

Lessons for Preschool

“Journey to Philippi”

Preschool Lesson 1

Serving God and Others

For today’s lesson we are going to talk about Servants

- Can anyone tell me what a Servant is?
- Answer: A Servant is someone who takes care of others.

The bible talks a lot about Servants. Timothy and Epaphroditus are two of the servants mentioned in the book of Philippians. We are all called to be Servants of God and to serve others.

Today we are going to talk about the most important Servant ever. Does anyone know who that might be?

His name is Jesus. The bible tells us that Jesus is God’s Son who lives in heaven. And that Jesus came all the way from Heaven to serve us!

Philippians 2:5-7 says,

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.”

Jesus is the most important Servant because He died for our sins so that we can have a way to get to heaven.

Mark 10:45 says,

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

The Bible also tells us that we can serve others. When we serve others, God will give us a reward in heaven.

Colossians 3:23-24 says,

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

Questions about Serving God and others:

1. How does the Bible say we should serve/work? (answer: Work at whatever we do with our whole heart)
2. What does it mean to serve/work at something with your whole heart? (answer: to do the very best job you can with a good attitude)
3. When we serve, who should we try to please? (answer: “as working for the Lord, not for human masters.” When we serve, we should realize we are serving the Lord Jesus Christ, not just other people.)
4. God sees the things that we do to serve/help others. What does the Bible say we will receive from God for serving with a good attitude? (Answer: An inheritance; Explain that usually an inheritance is something valuable that you receive from someone, such as a gift)
5. What types of chores or jobs do you have? (Answer: cleaning up toys, helping mom or dad, sharing, getting along with brother or sister)

6. Do you work at these jobs with your whole heart? (Give time for answers, with a good attitude)

7. Do you work at these jobs like you are serving/working for God? (Give time for answers)

Craft/Activity time

- Have kids go shopping at Operation Christmas Child store in 'The Shops at Philippi' for items for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. (Give pretend coins to shop with)

- Have kids decorate a hand clapper with stickers and a verse attached that discusses serving.

Game Time

- Helping Hand Obstacle Course

Snack Time

- Bring some easy snacks (cookies/crackers and juice boxes) for the kids to serve. Split the kids up evenly and have them place the snacks on the table to "serve each other."

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Preschool Lesson 2

Unity: Working together to bring God glory

For today’s lesson we are going to discuss Unity. The Bible teaches us to work together with others to bring God glory.

God is pleased when we work together with a good attitude.

Philippians 1:27 says,

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel”

- What does unity or “one spirit” mean? (Allow for answers, explain that unity is working together as one)

The Bible also teaches us to work together in humility. Humility means that you think of others as important and not just think about yourself.

Philippians 2:1-7 (NIV) says,

“Therefore, if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

1. Why do you think it's hard to get along and work together sometimes?
(Because of selfishness. Philippians 2:3 says do nothing out of selfishness)
2. How can we "think like Jesus?" (We can think of others before ourselves, not complain when things are hard or they don't go our way, do everything in love)
3. How does God want us to act when we serve Him in unity? (read Philippians 2:14-16 below)

The Bible also teaches us to do everything without grumbling or complaining.

Philippians 2:14-16 (NIV) says,

"Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain."

1. Should we fight and argue with each other? (no, see **Philippians 2:14**)
2. What are things that we grumble (complain) or argue (fight) about? (Allow for answers, not sharing, complaining about what's for dinner, not helping put your toys away, not getting to watch a movie, fighting with your brother or sister, etc.)
 - Philippians says that if we work together and serve God with good attitudes and love towards one another that we will shine in the world for Jesus just like the stars shine brightly in the sky.

Craft/Activity Time:

'Grouchy Garbage Can' Activity – Using a mini trashcan and printed out things that kids commonly complain about, Kids throw away their complaints

"Now that we have thrown away all our complaining and arguing (the things that keep us from working together in unity) we can shine like stars in the sky for Jesus!"

'Shine Like Stars' – Make star sensory bottles.

Game Time/ Snack Time:

“Teamwork Trail Mix” scavenger hunt

Divide kids into as many teams as there are leaders and distribute clues. Clues will lead them to boxes that contain different items needed to make their snack for the night’s session.

Kids will bring their boxes back to the snack table and open them to see what everyone found. The kids will all have to work together in unity to make the trail mix yummy by sharing what they found.

Explain that by everyone bringing what they found and sharing it with everyone (without complaining or grumbling) that everyone gets to have the treat and enjoy it.

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Preschool Lesson 3

Rejoicing in the Freedom God gives

For today’s lesson we are going to learn that we can rejoice because God gives us freedom.

Philippians 4:4 says,

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”

Rejoice in freedom from fear:

The Bible teaches us that we can be free from being afraid.

Philippians 4:6-7 says,

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

The Bible tells us we don’t have to be afraid or anxious (means scared or worried) for anything.

- What does the Bible say we should do instead of being scared and worried?
(Answer: Pray and give God our worries, and He will give us peace.)

Rejoice in the freedom of our thoughts:

The Bible also tells us the things we think about are important to God. In the Bible Paul gives us a list of things that we can think about that are pleasing to God.

Philippians 4:8 says,

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

God wants us to have good thoughts. He gives us the following words to describe thoughts that are good to have:

- True = God’s truths; true things
- Noble = honorable (things that are worthy)
- Right = that we should think about doing right things.
- Pure = “thoughts that do not leave a stain”
- Lovely = pleasant, enjoyable, delightful
- Admirable = what is good, something worthy of approval

Rejoice through obedience

We can also rejoice because God gives us good rules to follow. God’s rules are meant to protect us from getting hurt.

Psalm 119:45 says,

**“I will walk about in freedom,
for I have sought out your precepts.”**

That verse means we can live in freedom when we follow God’s instructions/rules.

Rejoice in the strength God gives us:

We can also rejoice, because God gives us strength.

Philippians 4:13 says, **“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”**

Life will be difficult sometimes, but God’s strength will get us through anything.

Psalm 118:14 says,

“The LORD is my strength and my defense, he has become my salvation.”

Rejoice in freedom from the penalty of our sin:

The greatest reason to rejoice is because God gives us freedom from the penalty (punishment) of our sins.

- Can someone tell me what sin is? (Answer: Disobeying God)
- How many of us have disobeyed God and are sinners? (Answer: The bible teaches that all of us are sinners.)

Romans 3:23 says, **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”**

- Does anyone know what the punishment for sin is?
- The punishment for sinning is eternal separation from God in a place called hell.

Romans 6:23 says, “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

However, there is good news. The bible teaches us that Jesus died on the cross to save us from the punishment for our sins.

John 3:16 says, **“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”**

The Bible says that God gave his only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment of sin for us. If we believe that He died on the cross for our sins and rose again then we will live forever in heaven with Him. That is something we can truly rejoice about.

Craft/Activity/Snack Time:

- Make spoon shaker (noise makers)
- Have a Party! What a better way to explain to this age the idea of rejoicing than to have a party! Cupcakes, balloons, streamers, noise makers, pin the tail on the donkey, music, etc.