



WEEK FOUR – FEBRUARY 2019 – KINDER/FIRST

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 line. (Kids who arrive as you play can join the end of the line.)
- Whisper a tongue twister into the ear of the first child in line. You might say:
 - Alien alligators ate ice cream on the airplane.
 - Mini monsters munched marshmallows at the movies.
 - Cute caterpillars chewed crunchy cupcakes in church.
- Each child whispers the phrase into their neighbor’s ear until it reaches the last child in line.
- The last child says the word or phrase out loud so everyone can hear it . . . and laugh at how much it’s changed

2. Give in Secret

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

What You Need: Blindfold; Small Object

What You Do:

- Choose one child to be “It” and invite her to come to the head of the group.
- Secure the blindfold over her eyes and direct her to sit with her hands together, palms up.
- Quietly give the object to a child in the group.
- Lead him to sneak up to “It” (shhh!), place the item into her hands, and stealthily return to his seat.
- Once he’s seated, direct “It” to remove her blindfold and guess who put the object in her hands.
 - *HINT: If you have a very small group, allow “It” one or two guesses. If your group is larger, allow three or four.*

What You Say:

“You guys did a great job giving secretly and quietly! [Transition] In Large Group we’ll hear how Jesus wants us to give to others. Let’s go learn more.”

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. Left Hand, Right Hand

[Bible Story Review]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Paper plates, markers or crayons

What You Do:

- Briefly unpack the phrase “don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.” Use the conversation below as a guide.
- Give each child a paper plate, and set out the markers.
- Guide kids to trace both their left and right hands onto their plates multiple times, creating a colorful line tangle.
- Kids can take their creations home as reminders to **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause.**

What You Say:

*“When Jesus said: “Be careful not to do good deeds in front of other people” (Matthew 6:1 NIV), He meant that we shouldn’t serve others just to be noticed or liked. Instead, He said: “When you give to needy people, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing” (Matthew 6:3 NIV). That means that you should give in secret, and **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause or praise.***

*“Take your paper plates home and let them remind you that God wants you to **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause.**”*

2. Copy Clap

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible; Construction Paper

What You Do:

- Set the construction paper on the floor in a line, one for each kid.
- Guide kids to line up on the papers.
- Invite a child to open the Bible to Mark 9 and read the verse aloud or say it from memory.
- Lead the group to say/clap the verse with you. Clap once at your knees for single syllable words; twice at your waist for two syllable words; and three times above your head for three syllable words.
- After every three-syllable word, the child at the back of the line runs to the first position while the other kids move back one space.
- Continue as time remains, but be sure to end while interest is still high.
- Add variety by guiding kids to move on two syllable words OR on two AND three syllable words.

What You Say:

*“It’s easy for us to want to be noticed for the good things we do, but God wants us to think more about others than about ourselves; He wants us to **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause.** That’s what Jesus meant when He said ‘the last will be first.’”*

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you served someone in secret. Tell how it affected both you and the person you served.)

*“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: Bible

What You Do:

- Guide kids to gather around you and think quietly about how they can serve someone this week without that person knowing it was them. Give an idea or two.
- Invite a child to open the Bible where marked.
- Read Matthew 6:1–4 as a prayer over the kids.

What You Say:

“Lord, please help us find ways to do that this week. We love You. We pray this in Jesus’ name, amen.”

***As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell their parents today’s Bottom Line:
[Bottom Line] Serve others without looking for applause.***