BREAKFAST WITH JESUS

SERVICE

Service is helping others.

References

Memory Verse
“[Jesus said,] ‘You should do as I have done for you’” (John 13:15, NIV).

Objectives
The children will:
Know that Jesus likes to help people.
Feel happy that Jesus cares for them.
Respond by helping others as Jesus did.

The Message

We help others because we want to be like Jesus.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance
Some of Jesus’ disciples have been fishing all night, but they haven’t caught any fish. Early in the morning they see a man on the shore. He tells them to try fishing on the right side of the boat. When they do, their nets become full! They pull the nets into the boat. Suddenly they realize it’s Jesus. When they get to shore, Jesus has fixed breakfast for them.

This is a lesson about service. Jesus did two things for His disciples, one great, the other humble: (1) He helped them catch fish, their main source of income and food; (2) He fixed breakfast and served it to them. We can serve others by helping them. When we help others, we are being like Jesus.
Teacher Enrichment

“They recalled the scene beside the sea when Jesus had bidden them follow Him. They remembered how, at His command, they had launched out into the deep, and had let down their net, and the catch had been so abundant as to fill the net, even to breaking. . . . It was to bring this scene to their minds, and to deepen its impression, that He had again performed the miracle. His act was a renewal of the commission to the disciples. . . . While they were doing His work, He would provide for their needs. . . . Jesus had a purpose in bidding them cast their net on the right side of the ship. On that side He stood upon the shore. That was the side of faith. If they labored in connection with Him—His divine power combining with their human effort—they could not fail of success” (The Desire of Ages, pp. 810, 811).

In what areas of your life and/or your service have you been aware of success when you combined your human effort with God’s divine power?

Room Decorations

See Lessons 1 and 2.
Teaching the Lesson

Welcome
Welcome children by name at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they’re pleased/troubled about. Ask them about last week’s sharing project.

1

Readiness Activities
Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Musical Newspapers
Have each child stand on a sheet of newspaper. Explain that you are going to play a game. No one goes out of the game, because more than one person can stand on the same piece of newspaper. When the music starts, the children are to move from one piece of paper to another. Start the music and remove some sheets of paper. When the music stops, the children are to stand on a piece of newspaper, but more than one child can stand on a paper. Repeat until all the children are standing on one or two sheets of newspaper.


Debriefing
Allow response time as you ask: What did you think when you didn’t find a piece of paper to stand on by yourself? What happened then? How did you feel when someone invited you to stand with him or her? Why did someone invite you to stand with them? Some of you were helping others get on the newspapers. You were being like Jesus, because Jesus likes to help people. And that’s our message for today:

We help others because we want to be like Jesus.

Say that with me.
B. Mirror Game

Ask the children to find a friend and stand facing each other. One of them will do something, and the other will copy it. Or you could have them all sitting in a circle, and a teacher or one of the children does something and the others copy it. Example: touch your ears, move your hands, hug yourself.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: What did we do in this game? How did you feel when you could do the same things that your friends did? How do you feel when you can do the same things your friend Jesus does? Do you want to be like your friend Jesus? Then you will help others, because Jesus loved helping people. That’s what today’s message is about.

We help others because we want to be like Jesus.

Say that with me.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

Fellowship

Welcome all of the children, particularly visitors. Celebrate birthdays and make announcements. Review the memory verse taught last week.

Suggested Songs

“I Like to Help My Mother” (Little Voices Praise Him, no. 291). Note: Add verses for father, teacher, grandma, grandpa, etc.

“I Can Help” (Little Voices Praise Him, no. 289)

“Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam” (Little Voices Praise Him, no. 202)

“I Will Be a Helper” (Little Voices Praise Him, no. 290)

“I’m a Little Helper” (Little Voices Praise Him, no. 293)

Mission

Use a story from Children’s Mission.

After the story, say: How did people serve Jesus in our story today?

Offering

Say: We help Jesus when we bring our offerings to Sabbath School.

Prayer

Invite helping people (deacon, elder, teachers, pianist) to visit your group today. Ask the children to pray for them and to thank Jesus for their help.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.
Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Seat the children near the seashore scene or show pictures of such a scene to begin the activity.

Use plastic fish or cut newspaper sheets into the shape of a fish. You can make a net out of onion bags, a big trash bag with holes in it, a hammock, or a net.

Before the story begins, have a helper put the toy or paper fish in a net placed on the opposite side of the boat from which you will pretend to be throwing, and cover it with a sheet that represents the sea water. Prompt the children as you read the story.

Read or tell the story.

The sun had gone down. The stars were twinkling in the sky. Let’s make them twinkle with our fingers. [Make the motion.] Some of Jesus’ disciples were walking by the Sea of Galilee. [Walk, move around the room.] Peter suggested that they go fishing, so they all got into a boat. Let’s get into our boat. [Children come up and sit in the boat.]

When they had rowed far enough from shore, they started fishing. They fished with nets. Everyone helped, because nets are very heavy. Let’s throw out our nets. [Make motions.] Once their nets were in the water they had to wait for the fish to swim in, so they may have talked about the good times they had had with Jesus. Once in a while they checked the nets. Let’s check ours. [Motion as if lifting the nets.] No, no fish. So they kept talking and waiting. Let’s check again. [Motion as if lifting the nets.] No, no fish! This was so disappointing!

