



God Calls Us To Serve

Galatians 5:13-14

God Statement: Jesus Is Our Hope

KEY VERSE: “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
(John 14:6, NIRV)

CHECK-IN

Classroom Teacher

(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)

As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.

EXPLORE ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(15 minutes)

The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.

DISCUSS: God Calls Us to Serve

In today’s lesson, we are going to learn about how God calls us to serve.

SAY:

What does it mean to serve someone? Turn to the person next to you and tell them what you think it means. Serving simply means to help another. Think about the last time someone did something kind or helped you in some way. How did it make you feel? *Let kids respond.* When someone helps me, it makes me feel happy inside and loved.

Did you know that Jesus, the King of Kings, served others? He was constantly helping others and showing them love. Hmm... if Jesus served others, do you think that means we should serve others too? You're right. As followers of Jesus, we are actually **called** to serve others. We serve as a response to all the love God has for us!

PLAY:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

Help a Friend Shoe Race!

Supplies: none

Say: *We're learning about how God calls us to serve. Today, we get to help others in our class by playing a game! We are going to do a shoe hunt and help our friends find their shoes.*

Directions: Have children take off one shoe and place it in a pile on the opposite side of the room. Set a timer for 2-3 minutes. Have children pick up a shoe and find the child it belongs to. When they find that child they say something great about them (they have cool shoes, they are a good friend etc). The one big rule: children can't find their own shoes! They have to help deliver a shoe to who it belongs to.

LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.

WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

Host

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

Expectations Slide

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

***** After Expectations, transition the power point to the Bible Challenge slide.*****

BIBLE CHALLENGE**Host**

Use this time to get kids engaged in large group and introduce/review the current Bible Challenge.

Spiritual Discipline – Fasting**Share with the kids about our current Bible Challenge:**

Throughout the Old and New Testament, the Bible teaches that there are times we should give up something important to focus our hearts on prayer and listening to God. Although for children, this may not look like fasting from food, the idea of giving up something important to us in order to devote that time to God is important to our spiritual walk. Encourage kids to talk to their families and think of things they can “give up” to focus on God more – i.e. video games, watching tv, etc.

As the kids take on the challenge, encourage them to share with their class in small group time how their family is learning about and engaging with the idea of fasting.

******After Bible Challenge, transition the power point to the “Key Verse” slide.******

KEY VERSE**Host**

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God’s Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

(John 14:6, NIRV)

****** After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.******

OPENING WORSHIP**Worship Leader**

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it’s not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

**** After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.****

BIBLE STORY

Lesson Video

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God Calls Us to Serve

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

****After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.****

WORSHIP RESPONSE

Host

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

Supplies: chalk, WRS chalkboards

We just heard about why your teachers love to serve. That was pretty special. In 1 John 4:19, it says, ***“We love because he loved us first.”***

I love that verse because it reminds me that I don't serve just to get something out of it. I serve because I have experienced the greatest gift of all, God's love! And I want to share that with others! Serving is loving others.

We're going to play a little game to help us think about how we can each serve. I need 4 volunteers.

Pick four kids to come up and help you. One at a time, whisper in a kids ear one of the following ideas. Then, have the kid act the action out allowing the rest of the group to guess.

- Helping Mom carry in heavy groceries.
- Help the little kids at church by reading them a story
- Lead a worship song
- Help a friend who feels sad by playing with them
- Wash the dishes for your grandma
- Give someone a hug
- Hold the door for someone

Thank all the kids for helping and have everyone sit back down. If kids are energetic/talkative after playing this game, have everyone pause, take a deep breath in, and continue when everyone is ready to listen.

What are some other ways you can serve? God loves us. We can share His love with others by serving HIM and by serving THEM.

Think about serving. Think about how you feel knowing that God loves you. Think about how it makes you feel when someone else serves you. Ask God how He wants you to serve this week. Talk to Him about it.

Turn on soft worship music and encourage kids to sit quietly thinking about serving and listen to God. When they are ready, they can come up to the chalkboards and respond.

When you're ready, write or draw how you can serve this week on the chalkboards.

Close time in prayer.

******After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.******

CLOSING WORSHIP

Worship Leader

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

******After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the "Compassion International" slide.******

COMPASSION & OFFERING

Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.

****After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.****

ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – South Asia & Empart

Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

Say: Right now, we’re learning about one of our partner ministries in South Asia called Empart. You remember how we just spent last month raising money to help kids around the world receive Bibles? Well, just like the kids receiving those may have never seen God’s Word before, many people in South Asia do not have access to the Bible either! Not only that, but many people in South Asia have never even heard the name of Jesus before. Imagine what your life would be like if you didn’t know Jesus... *Let kids describe what it might be like – sad, lonely, dark, etc.* Empart Ministry works to train and support local workers in South Asia to reach their own community with God’s Word. Just like we always talk about how important it is for us to love our neighbors, the believers in South Asia are working to love their neighbors well, and we can support those workers in the most important way – through prayer!

Highlight a few specific prayer points provided on the Missions card. Encourage kids to take home a Missions card and continue to pray for Empart and the people of South Asia throughout the week.

****After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.****

BLESSING

Host

Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.

Friends, may you always remember how much God loves you! Now you can love others by serving them!

SMALL GROUP

Classroom Teachers

(10 minutes)

The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.

Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Have kids retell what the teachers shared in the video about why they serve.**
3. **How does God ask us to love our neighbors? (As ourselves). What does it mean to love others like we do ourselves? (To treat others the way we would want to be treated).**
4. **When we love others and treat them well, we show them God's love. What is one way another person has shown you God's love?**
5. **What are some ways we can serve others? Are there ways we can serve others in Church or in our schools?**

Close small group in prayer.

Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read Galatians 5:13-14**
How does God ask us to love our neighbors? (As ourselves). What does it mean to love others like we do ourselves? (To treat others the way we would want to be treated).
3. **God loves us and He wants us to bring others to know Him. What is one way God asks us to help others? (By loving others. By serving others.)**
4. **When we love others and treat them well, we show them God's love. What is one way another person has shown you God's love?**
5. **What are some ways we can serve others?**
6. **Are there ways we can serve others in church or in our schools?**

Close small group in prayer.

RESPOND ACTIVITY

Classroom Teacher

(10 minutes)

DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

MAKE – Serving Others Poster!

Supplies: 1 poster page per child, markers, crayons

Directions: Pass out one page per child. Have them write or draw ways that they can serve others. Discuss ways that you can serve others in your life and encourage children to write one way they can serve on each finger of the handprint.

Say: *We learned today that we love others because Jesus first loved us! God calls us to serve others. Let's work on this poster to help us think about how to serve others.*

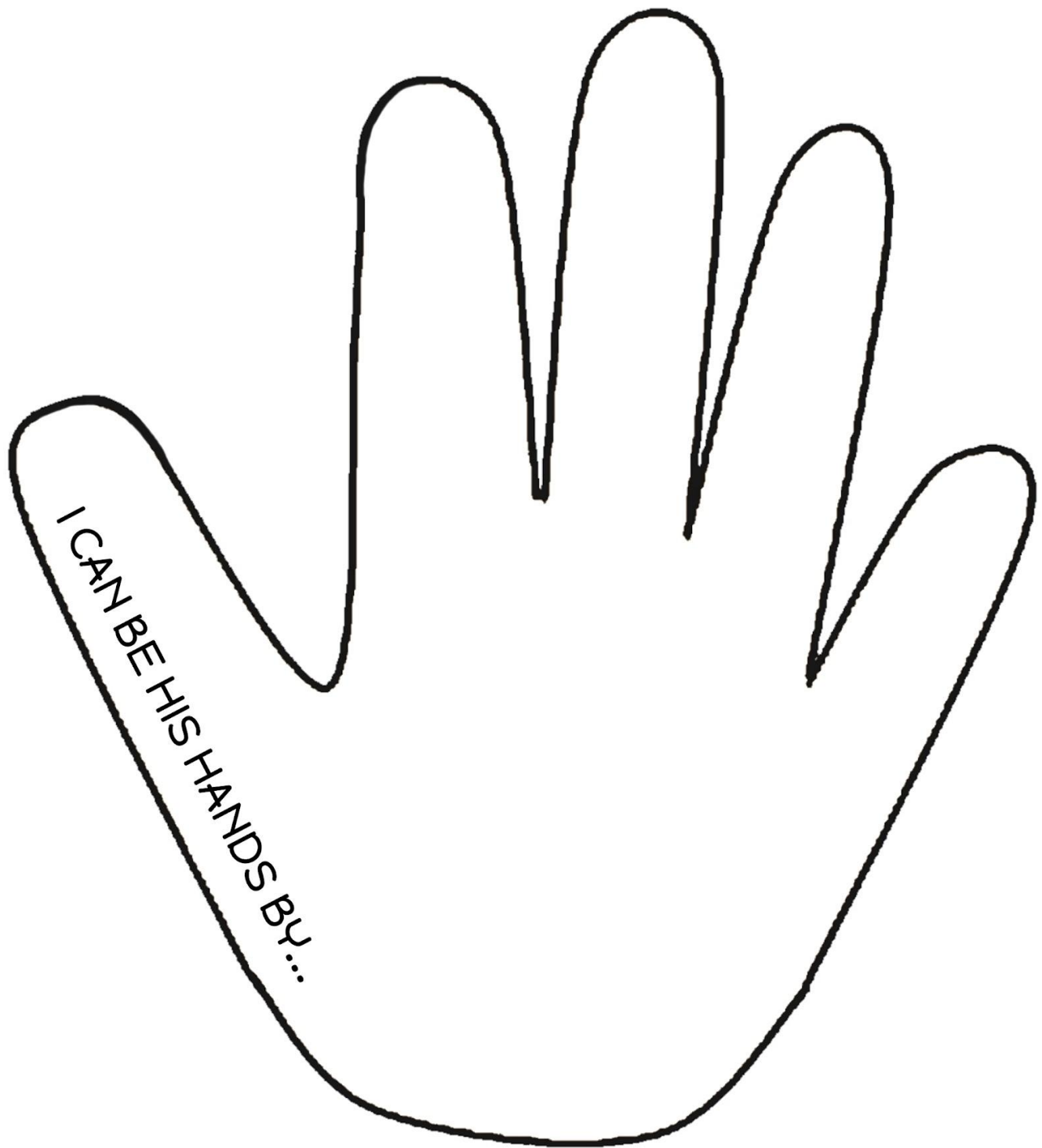
CHECK-OUT

Classroom Teacher

(end of service)

As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.

WHEN I SERVE OTHERS,



I SERVE GOD.