

People of Faith

Moses: Obedience

Preschool

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 a king's crown. Make an illustration of a happy face and a sad face. 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.

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. I will be a king and I will give you certain orders that you will have to obey.

Wear your crown

I want you to do the following things:

- **Touch your nose with your knee.**
- **Touch your neighbor's elbow.**
- **Scratch your head.**
- **Stand on one foot.**
- **Touch your back with both hands.**
- **Clap twice.**

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.

This is just a game, but there really is a king whom we have to obey, and that is God.

Obeying God means doing what God asks of us.

Obedience is the way in which we show that we love God.

The Bible tells us stories of 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. He obeyed God many times.

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

Moses was a man who worked 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.*

Optional: You may wish to take off your shoes.

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.*

** Show the flannel board figure of Moses obeying God's orders: Moses without shoes by the burning bush; Moses speaking to Pharaoh and Moses in front of the people of Israel.*

If you do not have figures available, it is necessary to tell the story dramatically. You can pretend that you see the bush from far away and then from close up, and then you can take off your shoes. You can appear doubtful when you ask "Who am I to go before Pharaoh?" When you read "Moses listened and obeyed" do it slowly and making eye contact with the children.

Moses listened to God.

When Moses was getting close to the burning bush he heard God calling out “Moses, Moses!” Moses did not know what God was going to ask him but he answered: “Here I am” Moses listened and was ready to obey.

God ordered Moses things like: “Do not get any closer” and “Take off your sandals” Moses listened and obeyed.

It was easy to obey those orders.

But then God also told Moses: “Go speak with Pharaoh and tell him to free the Israelites.”

It was hard to obey that order. It was hard because Pharaoh was the king of that place and the Israelites were his slaves.

But Moses listened and obeyed.

Moses was a person of faith who listened to and obeyed God.

Point at the children. **You also are people of faith and you can listen to and obey God. God spoke to Moses through the burning bush. God speaks to you and me through the Bible. Show a Bible. The Bible is like a letter that God wrote to you and me and in we read what God wants us to do and not to do.**

What are some things that God tells us in the Bible to do?

Give the children time to answer (Even children that do not go to church will have a general idea of what is good and what is not)

If you don’t remember, try to remember what your mom or dad tell you to do.

If the children do not participate, you can tell them the types of things that God asks us to do in the Bible, like: sharing our candy, obeying our parents, no hurt back someone who has hurt us, etc.

When you mention something that is good, show the happy face, and when you say something that is not what God wants, show the sad face

You are people of faith, and you can listened to God and obey God just like Moses did.

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. Some of you don’t know how to read yet, so when someone reads you the Bible, listen to learn what God wants you to do.

A way in which you as children can obey God is by obeying you parents. The Bible tells us to obey our parents and in this way we obey God.

Obedience needs to 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:

<p>I will obey,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● I will follow orders● Completely● Quickly● Without complaining <p>I will do it</p>

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.
Show an illustration of a child praying.

Optional Activity

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

Tell the children that you will ask them several questions they need answer. Encourage them to answer without being afraid because they won't get in trouble no matter how they answer.

Here are the questions:

- 1. When mom or dad ask you to do something, do you answer "Yes Mom/Dad"?*
- 2. When mom or dad ask you to do something, do you answer "What? Don't ask me! Let someone else do it"?*
- 3. When mom or dad ask you to do something, do you answer "Why me? You always ask me"?*
- 4. When mom or dad ask you to do something, do you answer "I will do it gladly, Mom/Dad"?*
- 5. When mom or dad ask you to do something, do you answer "C'mon Mom/Dad! I don't want to do that!"?*

6. *When mom or dad ask you to do something, do you answer “I heard you... I’m coming” (rudely)?*

To obey we have to do what God wants us to do, not what I want to do.

I have to obey because it is a way to show God that I love God with all my 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.

Conclusion

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

Obedying 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.

People of Faith

David: Trust

Preschool

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. For instance, every time you say the word "David" have the students cheer (Hurray!) and when you say "Goliath" have them yell Boo!

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 taking care of sheep and trusted in God, and God would take care of him. David knew that God would help him defeat Goliath. King 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. Was Goliath being a big bully? Was he taking advantage of being so much bigger than the rest to make them feel afraid? *Yes.*
2. One thing that happened was that the Israelites forgot to turn to God for help. They looked at each other and thought: we can’t win in a fight with that giant!
3. The difference in this battle was that David trusted in God, and that is what made him win this fight. David knew that putting his trust in God alone would bring him victory, because he knew that God wanted Israel’s army to win.
4. 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”*
5. 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.

