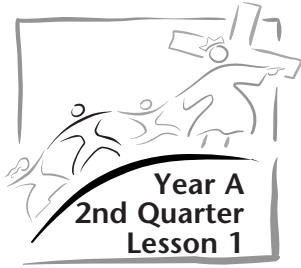


LESSON



The “You First” Way

SERVICE Service is helping others.

References

Mark 9:33–35; 10:35–39, 41, 43–45; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 435–437, 548–551.

Memory Verse

“[Jesus said,] ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last’ ” (Mark 9:35, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that Jesus came to love and serve others.

Feel willing to put others first.

Respond by deciding one way in which they will put others first this week.

The Message



We serve others when we let them go first.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Many people believe that Jesus will become the king of the land. The disciples argue among themselves about who will be first in Jesus’ kingdom. James and John ask to sit on either side of Jesus when He establishes His kingdom. This makes the other disciples angry. Jesus calls the disciples together and says, “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant” (Mark 10:43, NIV).

This is a lesson about service.

Jesus came to serve others. By following His example we learn to be servants

also. When we help others, we are serving them—and Him.

Teacher Enrichment

“Before honor is humility. To fill a high place before men, Heaven chooses the worker who . . . takes a lowly place before God. The most childlike disciple is the most efficient in labor for God. The heavenly intelligences can cooperate with him who is seeking, not to exalt self, but to save souls” (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 436).

Room Decorations

For this quarter make a New Testament

ONE

| Program Outline | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|---|---|
| LESSON SECTION | MINUTES | ACTIVITIES | MATERIALS NEEDED |
| Welcome | ongoing | Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled | none |
| 1 Readiness Options | up to 10 | <i>A. Surprise!</i> <i>B. Me First, You First</i> <i>C. Follow the Leader</i> | slips of paper, container (basket, box, or bag), pen, everyday household item (see activity) for every child and adult in your class, two toys, gift-wrapping materials. In advance: Prepare a brightly wrapped "gift" for each child and adult. two colors of paper; scissors, tape, or glue; pen or markers; toys. In advance: Make two finger puppets per child. See activity for directions. none |
| * Prayer and Praise* | up to 10 | See page 16. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program. | |
| 2 Bible Lesson | up to 20 | Experiencing the Story | none |
| | | Bible Study | Bible |
| | | Memory Verse | Bible |
| 3 Applying the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Happy Face, Sad Face</i> | two paper plates or round pieces of paper per child; glue, tape, or stapler; art supplies; craft sticks (optional) |
| 4 Sharing the Lesson | up to 15 | <i>Share a Toy</i> | heavy paper or lightweight cardboard (white or buff), string or yarn, art supplies, a pen or hole punch. In advance, prepare a circular disk for each child (see activity). |

village.

Hillside: On one wall, create a hillside. Pile boxes, chairs, or other objects and throw a green or brown blanket or sheet over them. Or draw a mural.

Well: Make a cardboard well in the corner. Paint or draw lines on the cardboard and color it to look like stone.

Town: Make several "building fronts" of flat-topped houses.

Boat: On the floor, make the outline of a

boat large enough for all the children to sit in. Or use a real boat.

Fishing nets: Hang netting in one corner and attach shells (or drawings of them), strips of green garbage bags (as seaweed), cutouts of fish, etc.

Fire: Place wood and some crumpled orange, red, and yellow paper in the center as a fire. Colored cellophane with a flashlight underneath can also be used.

Turn chairs to the hillside scene.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome each child by name as they come in the door. Ask them to share the best thing and the worst thing about their week. Follow up on last week's sharing activity.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Surprise!

In advance: Prepare a brightly wrapped "gift" for each child and adult in your class.

(Make most of the "gifts" everyday household things, such as spoons, dishcloth, can of soup, a carrot, buttons, shoelaces, bar of soap, etc. Add one or two small items that would be of special interest to children.) Wrap each item in brightly colored papers, using boxes of different sizes, with the largest and most beautifully wrapped parcels containing items that would be of little interest to children, and the smallest, plainest packages having the toys/child-friendly items. Write each child's and adult's name on a separate slip of paper and put them all in a container.

Pile all of the "gifts" in the center of the room. Have the children sit in a circle around them. Let the first name you say be one of the adults. Plan in advance for the adult to turn to the child next to him or her and say, "You go first." Pull out the names one at a time, and let each child and adult choose a package to unwrap. (Watch to see who goes for the biggest and prettiest packages.)

