



WEEK FOUR – FEBRUARY 2019 – PRETEEN

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

Key Question: *What would happen if you never got credit for serving?*

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. Just for Fun

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Begin by explaining the following motions:
 - Tornado—spin around and make the sound of howling wind.
 - Flood—hold nose and pretend to be going under water and say, “Glug, Glug, Glug!”
 - Blizzard—pretend to shovel snow and say, “Brrrrr!”
- Ask everyone to find a partner then stand back to back.
- Explain that they are going to try to match motions with their partners without speaking or knowing ahead of time which action their partners will choose. Tell them you will count to three then say, “Go!” Both partners should then turn and face each other and immediately make one of the motions.
- Try it again with the same partner or have everyone switch partners and see if a match can be created with someone new.
- Announce a winner based on the first person to get five matches.

What You Say:

“You should give yourselves a round of applause for that game. No, wait. That’s probably not a good idea. Hold the applause until after Large Group then you’ll understand why.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *What would happen if you never got credit for serving? Preteens are growing up in a generation who posts everything they do to social media—especially those moments where they serve others or go on a missions trip—to make themselves look good. We want kids to think that doing the act of service is enough. In fact, it’s better if no one knows they did it in the first place.*

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

1. Bible Story Extension

[Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Coins, blindfold, Bible

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle.
- Give each student a coin.
- Choose one person to sit in the middle of the circle and put on a blindfold.
- Let the students take turns silently placing their coins on the floor near the person in the center. If the blindfolded student thinks he hears someone and points in the right direction, that person is caught.
- Switch places and repeat several times.
- When finished, talk about the game while directing students back to the principles found in today's lesson: serve without looking for applause.
 - How did it feel to go unnoticed in the game?
 - When do you like to be noticed? Why?
 - Why do we get upset when no one notices something good we've done? Is that okay? Why or why not?
- Invite one or two students to read Matthew 6:1–4 aloud to review the lesson.
 - What can you do to watch out for your motives and attitude when serving others?
 - What does it mean to not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing?
 - Based on what Jesus said in these verses, is it wrong to serve when you just want credit for doing something nice? Explain.
 - If you are applauded and recognized for something you did, what is the best way to respond? What should your response be if your good work goes completely unnoticed?
- Challenge the students to think of ways they can serve others this week and do so as quietly and unnoticed as they were when they moved the coins earlier in the game.

2. Discussion Questions

[Application Activity]

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

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - What is an example of someone doing something just to get a pat on the back or a round of applause? It can be a true story (no names) or one you come up with.

- On the other hand, what is an example of someone doing something but not getting attention or praise for it? Again, it can be a true or imaginary story.
- Why do you think we enjoy applause so much?
- Why is receiving applause and recognition a bad motive for doing anything?
- What are some fun ways you can serve others without them ever knowing it?

3. Verses to Take with You

[Memory Verse Activity]

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

What You Need: Bible, crayons

What You Do:

- Sit in a circle then spread the crayons across the floor within everyone's reach.
- Talk about the way colors often express a mood or feeling. Dark colors generally represent a more serious mood than lighter colors.
- Explain that you will read a verse then you'll ask them to choose a crayon color that represents how they feel about it. They can choose their colors based on an attitude they have, a memory of a situation that comes to mind, a person who did or didn't live out the verse, or a way the verse challenges them in some way.
- Allow each person time to select a color after you read each verse, then ask them to share why they chose the colors they did.
- Include yourself in the activity by choosing a crayon and using it to open further discussion about the meaning of the verse and how to apply it.
- Read aloud:
 - Ephesians 6:7
 - Romans 12:3
 - Matthew 25:23
 - Colossians 3:23a
- Use the following questions as needed to open up discussion and help students understand how to live out the principles in each verse.
 - What type of situation would be a good time to remember this verse?
 - What do you find encouraging about this verse?
 - How can you overcome the challenges that make this verse hard to live out?
 - What are some benefits of living out this verse?

4. Make It Personal with Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: "Service with a Smile" Activity Page, markers

What You Do:

- Give each student some of the “Service with a Smile” cards and set out the markers.
- Explain that the cards are for them to take with them as a reminder of the things they learned this month.
- Encourage them to do an act of service for someone without being noticed then leave the card behind for that person to pass along with another act of kindness.
- Invite them to color the cards if they would like and share some ideas they have for ways they will use the cards this week.
- Pray over the “Service with a Smile” cards, asking God to use their service to encourage others and not for applause.

What You Say:

“Dear God, help us to serve You with all that we have—not so people will compliment or applaud us but because we just want to show our love to You and to others. You have shown us by Your example how to serve unselfishly. Open our eyes to the gifts You’ve given us and help us use them to meet the needs of others wherever we can. In Jesus’ name, amen.”