6. **Did David brag about being the one who defeated Goliath?** *No, instead he said it had been God all along who defeated Goliath.*
7. **Who are people you can trust?** *Parents, teachers, grow ups at church, etc. What does it mean to trust in them? It means knowing that they are nice to you, they help you, and if you need something they'll help you. It means they will tell you the truth. It means they won't try to trick you.*
8. **When it comes to trust, God should be at the top of our list. We trust God above all others, even parents and teachers, because they trust God too! Trusting in God means that we also believe everything that God tells us in the Bible (God speaks to us through the words written in the Bible), and we believe in the promises that God makes. We trust in God because we know that even though we are small, God protects us. How do you talk to God to ask God to help you? Through prayer. That's right! When we pray, we are trusting that God hears us and responds to us. (As you teach them about trust keep Psalm 28:7 in mind: "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." and Psalm 22:4-5 "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.") 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.**

Application

Option 1

Let's play a game to help us learn what it is like to trust in God. *Divide the group in pairs.*

Ask the first pair of students to come forward. Instruct student A and B to act like they are nervous about going to school. Then tell student A to fold his/her hands in prayer, while student B is being scared, without praying. Give student A the following line to say (little by little):

"God, I am scared about going to school, but I trust you will help me not be afraid anymore. In Jesus' name, Amen." **Student A and B both were scared, but Student A knew that s/he**

needed to trust in God and ask for not be afraid. *Thank students A and B. Have another pair come up and repeat the above process, but with different scenarios:*

Students lost their dog and they're looking for it

Students are worried because their mom because she is sick (another student could pretend to be the sick mother)

Students are trying to be nice to their brother even though they just had a fight (another student could represent the brother)

Students are debating whether to share their brand new toy (another pair of students could represent the friends with whom they're sharing the toy)

Use these or other scenarios that you create yourself or recycle the above scenarios. As time allows, switch A and B positions for pairs that have already come forward.

In each case, when Student A prays, instruct them to pray in such a way that emphasizes that Student A is doing what s/he can, but trusting in God will make the difference in the desired outcome.

Option 2

Give the students a blank piece of paper, crayons or markers and ask them to draw a picture of themselves with God at their side helping them to do something that is difficult for them or something that they are afraid of and that they can't do by themselves. Once they have drawn it, and if time allows, pray for each one of the students asking God to help them trust God in these situations where they are afraid.

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 and have the pair hook arms. 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.

People of Faith

Ruth: Love

Preschool

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: Bible A black bag with these items to show different professions: cowboy hat, police hat or firemen's helmet, toy police badge, nurse's hat, a stethoscope and doctor's lab coat, A gold box or chest with the following flannel board characters or illustrations you make yourself representing: An older woman (Naomi), a younger woman (Ruth), a man (Boaz), a man reaping barley, a city representing Bethlehem, and a drawing of a barley stalk
You may use the patterns included in this material or you can create them yourself. The illustrations can be laminated and then a tongue depressor could be attached to the back to hold and move them easily. The characters could also be puppets or dolls dressed in biblical dress..

Materials for the optional activity:

You may use the cube provided in this material or create your own so it can be larger and seen by the whole class. On each of the six sides write the names of characters from the kid's daily life: dad, mom, brother, sister, teacher, friend, elders. If you want, the word can be next to a drawing representing the character.

Second activity: Illustrations for at least five persons in the children's life (dad, mom, brother, etc.)

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

We are going to play a game. In this game you have guess what I am. I am going to take something out of the bag and I am going it to put on and you have to guess what I am or what my job is.

Turn around and face away from the kids to put on your props.

Take out of the bag the police hat and put in on. If possible wear the police badge also. When you are ready, face the children and ask “what I am?”

Let the children guess.

How did you know that I was a police officer? Right! Because you saw my hat and badge. Let us do it again.

Take off the hat and the badge, place them again in the bag and again turn away from the children.

Now wear the white lab coat and the stethoscope around your neck. Now face the children and ask “What I am?” Let the children guess.

How did you know that I was a doctor? Right! Because you saw my lab coat and stethoscope.

