

People of Faith

Moses: Obedience

1st – 3rd 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 children, there are some instructions or 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.**

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

Remember that one of the ways in which you obey God is by obeying your parents. When you obey your parents, you are obeying god and you show God you love him. On Mother's Day some moms say: "I don't want a gift. I just want you to be obedient." In the same way, God treasures our obedience, and shows we are people of faith.

Let's have a little game to see how well we obey.

Place 3 signs around the classroom. The signs say: Always, Some times, Never.

For this activity, the children must be standing.

Tell the students: I am going to ask you some questions and you will answer by moving toward the sign that says what your answer is.

If the answer is "always," then the child should move toward the sign that says "Always."

If the answer is "some times" or "never" then the child should move toward the sign that says his/her answer. The children should remain standing by the sign until the next question is asked.

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)?*

Now ask the children to sit down.

Ask the children: What is the right way to answer your parents when they give us an order? Allow the children to participate. Remind them that it is not just about giving a good verbal response, but it is also about doing what has been asked of you.

True obedience is doing what has been requested 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.

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.

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.

People of Faith

David: Trust

1st – 3rd 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.

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. **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.*
4. **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.*
5. **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.*
6. **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"*
7. **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.*
8. **Did David brag about being the one who defeated Goliath?** *No, instead he said it had been God all along who defeated Goliath.*
9. **Who are people you can trust? Parents, teachers, grow ups at church, etc. What does it mean to trust in them?** *It means 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.*
10. **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 studying for a test. Then tell student A to fold his/her hands in prayer, while student B is still trying to study for his test without praying. Student A says: “God, I have been studying for this test. I trust you will help me do well. In Jesus’ name, Amen.” **Student A and B both studied, but Student A knew that s/he needed to trust in God and ask for help to do well.** 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

Have the children mention things they are afraid of or things that are difficult for them. Write these on the board. Once you have written them, say a prayer for all the group asking God to protect the students and their families, so that God may give them courage like David and the ability to obey like Moses so they can continue to serve God.

Option 3:

Give the students a blank piece of paper crayons or markers to draw themselves with God at their side helping them do something that is hard for them or that they can’t do by themselves.

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

1st – 3rd 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: 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 character 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

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, put it on and ask: **If I had this on, what would it say about me? What do I do for a living?** (That I am a police officer).*

*Put away the badge and take out the cowboy hat put it on and ask: **If I had this on, what would it say about me? What do I do for a living?** (That I am a cowboy, that I like horses, that I work on a ranch) Put it away and take out the nurse hat or stethoscope **If I***

had this on, what would it say about me? What do I do for a living? (*That I am a nurse or doctor*).

You knew who I was based on what I was wearing. 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?

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

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

In fact, we do not wear anything that tells others that we are people of faith.

But although we don’t use anything that identifies us, there is something we can do to show that we are: when we treat each other with love.

People will see how we treat each other.

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

Place the box on your lap or next to you. The box has the figures to help you tell the story.

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

Ruth was a woman known for how she showed love to Naomi.

Naomi was another woman, older than Ruth, though she was not her mom, aunt, grandma or part of her family, but she was part of the family of faith.

Show the image representing Naomi.

The two women loved God and the people who love God also love other people in the family of faith.

Naomi and Ruth were similar in that neither had a husband or children.

But they were different because one was younger. Show the images representing Naomi and Ruth.

When Naomi decided to go to Bethlehem, Ruth decided to go with her. Ruth wanted to show Naomi love by helping her and seeking her wellbeing.

Ruth knew that Naomi needed help.

Ruth did not have to go with Naomi, it was much harder than to simply stay where she lived.

But sometimes to show love to others means to do something that is not easy. Show the illustration of the city (Bethlehem) and the two women traveling to the city.

Once they got to Bethlehem, Ruth went out to work because they had to get food.

