

The Church Handled a Problem

The Gospel Project: Unit 31 Session 2

Acts 6

Midweek Bible Lesson

Week of January 12th, 2025

Christ Connection: The apostles believed that everyone in the church had an important job to do to serve God's people and help spread the gospel. Jesus wants us to serve others so that the message of His death and resurrection can be heard and believed all over the world.

Big Picture Question: PS: Why did Jesus become a person? Jesus became a person to rescue sinners. Elem: Why did Jesus become human? Jesus became human to obey His Father's plan and rescue sinners.

Memory Verse: PS: Jesus took our punishment. Isaiah 53:5. Elem: He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5

Spiritual Discipline: Service

Leader Bible Study: In kids' ministry- as in most volunteer teams- it can feel like there is a perpetual need for more people to serve. If we're not careful, those of us who are serving can become resentful of those whom we don't see serving. While it is true that every believer has an important job to do to serve God's people, we often cannot see or appreciate all the ways that others are serving to help spread the gospel.

This isn't a new issue, it has been happening since the church began, as we saw in Bible study this week. There was a legitimate

need that led to complaints about how believers should serve one another. The apostles recognized their own priority had to be the work that the Lord had uniquely called them to do, but they did not dismiss the importance of faithful disciples serving to meet this new need. With church growth comes increased opportunities for people to serve in new and varied ways.

Paul wrote that a community of believers functions like a body: each part is different but necessary. Just because your role doesn't look like someone else's, it doesn't make either role less important for the good of the whole community. All parts must work together so that the body builds itself up in love (see Eph. 4:16). "There are different activities, but the same God works all of them in each person. A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good" (1 Cor. 12:6-7).

Can you trust the working of God's Spirit in and through each person for good, even if it doesn't look the way you think it should? Perhaps the person who never steps into a classroom and yet faithfully prays for the next generation is doing more for the kids in your ministry than you know. And maybe you also are doing more to spread the gospel than you realize simply by serving a need where the Lord has placed you, even if it is not what you traditionally identify as your spiritual gift.

So let us humbly pray with Moses, "Let your work be seen by your servants, and your splendor by their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish the work of our hand- establish the work of our hands!" (Ps. 90:16-17). The Lord is building His kingdom through your work, the glory of which may only be seen in the coming generations.

[Welcome](#)

Sing Songs

Pass the Message

Materials: none

Sit in a circle with the kids for a game of telephone. Whisper the definition of a spiritual discipline (a spiritual discipline is a practice, or repeated action, that helps us grow in love for God and godliness) into the ear of the kid sitting to you left. Invite that kid to then whisper the same message to the kid sitting to his left. Encourage kids to speak clearly and listen carefully as they will only be allowed one communication each. Continue passing the message around the circle until it reaches the kid to you right, who will announce the message she heard. Compare accurate to the original message. Shuffle everyone's places in the circle and continue play as desired with other phrases, such as the big picture question and answer or the memory verse.

Human Puzzle

Materials: paper, tape, marker

Write each word of the big picture question and answer on a separate sheet of paper strip. Affix one strip to each kid's wrist or ankle. Depending on the number of kids, you may give each child more than one word, or you may need to make multiple sets and play in smaller groups. Challenge the kids to place themselves in the correct order according to their strips.

[Learn About Service](#)

Review Spiritual Disciplines

Materials: none

Say, ***“Each week we gather together to learn about and practice spiritual disciplines. We have been defining spiritual disciplines as practices that help us grow in love for God and godliness.”***

Review the Discipline of Service

Materials: none

Say, ***“Today we are learning more about the spiritual discipline of service.”***

Ask, ***“What makes service a spiritual discipline?”***

Say, ***“When a Christian continues to work hard at doing good, even if treated unfairly, that is serving Jesus. Only God’s Holy Spirit can help us love and serve like that!”***

Follow Up on Weekly Challenge

Materials: None

Say, ***“Your challenge last week was to be respectful to people in authority by saying ‘ma’am’ and ‘sir.’”***

Ask, ***“How did that go?”***

Say, ***“Great job! Sometimes it can be difficult to show respect to people in authority over us, especially when we don’t like what we’re being asked to do, like clean up our room or re-do a homework assignment.”***

Share an age-appropriate story of a time you struggled to respect authority. Focus on how you did or could have responded in love, rather than focusing on the leader’s shortcomings.

Say, ***“Submitting to leaders can be hard, but God commands us to honor those in authority over us. To respect our leaders, whether or not we agree with them, is to obey God. And continuing to do good when we experience suffering helps us***

grow to become more like Jesus. But even with good and fair leaders, there are still needs to meet and problems to solve, as we heard in Bible study this week. Let's see how many ways you can think of to serve the church."

Group Activity: Name All the Parts

Materials: Mr. Potato Head

Set out pieces. One at a time, challenge kids to name a role in the church as they select a piece to add to the body of the toy. Roles cannot be repeated, and the group must complete at least one body with as many parts as possible. Encourage kids to name less prominent roles as well as those that may be more visible.

