Student reads the whole story.

Get volunteers for the following parts: Martha, Mary, Jesus, people in the crowd. Lay out where the stage will be and tell the students where the action will take place (the house is here... the road is here... etc.) Remind the students to act out the actions which the narrator will be reading (if narrator says: “Jesus was walking,” then the student playing Jesus begins to walk.) Begin to read as the narrator:

Narrator Jesus had been walking around the land of Judea with his disciples, teaching everywhere he went. The people were eager to hear this new teacher who told of God’s love for them. On the road to Jerusalem, the Lord and his disciples were traveling along and came to a village.

[Jesus is being followed by the crowd and walks slowly across until he meets Martha.]

Narrator When they got there, a woman named Martha welcomed Jesus into her home.

[Martha takes Jesus by the arm and motions for him to come to her home. Martha then brings Jesus to center stage and motions for him to be seated. Jesus removes his sandals and sits. The crowd sits around Jesus. While Martha busies herself dusting around the room and getting dishes ready, Mary comes in and sits at Jesus’ feet to listen to him.]

Narrator Martha had a sister named Mary, and Mary sat down in front of the Lord and was listening to what Jesus said.

[As Martha cleans and prepares, she keeps looking back at Mary]

Narrator Martha was worried about all that had to be done. Finally, she went to Jesus and said...

Martha Lord, doesn’t it bother you that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!

Narrator The Lord answered...

Jesus Martha! Martha! You are worried and upset about so many things, but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is best, and it will not be taken from her.

[Jesus holds out his hand to Martha, who takes it and kneels before Jesus. They bow their heads to pray quietly. Jesus stands, puts on his sandals, and leaves. Martha and Mary follow Jesus]

THE END

Connecting With The Passage

Discuss the following questions, and encourage responses from all participants.

1. **When Jesus went from town to town, he and his disciples depended upon the kindness of the townspeople for food and shelter. When Martha saw Jesus in her town, what did she do?** *She invited him into her home for a meal.*
2. **A guest in those days would receive the best the host had to offer. Martha was hurrying around to give the best she had to Jesus. What did her sister Mary do?** *Mary sat at Jesus' feet to hear what he had to say.*
3. **Martha was upset that Mary did not help fix a meal for Jesus. Was Jesus also upset?** *No, Jesus was not upset.*
4. **What did Jesus tell Martha? What do you think that means?** *Martha! Martha! You are worried and upset about so many things, but only one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen what is best, and it will not be taken from her. --- We need to focus first on learning from Jesus about God, and all other things can come after that.*
5. **Do you think Jesus appreciated Martha? Why?** *Answers will vary. Encourage reflection on the contributions Martha and Mary were making to Jesus' ministry.*
6. **When it comes to serving God, are you more likely to be like Martha or like Mary? Why?** *Answers will vary. Encourage reflection on whether they prefer action or reflecting, leading or following, etc.*
7. **Being here in Vacation Bible School means that we are like Mary, because we come here to learn about God. What are some of the things we have learned about God and Jesus so far this week?** *Answers will vary. Encourage reflection on the main themes: Being obedient, asking God to give us courage, loving other people. That's great! It is very important that we continue to learn about God, not just this week, but every week at church, and at home, reading our Bible. Since we are learning all those things about God, now God wants us to use the gifts God has given us to serve God...*

Application

1. **Each one of us has gifts that God has given us, things we can do and things we are good at. What are some of the gifts that God has given you?** *I am good in school. I can sing. I am good at playing soccer. I play an instrument. I help my parents with housework. I take care of my little brother. I am nice to people. etc.*
2. **Jesus needs each of us to serve him according to what we do to serve others. The Bible tells us that anything we do for others, we do for Jesus (Matthew 25:31-46). God said: "I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me." But the people said: when did we see you like that, Lord? And God replied "I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers [and sisters] of mine, you did it for me."**

Let's think about what kinds of things we can do to serve God by helping others or by being active in church.