A little light began to show in the sky. They had worked all night and they were tired. The sun was coming up. It was time to go home. So the disciples pulled the empty nets in. Let’s do that. [Motion as if lifting nets.] Wet nets are heavy! Just before they started to row back to shore, someone appeared on the shore and shouted, “Did you catch any fish?” “No,” they answered. [Children shake their heads.]

Then the man said, “Throw the net into the water again on the right side of the boat.” They were very tired, and they were discouraged. Their wet nets were heavy, and they hadn’t caught anything all night long. However, they decided to do as the man suggested and try one more time. [Make motion of throwing the net over the other side of the boat.] Oh! Surprise! [Discover the fish under the cover.] The net was full of fish!

Suddenly John recognized the man. “Look! It’s Jesus!” Peter was so happy that he jumped into the water and hurried to the shore. He wanted to be near Jesus. The other disciples had to pull in the net with all those fish. Shall we help them? [Move all the fish from the “net” into the “boat.”] After getting all the fish in the boat, they rowed to shore. [Children make motions as if rowing.] They were very happy to see Jesus! And they were happy that Jesus had helped them.

I’m sure the disciples said thank You to Jesus, aren’t you? Let’s get out of the boat and say thank You to Jesus. [Have the children get out of the “boat” and pray a “thank You” prayer.]

Jesus had another surprise for His friends. He had made breakfast for them. Wasn’t that nice of Jesus? They had a wonderful picnic breakfast with Jesus. When we go to heaven, we can have a picnic with Jesus too.

You Need:

- yarn
- tape
- a boat or sheet or boat shape outlined on the floor with masking tape
- paper or toy fish
- large net
- blue fabric or sheet to represent the sea
Debriefing

Say: Jesus did two special things for His disciples in today’s story. One was big and didn’t happen every day. The other was a simple, everyday activity. Can you tell me what the big thing was? (He helped them catch fish.) Why was that important? (It helped them get money they would need while they were telling others about Jesus.) What was the thing that was a simple, everyday activity? (He cooked breakfast for them.) How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus helped them catch fish? When He fixed breakfast for them? How do you feel when somebody helps you? How do you feel when you can help a friend, Mother, little brother, or sister? Remember:

We help others because we want to be like Jesus.

Say that with me.

Jesus helped His friends in extraordinary ways and in simple ways. But both were ways that really mattered. We also can help others in different ways. Remember:

We help others because we want to be like Jesus.

Bible Study

Open your Bible to John 21:1–14. Show the verses to the children and say: This is where today’s story is found in God’s Word, the Bible. Read selected verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary. Point to each verse as you read it.

Debriefing

Ask: Who wanted to go fishing? (Peter) Who went with him? (some other disciples) What did they catch? (nothing) Who told them to fish on the right side of the boat? (Jesus) What happened? (They caught a lot of fish.) Who fixed breakfast? (Jesus) Would you like to have breakfast with Jesus? When will we do that? (when we go to heaven)

Memory Verse

Open your Bible to John 13:15 and say: This is where we find today’s memory verse in God’s Word, the Bible. Point to each word as you read the verse aloud: “[Jesus said,] ’You should do as I have done for you.’”

Say: I want to be like Jesus. Do you want to be like Him too? Jesus was kind to His friends. Jesus helped His friends catch fish, and He fixed breakfast for them. If we want to be like Him, we will do kind things too. Let’s say our memory verse together:

”[Jesus said,] ’You should do as I have done for you.’”

Form two groups. Have the children stand with one group facing the other. Teach the verse as a simple choral reading:

Teacher: “[Jesus said,]

First group: ’You should do

Second group: as I have done

Together: for you.’”

John 13:15

Exchange parts and repeat as necessary until the children know the verse.
3 Applying the Lesson

A. Role Play

Allow response time as you say: Jesus did things for His friends to show them that God loves them. How can we show people that God loves them? (We can help them.) Can we show others right here that we want to be like Jesus? How can we do it? Can you help clean our room? Can you help straighten the chairs? (Have children help put the room in order.) Good, I’m proud of you. You certainly can help! Is there any other way you can help in church? (Pick up papers, be quiet, share pencils and books with other children, etc.) Can you think of some ways you can help at home? Role-play how children can respond when they are asked to do a household job. If Mother asks you to pick up your toys, what will you do? Why will you do it? (Because I want to help, as Jesus did.)

Have a box or bag full of common household objects and toys. Have each of the children take one thing and say how he or she can help others with that object. (For example: a ball—“I can play ball with my little brother,” or “I can put it away,” or “I can play by myself so Mother has time to do other things.”)

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: Who were we helping when we put our room in order? How did you feel when you were helping? How do you feel when you help others at home? How do you feel when you help your friends during play time? Remember:

We help others because we want to be like Jesus.

Let’s say that together. (Repeat.)

