



Date: _____
Series: Lookin' for a Leader
Summer Year 3, Lesson 10

Think of Others First

Primary Scripture: Philippians 2:2-5

Key Verse: Philippians 2:4, "Don't be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others."

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

Kids, like adults are by nature self-centered. They need to be taught to consider others' needs as well as their own. Even non-believers can be taught to be considerate of others. However, believers have a greater resource and a greater capacity to serve others. This comes from the fact that Jesus first served them. Consider how Jesus served. First he served his Father and obediently went to the cross. Second, he served others because he gave his life for them. Third, he considered his own needs. Today's lesson will show the kids that we can have the same attitude of service: God first, others second and self third. Kids will learn a phrase, "I am third," as an expression of their mindset of service.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus was obedient to the Father, even to the point of death on the cross.

Jesus in us: Jesus' presence in our life gives us the same power to serve the Father by considering first the needs of others.

Jesus through us: We can have an attitude of love by serving others so that through our actions, they may experience Christ.

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: three award ribbons marked first, second, and third (These can be made or use the attached appendix. Old trophies could even be brought from home to provide visual aids.)

Show kids the first, second and third place awards. Then say:

Here I have awards for first, second and third place. If you were to choose any of these awards, which award would you choose? First, second or third?

First? I suppose most of us would choose first. But today, I challenge you to *not* be first or second... but to be *third*! We are *not* having a race. We are *not* having a contest. What we are thinking of is this: who is the most important for me to serve first? Is it I? If I had the first-place ribbon, I would say to myself, "I am the most important in the world. I should serve me first, because I am number one."

Is this the way Jesus would want us to think? No. Jesus said the most important person to serve is God the Father. That is what Jesus did when he lived as a man here on earth. He served God. So, the first place award goes to the most important one—God. We serve him first.

Who is the next most important? Is it us? Not yet. We want to think of the needs of *others* before we think of our own needs. We do this when we care for other people; when we show kindness to them... share with them... or help them anyway we can.

Hold up the third place ribbon.

Now third...that's us! We can say, "I am third. First—God. Second—other. Third—me! I am third. My needs are still important because I am important. But I am not the most important one in the universe. "

Worship Keeps God #1

When we worship today, let's remember that we want to pin that blue ribbon (or first place ribbon) on God saying, "You are first place in my life. You are most important because you are the God who made everything, the God who gave us his Son, Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit who is with us, especially as we worship here today."

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.

Let me read you Jesus' third place trophy. This is how Jesus served God first. He did what the Father wanted by going to the cross and dying for our sins. Then he served us second, by taking our sin on himself. As a result of this, Jesus, who is also God, deserves all praise and honor.

Read Philippians 2:6-11.

"Although he was in the form of God and equal with God, he did not take advantage of this equality. Instead, he emptied himself by taking on the form of servant, by becoming like other humans, by having a human appearance. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, death on the cross. This is why God has given him an exceptional honor—the name honored above all other names—so that at the name of Jesus everyone in heaven, on earth, and in the world

below will kneel and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”

Let's pray to him now.

Dear Jesus, we thank you for serving the Father by giving your life for us to take away our sin. Thank you for considering our needs higher than your own. Please take away our sin and fill us from within. Give us your presence that we, too, would be able to say, “God is number one, others second, and I am third.” In your 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.

Place the first and second ribbons in the offering plate and say:

When we give our offerings to God, it is a way of saying, “God, you are number one in our lives.” It is also a way of helping others because this money goes to help 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.

“Balloon Bash”

Supplies: inflated balloon for each child, tape or string to tie balloon to the child’s ankle

To prepare for the game, attach an inflated balloon to each child’s ankle with string or tape.

Now set the kids in a defined area with boundary lines and let them try and stomp on other kids’ balloons. If their balloon is stomped on and popped, then they are to leave the playing field and watch as others compete. It will finally come down to one person left. Afterwards discuss:

Did any of you like running around and popping other people’s balloons? Why or why not? *(It was fun. It was loud, noisy. I like to win.)*

The goal of this game was to pop other people’s balloons. So you did a great job. But did anyone feel a little disappointed when their balloon was popped and they had to sit out?

Sometimes we don’t like it when someone pops our balloon and we have to leave the game. How is this game sometimes like life, especially when you want to win so badly you may hurt other people?

We understand that it wasn’t anyone’s intention to hurt someone’s feelings here in this game, but have you ever noticed that some people want things so badly they don’t care whom they hurt to get it? All they can think about is getting what they want. It is called self-centeredness or selfishness. This can be deep inside any one of us. But God wants to turn our selfishness inside out. Today we are going to learn that God is first, others are second and I am third.

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.

I'm going to read the Bible and then we will watch a video. Afterwards, I'll ask how the movie showed today's theme from the Bible—that we are not to worry about our own interests but to be concerned about the interests of others.

Read Philippians 2:2-5. *Option: Have a child help you by reading the underlined words below.*

“Then fill me with joy by having the same attitude, the same love, living in harmony and keeping one purpose in mind. Don't act out of selfish ambition or be conceited. Instead, humbly think of others as being better than yourself. Don't be concerned only about your own interests, but also be concerned about the interests of others.”

Application:

Watch the video, *King George and the Ducky*, produced by Veggie Tales Inc., 2000. Review with the following questions:

What was the huge mistake King George made? *(He put himself before others.)*

What happens when we are selfish? *(We hurt others to get our own way.)*

Where should we place ourselves in order of importance... first, second or third? *(Third.)*

Option 2: Kids can make third place ribbons as a conversation starter as they wear them home. They can share the message with those who ask.

Make the award from paper or ribbon. Be innovative with your own designs



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.

Have kids talk about a time they thought about someone else before themselves or helped someone else.

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.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to briefly speak their prayers.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

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.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- three award ribbons, marked first, second, and third (These can be made or use the attached appendix. Old trophies could even be brought from home to provide visual aid.)

Offering:

- first and second place ribbons
- offering plate

Learning Game:

- inflated and tied off balloon for each child
- tape or string to tie balloon to the child's ankle

Application:

- video, *King George and the Ducky*, produced by Veggie Tales Inc., 2000
- Option: paper, ribbon, stickers, etc. to make a third place ribbon

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