Repeat the game a couple more times asking “Who am I?” and “How did you know?”

You knew what I was, because you saw my clothes or some other item. What we use says something about us.

We are part of a big family, the family of the people of faith.

But will other people know it? *(perhaps)*

Do we use uniforms so that others will know that we are people of faith? *(No)*

Do we wear a label that that says we are people of faith so that others will know it? *(No)*

The truth is that we do not wear anything special to show that we are part of the family of faith, but there is something we can do so that they may know it... to treat each other with love.

To treat others with love is to treat them kindly all the time.

When we treated others lovingly we show God that we love him

The Bible tells us stories about people who loved other people in the family of faith and in this way they showed God they loved Him.

Bible Lesson

Read beforehand Ruth 1 - 2:12 in preparation for class.

Place the box on you lap or on a table nearby. Inside the box you will have the figures you will be using during the class.

Ruth and Naomi were two women who lived together. Ruth was a young woman and Naomi was older. Show the figures of the two different women: one that shows Ruth and another for Naomi.

They lived together but Naomi was not Ruth’s mother, nor her aunt, or cousin. They lived in the same house because the two were part of the family of faith.

Both Ruth and Naomi loved God, they saw God as their heavenly father, and so they were like sisters, although they did not have the same mom and dad.

One day Naomi decided to go live in another city. Naomi wanted to return to live in the city where she had lived when she was young.

But Ruth did not have to go with Naomi. Ruth could have gone to live with her family, but instead she decided to go with Naomi.

Ruth love Naomi very much and wanted to show her that love, she wanted to be kind to her. Naomi was an older woman that did not have a husband, or children. Ruth thought... “Who is going to help Naomi? Who is going to give her work? She is going to get tired and she can’t do everything on her own. If I were alone like Naomi, I would like it if another person would help me and accompany me.”

So, Ruth decided to treat Naomi the way she would have liked to be treated if she were in that situation.

Naomi and Ruth traveled and they went to live in the city of Bethlehem.

Move both characters towards the figure of the city (Bethlehem).

When they were in Bethlehem Ruth went to work so that they could both eat. Put away the figure representing the women and take out only Ruth this time.

Ruth did not work in an office, or in a school, but she worked in the field. Ruth worked under the sun gathering ears of barley. If possible, show a barely ear or an illustration of one. She had to bend over to glean them.

It was tiring work but Ruth did not think about that; she only thought about making sure she and Naomi would eat.

She would not have been so tired if she only picked enough barely for herself, but she was thinking about Naomi and she wanted to be kind to her, she wanted to treat her like she would have wanted to be treated if she were in the same situation.

Ruth gathered ears of barely in the field belonging to a man named Boaz. Show the illustration of a man representing Boaz.

When Ruth was gleaning, Boaz passed by and saw her.

Boaz asked one of his workers in the field “who is that woman?” Show the illustration of Boaz asking the another man (gleaner) the question.

The worker answered Boaz saying that she was Ruth, the woman who had come with Naomi to live again in Bethlehem.

The worker already knew who Ruth was.

He knew that she was a woman of the great family of faith.

He did not know it because Ruth used a sign that said she was part of the family of faith.

He did not know it because Ruth wore a uniform.

He knew it because Ruth was a woman who was kind to others, because Ruth was a woman who was very kind to Naomi.

The worker saw the love Ruth had towards another person and then he knew that she was part of the great family of faith that loves God.

The worker knew that Ruth was part of the family of faith because of what she did, not because of how she got dressed.

Boaz approached Ruth. *Put away the worker illustration and take from the box Ruth's illustration. Bring together Boaz to Ruth.*

And when approaching he told Ruth that he already had heard about her.

Do you know what they had told Boaz? They had told him how kind Ruth was to Naomi. They had told him how Ruth had not gone away to live with her family but had decided to accompany Naomi and live with her because she wanted to do it.

Even before knowing Ruth, Boaz had already heard about Ruth's love towards other people. So Boaz already knew that Ruth was part of the family of God. He knew it because the people of faith all show their love the other people being kind all the time.

Put away all the illustrations in the box.