You Need:

- ☐ slips of paper
- ☐ container (basket, box, or bag)
- ☐ a pen
- ☐ everyday household item for each child and adult
- ☐ two toys
- ☐ gift-wrap-ping materials

Debriefing

Ask the first child: **What was it like to go first?**

Ask the children who chose the biggest, prettiest packages: **What was in your package? Were you surprised? Why? Why not? It's nice to be first sometimes, but it's also good to let others be first. Jesus showed us how to put others first. When we put others first, it means sharing our toys, helping people, and not pushing or shoving in line. In our Bible story today we will learn about putting others first. Here is something we all want to remember:**



We serve others when we let them go first.

Say that with me.

B. Me First, You First

In advance: Make a boy or girl finger puppet for each child and adult in your class. Cut paper into small rectangles about 1½" x 1" (3.8 centimeters x 2.5 centimeters). Use two different colors of paper or two different colors of ink to distinguish boy and girl puppets. On the center of each slip of paper draw a simple face. With a small piece of tape make a cone-shaped finger puppet.

As the following is read, let the children act it out with their finger puppets. Ask the adult helpers to help model the finger actions for the children. Repeat the finger play two or three times.

Me First, You First

Bobby and his sister
were playing in their yard.
They had a "me first" problem,
and sharing was so hard.

So Mommy had to teach them
a better way that day.
She said, "We'll start a new thing;
let's try the '**you first**' way."

To the park they went to play,
with only one long slide.
Bobby said, "**You go first**;
I'll find a place to hide."

Suzie played, and then called out,
"Your turn now; I'm done."
But Bobby was now swinging
and having lots of fun.

Suzie said, "I'd like to swing,
but **you first**; I'll just wait.
This new game of Mommy's
is working out just great!"

And when the day was over,
They closed their eyes to pray.
With Mommy, they thanked Jesus;
they'd learned the "**you first**" way.

You Need:

- ☐ two colors of paper
- ☐ scissors, tape, or glue
- ☐ pen or markers
- ☐ toys

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do you feel when someone lets you play with a toy first? When someone lets you choose what game to play? When someone lets you sit in a special chair?**

We like it when someone lets us be first. We can help others feel good when we let them go first. This is the "you first" way. Jesus started the "you first" way. We try the "you first" way when we share our toys, when we are kind to others, and when we let them go first at the playground. Think about this:



We serve others when we let them go first.

Say that with me.

Sing the "Sharing Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 279). ("I have two dollies and I am glad . . .") Sing it, naming the toys from the Sabbath School toy box.

C. Follow the Leader

Say: **Let's play Follow the Leader! Make a line in front of me and do what I do.** March around the classroom, over, under, and around things, moving your arms, patting your head, stomach, etc. After a few minutes stop. **Let's go backward!** Go on for about 30 seconds. **Let's try a new way. Everyone turn around and face the other way! The last person in line is now the leader.** Resume the game. **Every time I clap my hands, the person who is the leader comes to the back of the line and the next person leads.** Continue until each child has had a chance to lead. (Large class, form several lines.)

Debriefing

Ask: **How did it feel to be first in line? How did it feel to be last? Can you be first all the time? Why not? How is putting others first being like Jesus?** (Jesus put others first. He didn't push or shove in line; He shared. He took turns.) **Today, we will learn what Jesus said about being first. Think about this:**



We serve others when we let them go first.

Say that with me.



NOTE: Prayer and Praise appears on page 16.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

To make the story interactive, have the children participate as noted below. Practice before beginning the story.

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| When they hear: | they do or say: |
| first | hold up one finger |
| disciples | "Me first!" |
| Jesus | "Others first!" |

Read or tell the story.

Everywhere **Jesus** ["Others first!"] went people were excited to see Him. He was very popular with the people. The **disciples** ["Me First!"] were sure that soon **Jesus** ["Others first!"] would make

Himself king. They thought that when He did, He would give them all important jobs to help Him rule His kingdom.

One day **Jesus** ["Others first!"] and His **disciples** ["Me first!"] were walking together. Walking took a long time, so they spent the time talking to each other. The **disciples** ["Me first!"] were talking about how things would be when **Jesus** ["Others first!"] was king. All of them wanted to be **Jesus'** ["Others first!"] most important helper. They wanted the position so much that they started arguing about it.

One of them probably said, "I spend more time helping **Jesus** ["Others first!"]

than anyone else. I should be **first!**" [*Hold up one finger.*]

"That's just because it takes you longer than anyone else to finish a job," another may have responded. "I'm the one who's best at getting things done. I should be **first!**" [*Hold up one finger.*]

"Then why does He ask me when He has something special that needs to be done?" a third probably asked. "I'm really His best helper, and I should be **first!**" [*Hold up one finger.*]

The **disciples** [*"Me first!"*] kept arguing like this all afternoon.

