



Date: _____

Series: Mother's Day
Spring Year 2, Lesson 52

Mom, You're a Star!

Primary Scripture: Philippians 2:3b-11, 15

Key Verses: Philippians 2:15-16, "...You will shine like stars among them in the world as you hold firmly to the word of life!"

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

On this Mother's Day, kids need to *show* appreciation to their moms, but they also need to *learn* appreciation. Moms are best known for their serving attitude. What child can't remember a mother's selfless ways of serving them? Yet, children and adults fail to adequately appreciate acts of service, and they even end up complaining. This lesson shows the powerful example of Jesus who humbly served us. When we follow in his example, as do moms, the Bible calls us stars, shining in the world. Today we salute moms who follow in the example of Christ as stars, and we say, "Mom, you're a star."

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus served us by becoming obedient, even to the point of the cross, giving his life for us.

Jesus in us: Jesus gives us hearts of service.

Jesus through us: As we serve others today, we especially find ways to serve and appreciate our moms.

Special Warning! Some of your children may not have a mother who is present in the home. Be sensitive about this. Let them know that you understand that many families have only one parent or other caregivers living with them. We do not think less of any person that has a family like this. But we can still be thankful to God for the people who care for us, even if they are not our natural mothers.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies needed: several star stickers and a cross

Show a star sticker to the group.

How many of you have ever received one of these star stickers on one of your papers? What did it mean?

Allow the kids to answer. **Yes! Great work!**

Invite a child forward. Have several stars available. Begin placing them on the child's clothing. This can be amusing as you continue the conversation about what it means to be a star.

Today, we will talk about what it means to be a star. It means that you did something pretty special. What is something pretty special that you've done for which I'm giving you stars right now?

Let the child respond.

If we could, for what reason would we give a star sticker to Jesus?

Accept answers from the child. Then say:

God gave Jesus a star sticker. He said, "There is one thing Jesus did that is far above anything else anyone could ever do." Let's look at what he said in Philippians 2.

Read Philippians 2:8 – 11. Place a star sticker on the cross, and then put one on the child's forehead.

Do you know why this star is here? It's because when you trust in Jesus, God looks at you and he sees Jesus. He sees the very star that he awarded his Son because Jesus gave his life for you, and now he lives in you.

As a matter of fact, I see a lot of kids who in God's eyes, have these stars on their foreheads because they trust in Jesus. Let's show him our love as we worship him now.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Bring the child forward that came up earlier, and take the star from his forehead and put it in his fist. If the child already removed it, use one from the child's clothing or a new sticker.

Sometimes we have a problem. What happened to your star? That star reminded us that you are one who trusts in Jesus and lives for him. However, here's the problem. Sometimes we may not live the way that Jesus would.

To demonstrate this I am taking _____ (insert child's name here)'s star from his forehead and hiding it in his hands where no one can see it. This shows that _____ (insert child's name) is not living like a shining star even though the Bible says that he is.

When we haven't lived like shining stars, we need to turn to God and ask for the power of his presence so that we will not hide our stars, but we will wear them on our foreheads to show everyone that we belong to the star himself, Jesus Christ.

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us Jesus Christ as our Savior. He was a star for us by humbling himself, being born as a person, giving his life for us, and now rising again. We thank you that he is alive and lives with us wherever we go right now. With your forgiveness, give us the power of Jesus so we can live like stars also. Forgive us for the times we hide our stars, and help us to always shine for you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

In advance, tape a large star to the offering basket. Let the children put their offerings in the basket with the star.

Tell about your current mission project.

One of the ways in which we shine like stars is to give our offerings to the Lord. Our offerings can be used to help others, to serve them, and to bring God's Word to them. When you bring your offerings forward, think about how you are a shining star and how you want to share that gift with others.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

An illustration will be done with tables, chairs, and stools. From left to right, there will be a table, a chair, a stool, a space on the floor, a stool, a chair, and then a table.

A volunteer will move from on top of the table down to the floor and back up to the table on the other side as described below. An extra support can be added under each table to make sure that it is safe to hold an adult's weight.

Other Options: Use any risers, stepstools, chairs that would be strong enough to hold an adult. The important point is that there are three distinct levels of movement.

Additional props: a crown, a large star

Ask for a volunteer, but choose a boy.

(Insert child's name here) is going to play the role of Jesus today. To do that, we will give him a crown! Let's look at what the Bible says about Jesus in Philippians 2:6-11. It says, "Although he was in the form of God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this equality." So (insert child's name) is going to demonstrate that he is in Heaven by standing on this table.

Place the child up on the table. Make sure it's stable. Place the crown on his head.

Then Bible says, "Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of a servant by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance."

Guide the volunteer to step down to the chair. Remove the crown from his head.

“He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death...”

Guide him to step down to the stool.

“...death on the cross.”

Guide him to step down to the floor.

“This is why God has given him an exceptional honor—the name above all other names...”

Give the volunteer a star, and guide him to the stool in front of him.

“...so at the name of Jesus, everyone in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will kneel...” That means that on the last day, everyone will recognize what Jesus has done.

