

# I WANNA BE LIKE JESUS

## LESSON 1: GOD'S HELPER

*In this lesson, the children will learn that they can be like Jesus when they help and serve others.*

### TOPICS

Caring, Helping, Kindness, Knowing Jesus, Serving

### AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Place several old magazines on the table. As the children arrive, have them look through the magazines and find people or things that help others. Examples can be doctors, teachers, cars, cleaning supplies, tools, furniture, etc. Let the children decide and explain how what they found helps others. Then, let them cut out the pictures or tear out the pages, and tape them to the wall.

### WORSHIP TIME (5 minutes)

#### BIBLE VERSE (5 minutes)

**"Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children" Ephesians 5:1 NLT**

We can praise and worship God because of who He is, and because of all the wonderful things He does. Discuss with the children what God does that we should also do as they begin to memorize this verse.

#### BIBLE STORY (15 minutes)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the story about Jesus washing His disciples' feet right from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand. Use different voices if possible, for Jesus and Simon Peter.

#### Introduction:

One day, our Lord Jesus met with His disciples for a nice evening meal. It was just before the Passover feast, which was celebrated all throughout Israel. Jesus knew He wasn't going to be alive much longer and wanted to teach His disciples as much as He could. He was about to eat, but then suddenly stopped to do something very important. He wanted to teach His disciples what it means to help and serve others. Let's read the rest of the story right from the Bible and find out what Jesus did.

#### Read John 13:1, 4-17 (Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet)

#### Discussion Questions:

1. What did Jesus do for His disciples? (*Washed their feet.*)
2. At first, did Peter want Jesus to wash his feet? (*No.*)
3. If you were at the same table with Jesus, would you want Him to wash your feet? Why or why not? (*Allow for answers.*)
4. Did Jesus show His disciples what it means to serve and help others? (*Yes.*)
5. Is helping someone something we have to do, or something we should want to do? (*Want to*

do.)

6. What are some other ways we can serve and help others, besides washing someone's feet? (Allow for answers.)

### **FUN TIME (15 minutes)**

#### **The Helping Tour (Activity)**

### **ALTERNATE FUN TIME (7 minutes)**

#### **Who is God's Helper? (Activity)**

### **PRAYER/SNACK (10 minutes)**

For today's snack, bring in several different types of cookies. Ask a few of the kids to help serve by making sure everyone has one of each type of cookie. Another child can pass out drinking cups, and another pour the juice or water. If possible, find some way that each child can help serve. After giving thanks, talk about the different ways Jesus helped the people He met.

### **CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 minutes)**

Have all the children gather around in a large circle. Pick one child to be *Jesus' helper*, and tell everyone else to do exactly what the *helper* does. For example, the *helper* may hop on one foot, clap hands, make funny faces, etc. The other children should try to match the *helper* the best they can. After a few moments, pick another *helper*, and continue as needed until all the children are picked up.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **STORY TELLING TIPS**

*Story telling is an old age art that most any one can do. To become a really good storyteller takes practice. These tips will help you become a better storyteller.*

When my child was a preschooler, she loved going to the library with me for story time. She sat quietly and listened to the storyteller as if she were one of the characters in the book the storyteller read. The children giggled, covered their eyes, and yelled in unison. They were excited about the story. Until my daughter attended story time, I did not realize how storytelling could be such a powerful medium to communicate with children. A great story can give a child a realistic picture right from his or her own imagination that lasts forever.

Storytelling can be done effectively through a range of visual and vocal emotions. You don't need to be highly experienced. You only need to read, use your imagination, and make funny, loud, or silly noises. Add some arm movements and face contortions and anyone can be a storytelling star.

The key is to really get into the story yourself as if you were hearing it for the first time as a small child. If you are really adventurous, not minding the adults that may be accompanying their children, you can even dance around the room in a animated fashion.

Children love to interact with the story, so whenever possible, ask the children to take part in the storytelling. For example, children can make rain noises, or they can guess which animals oink and quack.



Change your voice's reflection - loud at times and soft at others, use different voices for different characters.

Storytelling is a great way to teach the children about Jesus without spending a lot of money on supplies or materials. Kid's Sunday School Place has many stories available for usage—all you need is yourself and your commitment to be silly in the name of the Lord.

**Other items you can use for a great story time:**

Faces of main characters or pictures of objects in the story can be drawn on paper and attached to wooden rulers. Display these props at the appropriate time while telling the story. For example, when you tell the story of Noah, use a paper face for Noah, Mrs. Noah, and an animal or two. These visuals will help keep the children's attention.

Bring a twin size blanket or comforter to place on the floor for the children to sit on. This will make them comfortable and feel like they are in a special setting.

## **IDEAS FOR MEMORIZING VERSES**

- **MISSING WORDS**

Read the verse together several times, then write the verse on the board. Say the verse together as a class, erase a word or two and say the verse again. Continue in this manner until the words are all erased.

- **BIBLE VERSE HANGMAN**

With short verses play the "hangman" game. After one of the kids is able to say the verse correctly, have everyone look it up in their own Bibles.

- **READ, MEMORIZE, AND DISCUSS**

Have the kids find the verse in their Bibles and read it several times out loud. Have them close their eyes and try to say the verse again. Discuss the meaning of this verse with the children.

- **SCRAMBLED**

Give each child a slip of paper with the verse scrambled. Have the kids unscramble the verse and rewrite it the correct way. Treats can be given to all who get it right.