



WEEK FOUR – FEBRUARY 2019 – SECOND/THIRD

Bible Story: *Secret Service • Matthew 6:1–4*

Bottom Line: *Serve others without looking for applause.*

Memory Verse: *“Jesus sat down and called for the twelve disciples to come to him. Then He said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last. They must be the servant of everyone.’” – Mark 9:35 NIV*

Life App: *Service – Lending a hand to help someone else*

Basic Truth: *I should treat others the way I want to be treated*

Summary: We close out the month with Matthew 6:1–4. During this part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus explains that when we serve or give it shouldn't be in a way that is showy and puts all of the attention on ourselves. Rather than making a big deal about our own acts of service, He says to give to others in secret.

8:50–9:00 | 10:20–10:30 | 11:50–12:00 – EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in the “For Everyone” box on the wall near the main entrance
- Guide kids to sit in a circle with you.
- Ask: “Has anyone ever given you a high five or a round of applause for something?” Prompt them with examples such as: violin concert, soccer game, good grades etc. Allow time for kids to share examples.
- Tell them to put their arms out like they are asking “Why?” and to lay their hands flat out. Tell them to put their right hand under the person’s hand to the right of them and their left hand on top of the person’s to the left of them.
- Explain that you will begin by taking your left hand and clapping the person’s hand who is sitting to the right of you and that you will all continue going around the circle.
- The fun part is, you will yell “High five!” at any time. Explain that the goal is to not have your hand clapped on “High five,” so you will want to go around the circle as quickly as possible!

2. Telephone Tongue Twisters

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to stand in a circle.
- Explain that you will whisper a Telephone Tongue Twister to the first person in line and the group will pass it down the line until they get to the end.
- Remind them that they may only whisper it once and that even if the person didn’t hear them, they can’t say it again.
- Ask the last person in line to share aloud what they think the telephone tongue twister was!
- Continue as time and interest allow.
- Here are the Telephone Tongue Twisters:
 - The darling donkey did a daring deed by dashing to the door.

- I'd like a proper glass of soda pop pronto, please.
- Tiny tarantulas are still a teeny terrible time if you ask me.
- The terribly tall teacher taught the totally trendy class.
- What was the rhinoceros roaming around the room for?
- How many miles must I move to make a mega mile mark?

What You Say:

*Wow! Some of those Telephone Tongue Twisters got really messed up. You all were making me laugh so hard. Has anyone ever told a secret with your friends or had someone try to whisper something to you from across a room? It can get pretty confusing in real life, too. **[Transition]** Today in Large Group, we are going to learn about something good we can do in secret and why it's better to keep it that way!"*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10–9:45 | 10:40–11:15 | 12:10–12:45 – LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *Serve others without looking for applause. Typically, when we do something for someone else, we want everyone to know what we did. After all, having others compliment us feels good. But we hope that kids start to understand that when we decide to give in secret, the act of service becomes totally about the other person and not themselves.*

9:45–10:05 | 11:15–11:35 | 12:45–1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. Service Without Applause

[Bible Story Review]

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Plastic spoons, plastic egg

What You Do:

- Encourage kids to stand in a circle facing each other.
- Hand out a spoon to each kid.
- Explain that you will place an egg on someone's spoon and they will pass it to the person who is to the right of them.
- The goal is to use their spoons to pass the egg around the circle without dropping it.
- Make it even more challenging for kids by having them put their spoons behind their backs to pass it to each other.

What You Say:

*“No one wants to clap when you’ve dropped and cracked an egg open! Has anyone ever dropped an egg on the ground in real life? (Allow time for responses.) Eggs make a complete mess, that’s for sure! Here’s the thing, though. When it comes to serving others, we don’t need applause from others. We can just serve because we know it’s the best thing to do. Remember our lesson from today. You can **[Bottom Line]** serve others without looking for applause.”*

[Make It Personal] (Share a personal example of a time you served someone who didn’t even know it was you who helped them. Tell how you felt afterward.)

2. Last Place Award

[Memory Verse Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: “Last Place Award” ribbons (Activity Page), markers

What You Do:

- Review this month’s memory verse together while sitting in a circle.
- Put the ribbons in the middle of the circle.
- Explain that they will be playing “Duck, Duck, Goose,” BUT the person who is “It” must say part of the memory verse while he is circling the group and ducking. They must say: “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last. They must be the servant of everyone” (Mark 9:35, NIRV).
- Before “It” can say “goose,” he must get the memory verse right. If he misses a word or doesn’t remember, he must go grab a ribbon and sit in the middle.
- Explain that anytime someone is caught by It, they too must go sit in the middle and grab a ribbon.
- Play until all kids have had a turn to be It.
- At the end, make sure all kids have a ribbon.
- Allow kids to color their ribbons.

What You Say:

*“I can tell you all have been practicing at home! You did an awesome job knowing the words to the verse. These ‘Last Place’ ribbons may seem a little silly. We don’t have to race to be in last place, BUT these can be good reminders for us that life isn’t about winning or being the most important. Our verse tells us that putting others before ourselves and serving is what is greatest. This week, let’s remember to **[Bottom Line]** serve others without looking for applause and be reminded of the amazing example Jesus has set for us!”*

*“When we focus more on serving others than on getting a reward, Jesus says that God will reward us, and that’s the best reward there is! So remember to **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause.**”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask kids to think about how a high five from a favorite coach or applause from their parents makes them feel.
- Ask a few kids to share their thoughts.

What You Say:

*“Dear God, we know that applause does make us feel good! We like to know we have done something good. But when it comes to serving, help us remember that we can **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause.** Help us to remember that when we are serving people in secret, YOU are applauding us, and that is all we need! We love You and thank You for using us to serve others. We pray this in Jesus’ name, amen!”*