Guide him to step up to the chair.

“...and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the Glory of God the Father.”

Guide the volunteer to step up to the table, and replace the crown on his head.

That’s happening in heaven! Jesus is our star, and he’s our King!

Thank the volunteer for his help, and let him sit down.

There are other stars in this room today. They not only know Jesus, but they serve others in the same way.

Today we are honoring our moms. Can I have a mom volunteer?

Note: This should be arranged ahead of time, and this mom should be someone who can easily climb on top of the table.

Before moms become moms, they have the freedom to do whatever they want to do with their time.

Ask mom to stand up on the table.

When they have a child, they spend most of their day feeding the baby and taking care of him.

Guide mom to the chair.

They don't get as much sleep as they used to since babies tend to cry a lot during the night, and babies need to be fed during the night. Moms can become pretty exhausted.

Guide mom to the stool.

And not to mention, moms change messy diapers and clean up baby spit up!! Ewwww!

Guide mom to the floor.

Well, moms have a special honor to God and to us!

Guide mom to the stool in front of her.

We give them a special name – they're called moms. To each of us there is only one mom. We would say our own moms are stars in our lives!

Guide mom to the chair in front of her.

They may not be famous around the world, but they are famous to us!

Guide mom to the table.

We will remember them always. We salute them especially because they show us Jesus' love.

Help mom climb down from the table.

Let's show this mom some special appreciation for her help today and for her special role as a mom!

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Read the book *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch and Sheila McGraw. Published by Firefly Books Ltd., 1986. ISBN: 0920668372. Order from <http://www.robertmunsch.com/books.cfm?bookid=40>

Application:

Option 1: Talk Show

Pre-arrange a panel of three mothers who don't mind being interviewed in front of the children. Questions can be given to the moms ahead of time so they can be prepared. In the following presentation, there is one question for each mom, but depending on time, the same question can be asked to more than one mom.

Arrange three chairs side by side. Set another chair close by for the host.

Hi, everyone! It's great to have all of you here today in our studio audience. We have some very special guests with us today! We have (insert first mom's name), **who is the mother of** (insert appropriate information such as number of children, gender, age category, etc.)!

We have (insert second mom's name) **who is the mother of** (insert appropriate information).

And we have (insert third mom's name) **who is the mother of** (insert appropriate information)!

Let's give them a big round of applause!

Sit in the host's chair.

- 1) (Insert first mom's name), what was one of the hardest things you had to do as an act of service to your child when he/she was under one year old?**
- 2) (Insert second mom's name), what is one of the hardest things about being a mom for you today?**
- 3) (Insert third mom's name), what is one of the greatest rewards of being a mom? Tell us about a time when you felt a great reward as a mom.**

Ask each mom this last question.

Who is your greatest example of a servant? Can you give an example of a time when this person served others?

Let kids ask some questions of the moms. Expect funny results.

After the questions have been answered, turn to the moms.

Thank you, moms, for joining us today and sharing your wonderful stories. We know you are stars to your children. Let's give them a round of applause!

Lead the children in applauding the moms as they exit.

Option 2: Art Project

Supplies needed: large sheet of paper for giant mural, large star that says, "Mom, you're a star. I thank God for you because...", smaller stars in a variety of rainbow colors for every child (one per child), tape, pens or markers

Have the children make a giant mural. The mural will have a poster-sized star that says, "Mom, you're a star. We thank God for you because..." Have the children fill in the blank on their own stars.

Begin activity by saying:

We are going to honor our moms today by making a giant mural with all of the wonderful things that we love about our moms. Think about how you would finish this sentence, "Mom, you're a star. I thank God for you because..."

Now write the rest of your sentence on one of these stars. Please let us know if you need help writing the phrase on your star.

After the children are done, arrange the stars in color sequences to the left of the poster-sized star so it makes a rainbow tail trailing from the poster-sized star. For smaller groups, arrange them randomly or in some other type of pattern around the star.

Place in a central location so the mural is visible for moms to see.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Think about a time when your mom did something really special for you. Can you picture it in your mind? Share with us what your mom did that was really special.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Let each child give thanks for something that he/she appreciates about his/her mom.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Your choice of music.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- several star stickers
- a cross

Learning Game:

- two tables
- two chairs
- two stools that are shorter than the seat of the chairs
- two braces to place under the tables

Or

- two step ladders
- a crown
- large star made from construction paper or a large cardboard star from the store
- a recruited mom who is not uncomfortable climbing up onto a table

Offering:

- large star made from construction paper or a large cardboard star from the store taped to offering basket

Reading:

- book *Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch and Sheila McGraw, published by Firefly Books Ltd., 1986. ISBN: 0920668372—order from <http://www.robertmunsch.com/books.cfm?bookid=40>

Application

Option 1:

- three moms who are recruited beforehand
- four chairs

Option 2:

- large sheet of paper for giant mural
- large star that says “Mom, you’re a star. I thank God for you because...”
- smaller stars in a variety of rainbow colors for every child (one per child)
- tape
- pens or markers

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