***Option 1:** Give the students old magazines or newspapers which they can use to find pictures of people doing things that represent service. Instruct them to find pictures that remind us of ways we can serve God. It could be pictures of cleaning, singing, helping someone else, etc. Encourage creative responses that help others and that can relate to ministries in a church. Have them share their pictures and create together a class collage on a piece of poster board. Entitle it something like "Using our gifts to serve God."*

***Option 2:** Ask the students to think of ways in which they can use their gifts to serve God by helping others or by participating in the life of the church. Invite a couple of students to come up front and act out one of the choices (they can whisper their choice to you). Have the rest of the class guess at the activity. When they guess, have another couple of students come up and repeat the process.*

***Option 3:** Have the students consider what gets in the way of serving God. Give each student a piece of string, about 12 inches long. Ask them to name things that can be obstacles to serving, and when they do, have them make a knot on the string (leaving at least two inches free on either end of the string). They can make several knots, spacing them out. When they have made several knots, have them help each other tie the string somewhat loosely around their wrist as a bracelet. Cut off any leftover string. Encourage them to use the bracelet as a tool when they pray to ask God for strength to overcome those obstacles.*

Let's Take It One Step Further

(This section is optional: if you decide to skip this section, go straight to Conclusion)

God gives each of us spiritual gifts. "The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all." (I Corinthians 12:7). This 1st Corinthians passage lists several spiritual gifts. Have a student read I Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-31. Write down on the board (if one is available to you) each of the gifts or positions mentioned. Remind the class that this list is only a partial list, that God gives other gifts as well. Then ask the class: **Name people you know in your family, in the church, who have these gifts. How do they use these gifts to help others, to serve in the church? What are things you can do to follow their example of service?**

Conclusion

Our week together is almost over, but I want to encourage you to keep thinking about ways in which you can serve God. Remember that God gives each of us a way to serve him with our talents and gifts. And remember that when we use those gifts to help others, we are serving God. People of faith serve God in any way they can.

People of Faith

Jesus and the Children: Faith

4th – 6th Grade

Before Class

Prepare Prepare for this lesson by reading Mark 10: 13-16. Pray for understanding of what God would have you teach through His word.

Plan Materials that you will need for this lesson: Bible. Chair (be sure it is sturdy). Poster board or blackboard to stick the circles as you tell the Bible story. You may ask another person to place the circles as you tell the story. Make the circles out of poster board to represent the characters in the story: a purple circle for Jesus, several green circles for people in the crowd, light green smaller circles for the children and some blue circles for the disciples. You can write “Jesus” on the purple one and on the blue ones “disciple.” Tape to stick the circles on the board or another surface. Illustrations of a cloudy gray sky and of a sun.

Practice Read through the lesson and time it. Make sure your plans fill the time allotted without being rushed.

Welcome

Greet the group.
Briefly go over the lesson learned yesterday.

Memory Passage for Today

Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Mark 10:14 (NRSV)

Introduction

This week we have been talking about what it means to be a person of faith, but we have not talked about what faith is.

Does any one of you know?

Listen to their replies.

Faith is to believe and trust.

Believing and trusting in something is to have faith in that.

Let me give you an example:

Here is a chair (*show the chair and place it in front of the group.*)

I am certain that these four legs are going to be able to support my weight without a problem.

I am convinced, I have full confidence that this chair was designed and made so that I may sit down on it even though I cannot see how strong it actually is.

Now I am going to sit on it and I guarantee you that it will support my weight.

Sit on the chair.

I sat on the chair because I had faith it would support me.

You can't doubt every time you sit on the chair, doubting if the chair will be strong enough. When you sit, you simply have to sit with full confidence.

In the same way, a person that has faith fully trusts.

They trust in God, at all times and in any situation.

We are people of faith, which means that we believe in God.

We believe that there is only one living, true God, but some times we don't live like we really believe that, and we may get too afraid or grow distant from God.

When Jesus lived on earth, this was something he taught: we should have faith, that is, we have to believe and trust.

Jesus showed children as an example to teach this truth.

We can read the story in the Bible.

Bible Lesson

I am going to ask you to read the Bible passage from Mark 10:13-16

Read the three verses together with the children.

Imagine the event. Jesus was teaching a group of people.

Stick the purple circle with JESUS written on it on the board, and also some of the green circles around Jesus' circle and also some of the blue ones that read "disciple".

While they talked, there were some children there trying to get closer to Jesus. The children did not want to be far from Jesus because they had heard wonderful things about him and they wanted to meet him.

Stick the smaller green circles not too close to Jesus.

They wanted to know him, to be close to him because they believed all the things they had heard about him. They knew these things were the truth.

The children made every effort to get close to Jesus, but they could not. They could not because the disciples did not allow them to get any closer. The disciples were keeping them away because they thought that they would bother Jesus.