Say, "This toy would not be complete without all of its limbs and facial features, just like the church is not complete without every person who serves in it! If the pastor got up to preach, but no one had turned on the microphone or the lights, the congregations wouldn't be able to hear the message or read along in their Bibles. If you came to class, but I wasn't here to teach and no one had gathered supplies for us, you wouldn't get to play this fun game and learn about serving in the church. You may not ever see the person who turns on the lights and sound or prepares supplies for class, but that doesn't make their job any less important than the pastor or teacher. All kinds of different roles are needed to serve the church just like a body needs all its different parts! In fact, that is exactly how the church is described in the Bible. Listen to what Paul wrote to the believers in Corinth."

Read the Bible

Materials: Bibles

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-20.

Ask, ***“Do you ever wish you could be something that you are not? Why?”***

Say, ***“A lot of people wish they could be a famous athlete, talented musician, or well-known movie star. Those temptations can even creep into our service within the church, like wishing we were the soloist or speaker. On the other hand, some people actually wish to be less visible and so they hide their talent. But both of these temptations do about as much good as a foot wishing it could be a hand or an ear wishing it could be an eye. God has given each person exactly when He wants them to contribute to the community. Your role may not look the same as someone else’s role and may not be what you thought you wanted, but you have an important job to do for the church to function well. Even if you do get to serve in the way you hope, be careful not to disregard the service that others have to offer.”***

Read 1 Corinthians 12:21-27.

Say, ***“Just like we cannot excuse ourselves from serving in the church because we don’t have the role we wish we had, we also cannot tell others that the way they serve the church is unnecessary because we think it is less important.”***

Ask, ***“What if you lost a part of your body? What wouldn’t you be able to do?”***

Say, ***“Even losing a toe affects your balance and stability so much that you would have to relearn how to walk and run, and you may never be able to move in the same way as before. Like that, losing a member of the church, however insignificant his***

role may seem, makes the whole community suffer. On the flip side, if people who seem important receive honor and recognition, then they don't get to keep all the credit for themselves either. They are only able to do what they do because of the way the whole church works together, so everyone rejoices in that honor together. Let's play a game to demonstrate this idea."

Group Game: Three- Legged Relay

Materials: bandanas

Form two teams to race each other or play as one team racing against the clock. Invite kids to select a partner, including a leader if you have an odd number of kids. For each pair, tie one child's left ankle to his partner's right ankle with a bandana. Use rope or tape to establish starting lines, and line up about half the pairs at one end of an open space and the other half directly across from them at the other end. Give the first pair on one side a ball. Explain that partners must move across the space and hand the ball to the first pair in the opposite line, who will then repeat the challenge back to the other side. After each pair has run its leg of the relay, invite them to untie their bandana and sit along the sidelines to cheer on the other kids. Place a basket or bin across from the last pair for them to dunk the ball into it upon reaching it.

Say, "Great job working together to complete this challenge! If anyone fell or dropped the ball, it slowed down the whole team. But when the last pair dunked the ball into the bin, the whole team celebrated. That is the way the church works, too. If any member is not serving- in whatever way the Lord has given them to do- then the whole community struggles to accomplish its mission. But whenever any one person does something great

like leading someone to Christ, then the whole church celebrates.”

Christ Connection

Materials: none

Say, “The church is different from any other kind of team, though. Each unique individual is united together by love for Christ! That is why serving the church is a spiritual discipline. We have to keep practicing whatever work God has given us to do because we love Him, and His Spirit will help us grow in love for God and godliness as we serve for the good of others.”

[Love God by Practicing Service](#)

Make Person-Shaped Snacks

Materials: paper plates, bread, person-shaped cookie cutters, spoons, spreadable (jam, hummus, peanut butter), fruits and veggies, kid-safe knives and cutting boards

Set up stations:

- Station 1: Paper plates, bread, and person-shaped cookie cutters
- Station 2: plastic spoons and spreadables
- Station 3: fruits and vegetables, kid safe knives and cutting boards

Guide kids to wash hands. Assign 2-3 kids per station and explain how an assembly line works. Kids at the first station will place a piece of bread on a plate cut it into a person shape, and pass it to the next station. Kids at the second station will smooth a dollop of a spread over the bread and pass it to the next station. As the snack moves down the line, kids will add facial features and other body

parts using the fruits and vegetables. Make enough person-shaped snacks for each kid to have one before stopping the assembly line. As kids enjoy their snacks, review how each one contributed an important part and how they each has a unique task to create the snack.

Weekly Challenge

Materials: none

Challenge kids to serve in a variety of discreet ways this week at home or church.

Close in Prayer

Materials: none

Use the scripted prayer below, pray in your own words, or ask a student to pray.

Say, “Lord, thank You for the unique way that You have made and gifted each person to serve for the good of Your church. Forgive us when we want the role that someone else has rather than being grateful for what You have given us to do. And forgive us when we disregard what someone else is doing because it is not what we want them to be doing. Please help us to trust Your good and perfect plan for building Your church. Strengthen us by Your Spirit to serve out of love for You. Amen.”