B. We Can Help

Fill the container with pretend fish (blocks, pieces of wood, rocks, etc.) so it’s too heavy for one child to hold and move. Say: Being kind to each other means to help each other. We’ll try to remember that with this little game. I have a container full of things. Who will come and carry it to the other side of the room? Have a child try to lift and carry it to the other side of the room by himself or herself. Let several children try. Next, have two children carry it, each one of them taking one handle. Isn’t it easier when someone helps us? Have the children take turns carrying the container. When they get to the other side of the room, have them repeat the memory verse.

Say: Being kind to each other means more than helping to carry something heavy. Can you think of some other things that you can do to help others at home or at church?
Sharing the Lesson

A Gift for You

Distribute art supplies and copies of the gift certificate on page 140. Have the children decorate the certificates. When they are finished, help them put the certificate in a sealable plastic bag. Also put a piece of fruit (apples or oranges make a good choice, since they do not squash easily) in a gift bag or paper bag along with the certificate. Encourage the children to give their bag to a person of their choice, such as a visitor in church today, a neighbor who doesn’t attend church, another child, an elderly person, etc.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

To whom will you give your gift?
When is a good time to give it to them? How do you think they will feel when you give it to them? How will you feel? In what other ways can you show kindness to others this week? Why do we want to help others? Let’s remember:

We help others because we want to be like Jesus.

Say it with me.

Closing

Sing “Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam” (Little Voices Praise Him, no. 202). Then close with prayer, asking Jesus to guide the children as they try to be helpful to others this week.
LESSON 4

STUDENT LESSON

Breakfast With Jesus

Do you like surprises? A present? To go someplace special with your family? A sweet treat? Everyone likes surprises! In our story today Jesus gave His disciples two surprises!

References
John 21:1–14; The Desire of Ages, pp. 809–817

Memory Verse
“[Jesus said,] ’You should do as I have done for you’” (John 13:15, NIV).

The Message
We help others because we want to be like Jesus.

Stars twinkled in the cool night sky. The little waves made splashing sounds on the sand. Some of the disciples walked beside the Sea of Galilee. Peter said to his friends, “Let’s go fishing tonight!”

The other disciples agreed. Soon the men were out in a fishing boat again. It was fun to talk together about Jesus’ stories and miracles. It made the time go quickly. But the fish weren’t swimming into their nets. All night long the men kept talking and trying to catch fish.

A little morning light began to show in the sky, and they still didn’t have any fish! They were tired and hungry. So they decided to quit trying and go to shore.

As they neared the shore a man called out to them. “Have you caught any fish?”

“No, not one,” they shouted back.

Then the man said, “Try again. Throw your nets on the right side of the boat!”

Something about that man made them want to try again. So they did as He suggested. And before they knew what was happening, the net filled up with fish!

Suddenly John recognized the man on the shore. He said to Peter, “Look! It’s Jesus!” Peter was so happy! He didn’t even care about all those fish now! He jumped into the water and hurried to the shore. He wanted to be near Jesus.

Pulling in the full nets was hard work. The men pulled and tugged until the full nets were on the shore. So many fish!

Jesus smiled as He watched His friends. It was fun to surprise them!

Jesus had another surprise for the disciples. A nice warm breakfast! He knew they would be tired and hungry after fishing all night. “Come and have breakfast,” He invited. And they talked and laughed while they ate breakfast together.

Jesus did a big thing when He filled the disciples’ nets full of fish. And He did a little thing when He made breakfast for them. It doesn’t matter if you help in a big way or in a little way. Jesus wants you to watch for ways that you can help others. When you serve others, you are being like Jesus. What will you do to help someone today?
Sabbath
If possible, take your child to a place
where people are fishing and read the lesson
story. Talk about the way people fish today.
Review the memory verse. Thank Jesus for
the breakfast you had this morning.

Sunday
Review the lesson story. Make a chart
that lists things your child can do to help
at home. When he or she helps, help your
child draw a happy face on the chart.
Remember to thank your child.

Monday
Retell the Bible story. Make a pretend
boat. Half-fill a plastic bottle with water
and drop in beans or other dry items. Put
the lid on, turn it sideways, and watch
the “fish” swim. Open the lid and use
a strainer to “catch” the fish. Thank
Jesus for water.

Tuesday
For worship, read the Bible story from John 21:1–
14. Ask: Who was happy to see Jesus? What did Jesus
do to help His disciple friends? Let your child plan to-
morrow’s breakfast for your family. Sing a helping song
together before prayer.

Wednesday
Let your child help prepare the breakfast you
planned together yesterday. Sing a helping song as
you work. Have him or her thank Jesus for the food
before you eat. Share the cleaning-up chores after
breakfast.

Thursday
Help your child make
an edible boat,* using
one half of a piece of fruit
(apple, orange, or banana).
Use other food for the mast
(carrot stick, celery stick, etc.)
and the sail (bread
triangle, piece of
cheese, leafy veg-
etable). Have the
“boat” for lunch.

Friday
During family worship, review Sunday’s “good
helper” chart. Talk about the different ways your child
was helpful during the week. Ask your child: “Why
were you so helpful this week?”
If appropriate, help your child make edible boats
for your family.

*Adapted from Preschool Craft-Play (Loveland, Colo.: Group