Not long after that two of Jesus' **disciples** [*"Me first!"*], James and John, decided to ask **Jesus** [*"Others first!"*] for the two most important jobs in His kingdom before He promised them to someone else. They wanted special jobs with seats right next to **Jesus** [*"Others first!"*] when He became king. They quietly went to **Jesus** [*"Others first!"*] and asked.

The other **disciples** [*"Me first!"*] overheard what they were saying to **Jesus** [*"Others first!"*], and it made them very angry.

Jesus [*"Others first!"*] wanted His **disciples** [*"Me first!"*] to understand how His kingdom really worked. "Listen to Me," He said. "I want to explain something about My kingdom to you. In My kingdom if you want to be **first** [*hold up one finger*], you have to serve others. If you want to be **first** [*hold up one finger*], you have to act last. People who help others and put them **first** [*hold up one finger*] will actually be **first** [*hold up one finger*] themselves."

Jesus [*"Others first!"*] put others **first**. [*Hold up one finger.*] He was loving, kind, and helpful. We can be like **Jesus** [*"Others first!"*]. We can be **first** [*hold up one finger*] in His way by helping people and putting them **first**. [*Hold up one finger.*] We too can be kind and loving.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do you feel when someone always wants to be first? How do you feel when someone lets you go first? What is Jesus' way of being first?** (He put others first.) **When can we put others first? How can we put others first?**

Bible Study

Open your Bible to Mark 9 and 10. Point to Mark 9:33-35 and Mark 10:35-39, 41, 43-45. Say: **This is where today's story is found in God's Word, the Bible.** Point to each verse as you read it aloud, paraphrasing as necessary. Ask: **Who wanted to be first? How can you be first with Jesus? Why? Remember our message for today:**



We serve others when we let them go first.

Say that with me.

Memory Verse

Open your Bible to Mark 9:35 and point to the verse. Say: **This is where we find today's memory verse in God's Word, the Bible.** Point to each word as you read the text aloud. Use the following motions as you teach the memory verse.

"[Jesus . . . said,] Point upward.



'Anyone who Spread arms open wide.



wants to be first Hold up index finger.



must be the very last.' Hold up little finger.



Mark 9:35 Put palms together, then open.



You Need:

☐ Bible

You Need:

☐ Bible

PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

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

Suggested Songs

"I'll Take Turns" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 276)

"Share With You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 277)

"Sharing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 278)

"Sharing Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 279)

"I Can Help" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 289)

"I'm a Little Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 293)

"We Are Little Helpers" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 296)

Mission

Say before story: **Let's see how people serve Jesus in our mission story today.** Ask after story: **How did people serve Jesus in our story today?**

Offering

Say: **We can put others first by bringing our offerings to Sabbath School.**

Prayer

Stand in a circle and pray together, "Jesus, help me to be kind to others." As a group repeat the prayer, substituting each child's name (help Gary, etc.), asking Jesus to help them.

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

3

Applying the Lesson**Happy Face, Sad Face**

Give each child two paper plates or round pieces of paper. Instruct them to draw a happy face on one plate and a sad face on the other. Glue, staple, or tape the faces back-to-back and insert a craft stick “handle,” or leave space unglued so the children can insert their hands to hold up the faces.

Say: **Show me your happy face! Show me your sad face! As I read, show me how you feel by holding up your happy or sad face.**

1. You’re playing and someone takes your toy.
2. Your friend shares a fruit with you.
3. Big kids are playing on the slide and they won’t let you play.
4. You are running to get some ice cream and someone pushes you.
5. Mom lets you choose the first dessert.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **How do you feel when someone always has to be first? When people push or shove you? How do you feel when people are kind and share? Today we learned what Jesus said about being first. How can you be like Jesus?** (Put others first.) **How can you put others first?** (Don’t push or shove in line; share; take turns; let others go first.) **Remember:**



We serve others when we let them go first.

You Need:

- ☐ two paper plates or round pieces of paper per child
- ☐ glue or tape or stapler
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ craft sticks (optional)

4

Sharing the Lesson**Share a Toy**

In advance, prepare for each child: a circular disk four to six inches in diameter of white or buff heavy paper such as cut-up file folders, etc. Glue white paper to each side of the disk if necessary. Punch two holes in the center, like button holes. Have the children decorate both sides.

Cut string or yarn about two feet long. Pass the string through the holes and tie the ends together.

Holding the string in both hands, with the disk approximately in the center, rotate

your hands in small circles, causing the disk to twist the yarn. Pull the string taut; watch the disk twirl and the colors blend together.

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you like best about this toy? With whom can you share your toy? Remember to let them try it first. Remember:**



We serve others when we let them go first.