Connecting with the passage

- *Share with the children an example from your life when someone was kind to you, and that is how you knew they were a part of the people of faith. Your example must be specific and closely related to your life. It can be something simple, like someone sharing something even though they did not have to share, or someone helped you carry something heavy, or helped pick up something that fell etc.*
- *Ask the children to share something from their personal experience*

Application

People of faith show that it is part of the family of God by loving others. We show our love to others when we are kind with others all the time. Even when they are tired or upset with others they can be kind to others.

They can be kind in the way in they speak and treat a person

In order to speak kindly we must use a nice tone of voice, kind words, greet people, not use nicknames or make fun of them or use threats *(You can't be my friend if...)*

What are some other things that we can do to treat people kindly with our words?

Allow the group to participate.

To treat people kindly we have to watch how we act and the way we see people. We should not hit, or stick our tongue out, we should offer people food when we are eating. What are other ways to be kind to people? *Allow group participation.*

Some times it is difficult to actually act lovingly towards others because we are not in the mood, but it can be done.

When we are not kind to other people, we should ask God for forgiveness because that offends God.

You are able to love others being kind to them. This way people will know that you are a person of faith and that you love God.

Optional Activity

Show the children illustrations of the different people in one's life and have them begin to say what are some ways in which they can be kind to them.

*Show an illustration of a mom and ask **How can you show your mom love?** Let the children offer up ideas, and make sure the examples are not general but rather are specific.*

For instance, it's not sufficient to say that we should speak nicely to mom, but it is necessary not to talk back to mom saying "I said I'd do it..." You can ask for specific examples derived from a larger idea. For instance, how can you speak nicely to people?

Give me an example of what you'd say.

*Then show the illustration of a brother, sister. **How can you show your brother/sister love?***

Show the 5 illustrations.

Remind children at the end:

We should try to treat others the way we want to be treated. It is a way to show love to others. If we do it, the rest of the people in our lives will see it and will know that we are people of faith and that we love God.

Conclusion

God asks that we love God and that we love our neighbors. We show others that we love them by being nice to them. To know if I am being nice to someone I should ask myself: How would I like to be treated? I should treat others like I want to be treated. Do I like when others make fun of me? Do I like it when they lend me a toy? Do I like it when they speak nicely to me? Well, then you should not do what you don't like for people to do to you and you SHOULD do the things you like for people to do with you.

You can love others by being nice to them. That way, people will know that you are a person of faith and that you love God

Just as others saw the love Ruth had for Naomi, people should see the way you love others.

God can help us practice being loving, all we have to do is ask God. Then we will be doing what God asked 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

Preschool

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 children in the different roles.

- 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 (*actors don’t have to memorize parts, they can repeat their line if you read it to them; you may need to encourage and coach participants who may be shy about acting out the story*)

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. **Jesus knew that both Martha and Mary were serving him, each in her own way. Martha offered her home and her food, and Jesus needed those. Jesus was grateful that Martha was offering hospitality. Mary offered herself to Jesus as a student, and Jesus needed that too. Jesus was grateful that Mary wanted to learn more about God. What was the one thing Jesus didn't seem to like?** *That Martha wanted Jesus to scold Mary and order Mary to help Martha.*
5. **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.*
6. **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. **What is a gift?** *Something someone gives me, like for my birthday, etc*
2. **God also gives us gifts. What kind of gifts does God give us?** *God gives me parents, house, pets, etc.*
3. **God also gives us our bodies, our minds, our talents, the things we're good at. What are some things that you are good at?** *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.

4. **Did you know that these are gifts from God? God gives each one of you a talent, a gift, that is yours to share with others. 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** [*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."* (Matthew 25:31-46)].

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: *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. Write down a few of their suggestions, then get a couple of students to come up and act out silently—like charades—one of the choices (you can whisper it in their ear and give them some clues as to how to act it out). Have the rest of the class guess at the activity. When they guess, have another couple of students come up and repeat process.*

Option 2: *Ask one of the students to come to the front of the class. Ask the class: **What can we do to serve God with our hands and arms?** and then write or draw the suggestions on 3x5 cards or Post It notes and have the students come up and affix these items on the hands/arms of the student at the front of the class. Ask for how the feet, the head, the mouth, the feet, etc. can be used to serve God, and follow the same process to attach them to the student up front.*

Option 3: *Instead of using an actual student up front to do option 2 above, you can draw an outline of a student on newsprint and place that outline at the front of class. Follow the rest of option 2.*

Let's Take It One Step Further

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

We each have things that we can do in the church and in our family. The Bible tells us that each one of us has a gift from God to be used to help others. [“The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.” (I Corinthians 12:7)]. And each of our gifts come together to make up all the gifts in our church and in our family. Give the students a blank piece of paper, give them crayons and pencils, and ask them to draw a church and to draw the church members, drawing the things they do in the church to serve God.