Ruth did not work as a nurse or teacher, but instead, she went to glean barely from the field. *Show the barely illustration.*

This was hard work, under the hot sun. It would have been easier for Ruth to pick up enough barely for herself, and that way she would not have been as tired, but instead she also gleaned enough for Naomi. She wanted Naomi to eat and that Naomi wouldn't work so much.

Ruth gleaned in a field belonging to a man named Boaz. *Show the illustration for Boaz. Boaz went by the place where Ruth was and asked the workers: **Who is this woman? Show the illustration of the worker and bring it close to Boaz so it looks like they're talking.* The worker told him it was Ruth, the woman who had left her homeland in order to look after Naomi. The worker already knew who this woman was.**

He didn't know her because of some sign she was wearing or because of a uniform she had on, but because she heard about the loving things she had done for Naomi.

What Ruth was doing, the love she was showing to Naomi, was telling other people that she was a part of the family of faith.

Boaz came to Ruth. *Put away the illustration for the worker and bring out Ruth and bring her close to Boaz so it looks like they're talking.*

Boaz was very kind to Ruth and when Ruth asked him why he was being so nice to her, Boaz answered: I have been told all that you have done for Naomi.

Boaz did not know her but he had heard about her. Without knowing her in person, she was already famous for what she was doing.

What was she doing? *Let the children give answers (helped Naomi, sought her well being, left her family to accompany her, etc.)*

Ruth was looking out for Naomi, meaning that she made sure she was OK, because she loved her.

Boaz knew that Ruth was a person of faith because she showed her love for Naomi. *Show Boaz.*

The worker knew that Ruth was a person of faith because she showed her love for Naomi. *Show the worker.*

Famous people are well known and famous for what they do. Likewise, people of faith are known and famous because they love their neighbor.

Put away all the characters in the box.

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. It can be something simple*
- *Ask the children to share about somebody they know who shows their love to another person.*

Application

People of faith show that they are part of a great family when they show their love towards others.

To love others is to look for their wellbeing, that is, to make sure they are OK. What people could you show love to? *Pause.* How? *Pause.*

In order to know if you are treating people with love you can ask yourself: how would I like them to treat me? This is how you should treat others. The golden rule, which is in the Bible, says that we should treat others the way that we would like to be treated.

If you have not shown love to some person, you need to ask God for forgiveness for not doing it and you need to start doing it. God will forgive you.

You can and should love others by seeking their wellbeing. This way others will know that you are a person of faith and that you love God.

Optional Activity

How does one show love to others?

Show the children the cube. In each face of the cube there is a word for a person in their life (mom, dad, brother, teacher, etc.)

Tell the children that you'll roll the cube and you'll read the name of the person it shows on the top face. The children will then call out ways in which they can show that person love. Encourage the children to be very specific instead of speak in general terms.

Roll the die about 5 times, depending on interest in the activity

Conclusion

God asks us to love one another and to love our neighbor. We show others that we love them if we seek their wellbeing.

Just as others saw Ruth's love for Naomi, people should see the way you love each other.

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

1st – 3rd 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 children in the different roles.

Suggested Materials & Props Bible-time costumes for Martha, Mary and Jesus
Clay dishes
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 and non-speaking) Mary (non-speaking part)
Jesus
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: Give the students a pen/pencil and a blank sheet of paper each. Tell them to draw a whole person –make it a simple drawing or outline, stick figures are fine! Now instruct them to write down next to the drawing what kinds of things they can do to serve God by serving others. So, for example, next to the mouth they could write “Sing in the church choir” and next to the hands they could write “Help my older neighbor carry her groceries into her house” or “play guitar at church” or next to the feet “walk to visit my friends to invite them to come to church” etc. Encourage creative responses that help others and that can relate to ministries in a church.

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 those 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, writing down or 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. [If the class drew the body outlines, then say: As a

**reminder, take your drawing of the body with all the possible ways to 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

1st – 3rd 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). Board 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 feel 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

Divide the group in small teams and ask them to give examples they could use to explain faith to someone (like the example of the chair).

After a while, ask the teams to return to their places and give them the opportunity to share their ideas with the rest of the group.

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