Place the blue circles getting in the way between the little green ones and Jesus' circle.

But when Jesus saw what was happening, he told his disciples: "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs."

The children got close to Jesus.

Bring the smaller green circles, representing the kids, closer to the purple circle, representing Jesus.

Jesus did not only ask that the children get close to him, but he also set them up as an example for others. He said that everyone had to imitate the children.

Jesus explained that people had to be like children, not in every way, but in a very specific way.

Will someone read verse 15 to see how exactly we should imitate these children?

Let a child read the passage and have others participate in giving the answer.

Surely the passage refers to the way in which the children receive the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Kingdom of Heaven refers to God.

And the way in which the children were behaving was clearly based on their faith. The children believed in and trusted Jesus. That is the meaning of faith.

These children had faith, and God wants EVERYONE, even grown ups, to have faith.

In other words, he wants us to believe in him and to get close to him just like the children did in today's Bible story.

You can be a person of faith, you can believe in God and you can get closer to God. Believing in God means that you believe that God is real and true, and not made up, believing that God is the creator of everything, that God can do all things, that God knows everything, and that God loves you. It also means that you believe everything that the Bible says to be true because it was written like a letter from God for you. Do you believe all this?

Let's Take It One Step Further

Share with the children an experience from your life in which you did not trust and were very afraid, and then you realized that you should have trusted in God.

You can also share an experience in which you did not do what the Bible said because you did not have enough faith that that was the best way, and things didn't turn out as they needed to.

Application

Write the key phrases on the board or show the phrases already written on signs.

The people of faith show they have their faith in God and in Jesus when they trust in God and seek him.

*** You should trust in God in any situation.**

Sometimes we feel very afraid because we think that God may not be with us, which is really not true. People of faith know that God is everywhere and that God takes care of each one of us. The opposite of being afraid is really trusting.

Sometimes the sky is gray and cloudy and dark. *Show an illustration of a gray cloudy sky.*

But even when we don't see it, the sun is out there. *Show the illustration of the sun and have it come from behind the clouds.*

That's how it is for us sometimes. *(Show the clouds again)* We feel sad, and bad things may happen to us or things that we don't like, but even when that happens, the truth is that God is out there *(show the sun again)* close to us and we can trust in him. God will not leave us and God will help us live through those difficult moments.

So, you should not be afraid but should trust in God.

*** You should seek God.**

The children in the story went looking for Jesus. They wanted to be close to him. They probably talked with him.

In the same way, God wants you to seek him out. There are two ways in which you can seek God and be close to God. One is to read the Bible, which is his Word. *(Show a Bible)* When you read it you will discover things about him and find out things that God wants you to do and not to do. The Bible is the way in which God speaks with you.

The other thing you can do is to pray, because praying is like having a conversation with God. *(Fold your hands in prayer)* When you pray, you tell God how you feel, you ask forgiveness for whatever bad thing you may have done, you can ask for something, you can give God thanks or you can simply tell God about you.

People of faith that have faith in God and Jesus trust in God and seek him.

Believing in God, having faith in him, is a way to show God that you love him.

Optional Activity

Ask for 6 volunteers to come up front.

One of the children will stay in the center and the other 5 will make a tight circle around him/her; all of them are standing

The child in the middle should place his/her feet together on the floor, and keep his/her arms to the side. Then s/he should let him/herself fall either forward or backward without bending his/her knees.

The 5 others around him/her should not let him/her fall, but should push him/her back to the upright position at the center of the circle.

For the child in the middle, this is an exercise in faith.

The child in the middle needs to trust that his/her friends won't let him fall and needs to trust that this will be actually true.

That is what we should do with God: we should believe and trust.

Our friends, even if they really mean to hold us and keep us from falling, may or may not be able to keep us from falling. But with God, that is not true. God will never let us fall. God is real and we can fully trust him.

Conclusion

God asks that we believe in him. God wants that, just like the children in the Bible story, we should trust and get closer to him. This is how we show we have faith in him. You can be a person of faith by trusting in God in any situation and seeking to be closer to him by praying and listening to the Bible.

Just like the children showed their faith to Jesus and to others in the crowd, you can be people of faith that believe in God, believe that God is real, the creator of all things, all powerful, all knowing, and that God takes care of us and loves us

When you have faith in God you show God that you love God “with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Luke 10:27