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

Preschool

Before Class

Prepare Prepare for this lesson by reading Matthew 18: 3-6; 19:13-15; Mark 10: 13-16; Luke 18: 15-17. Pray for understanding of what God would have you teach through His word.

Plan Materials that you will need for this lesson: Bible, pictures or illustrations of children from different parts of the world. Illustration of Jesus teaching the crowds. Illustration of Jesus with some children. Illustrations of a cloudy gray sky and of a sun. A sticker to be placed at high place in the classroom where everyone could find it easily when you ask them to. The best sticker would not be one of a cartoon character but rather one of a geometric shape. For the optional activity, you may want to bring stickers for each child similar to the one you stick in the room.

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

Show the kids pictures of the children from other parts of the world.
Talk with them about the pictures or illustrations: What are they like? What are their clothes like? What is the color of their skin? What are they doing? etc.

There are children all over the world. Some are babies and others are older. Some are boys and some are girls. There are children everywhere. Not all children are the same but there are many ways in which they are the same. For example, all kids like to play. Do you like to play? What games do you like playing? Invite the kids' participation.

When Jesus lived here on earth there were many children then too. Jesus saw them and loved them like Jesus loves you.

Bible Lesson

Read Matthew 18: 3-6; 19:13-15; Mark 10: 13-16; Luke 18: 15-17 before class.

Tell the story holding the Bible open on your hand to signal that the story comes from it.

The Bible tells us of a time when Jesus was talking with a group of people. He was teaching them about God. Show the illustration of Jesus teaching the people.

While he spoke to them, there were some children who wanted to get closer to Jesus. The children did not want to be far from Jesus because they had heard many wonderful things about him, and they wanted to know him.

They had heard that Jesus was a good man, that Jesus loved other people, that Jesus took care of people, that he was friends with many people, that he was powerful.

They heard only good things about Jesus, nothing bad.

And you know what? The children believed all those things.

They believed all those things were true.

The children were trying to get close to Jesus but they could not. They couldn't because the disciples, Jesus' helpers, kept them from getting close.

The disciples did this because they thought that the children would get in the way of Jesus as he was teaching people.

But Jesus saw what was happening and 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."

Jesus was asking that the children be allowed to come near. Jesus wanted to have them near because he loved them too. Just like Jesus loves you and wants to be your friend.

The children got closer to Jesus.

Show the illustration of Jesus with the children.

Jesus did not only ask the children to get close to him, but he also told the rest of the people there that, even though they were grown ups, they had to be like children.

Jesus did not say that they had to become small again like children, but instead that they needed to believe in him just like the children did.

Remember that the children got close to Jesus because they believed everything they had heard about Jesus.

The children believed Jesus was good, that he loved people, that he was powerful, that he cared for people and that Jesus was friends with many people.

Jesus wanted everyone to believe this about him because it is the truth.

When we believe something to be true we do not have any doubts that it is true, and we say then that we have faith.

Those children had faith, and God wants EVERYONE, even the grown ups, to have this kind of faith.

In other words, he wants us to believe in him and to get close to him just like the children did it 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 when you did not believe in God. Think of a time when you sought out to accomplish something by yourself as if God did not exist. How did it go? How did you figure out that you were not actually placing your trust in God?

Application

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

Before the children get to the classroom, place the sticker somewhere in the classroom.

Today, I have a sticker somewhere in this classroom. Without getting up, without changing places, you can see it. Have you found it?

Give the children time to find the sticker and to point to it.

Before I told you, did you know there was a sticker somewhere in the room? No, but you do know that God is here even when you can't see God.

Did you know the sticker's size or color? No, but you do know what God is like. God is good, he loves you, is powerful, takes care of you and you can trust in him.

How big is the sticker?

It is small, but God is not. God is very big.

Just the way you looked for the sticker, you should always look for God.

You may at this point give the children their stickers and stick it on their hands to remind them that God is not small like the sticker, but rather God is very big.

Conclusion

God asks that we believe in him. God wants that, and 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