You Need:

- ☐ heavy paper or lightweight cardboard (white or buff)
- ☐ string or yarn
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ pen or hole punch

Closing

Before prayer, sing the “Sharing Song” again (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 279).

STUDENT LESSON

The “You First” Way

References

Mark 9:33–35;
10:35–39, 41,
43–45; *The Desire
of Ages*, pp. 435–
437, 548–551

Memory Verse

“[Jesus said,]
‘Anyone who
wants to be first
must be the very
last’” (Mark 9:35,
NIV).

The Message

We serve
others when
we let them
go first.

Have you ever raced with someone? Maybe you wanted to be the first to the swings, or maybe you wanted to be the first to play with a toy. We all like to be first! A long time ago Jesus had something special to say about being first. What do you think He said?

Jesus and His disciple friends walked along the road to Jerusalem. The disciples had seen and heard many exciting things while they traveled with Jesus. Now the disciples were excited because they thought that very soon

Jesus would become the king of their land. Many people wanted Jesus to be the king! They thought that if Jesus became their king, things would be better.

The disciples wanted important jobs when Jesus became king. They talked about who would have the best jobs. They argued about who would be first in Jesus’ kingdom.

James and John said to Jesus, “Jesus, when You are king, we want to sit right beside You! One of us could sit on Your left, and the other could sit on Your right!”

The other disciples heard James and John talk to Jesus. It made them angry! “Why should you two be next to Jesus?” they argued. “We deserve to sit next to Jesus as much as you do! We want to be first!”

Jesus knew His friends didn’t understand what it meant to be first with Him. He called them to come closer. “You

know that some people think that if they are first, they are better and greater than anyone else. But I see it differently! I think the greatest people are the people who think of *others* first! If you want to be first with Me in My kingdom, you will

think of others first. That is My way of being first.”

The disciples listened quietly. They remembered how Jesus always helped others. They remembered how He made people feel better.

They had seen Him heal those who were blind. They had been there when He healed people who could not walk. They had watched Him hold the children in His

arms. They had heard Him speak kindly to everyone. When they thought of all this, they were ashamed.

Then Jesus smiled a big warm smile. “I didn’t come here to have people do things for Me,” He said. “I came here to do things for them! That is what I want you to do too.”

And that’s what Jesus wants you to do. You can be His helper. You can be first in Jesus’ way every day! You can look for ways to make someone else happy. You can be a helper! Being first in Jesus’ way is fun.

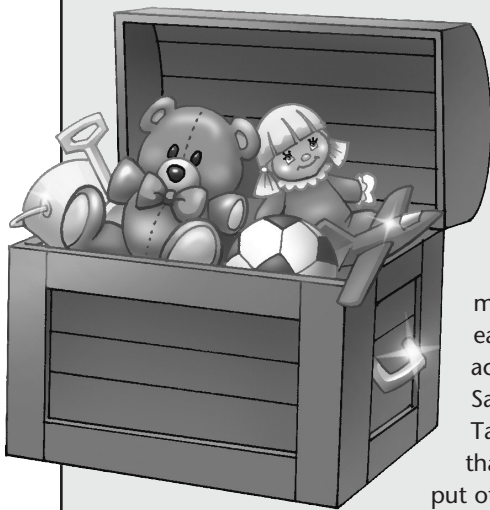


Do and Say

Sabbath

Ask your child to show the finger puppets (made in Sabbath School) and tell about the “you first” way. Or read the lesson together to discover more about the “you first” way.

To review the memory verse each day, use the actions learned in Sabbath School. Talk about things that Jesus did to put others first.



Sunday

Encourage your child to show and share with someone the toy made in Sabbath School. Remind him or her about the “you first” way. Read and discuss together the Bible story from Mark 10:35–39, 41, 43–45. What does it mean to be first in Jesus’ way?

Monday

Take a walk and practice the “you first” way as you pass through doors or meet others along the way. Count the people. What did they say when you let them go first?

Tuesday

If possible, invite your child’s friend to visit. Sing the “Sharing Song” (“I have two dollies and I am glad . . .”) Name the toys from your child’s toy box. Thank Jesus that you have things to share.

Wednesday

At the supper table, encourage your family to practice saying “you first” when passing the food. Talk about ways to put others first. Say the memory verse together.

Thursday

When he or she plays with others today, have your child practice saying “you first” and waiting for his or her turn. At bedtime ask your child to tell about ways he or she put others first today. Ask Jesus to help him or her always to put others first.

Friday

Let your child help in the preparation of food for Sabbath. Talk about ways to put others first at mealtime. Thank Jesus for food to share.

