

Secret Service

Bible: Secret Service (Give in Secret) • *Matthew 6:1-4*

Bottom Line: Serve others without looking for applause.

Memory Verse: "Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.'" *Mark 9:35, NIV*

Life App: Service—Lending a hand to help someone else

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Social: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

9:00 & 11:30

Ring on a String

- A plastic toy ring, a key ring, or a binder ring
- Ball or skein of yarn
- Scissors

10:15

Telephone Tongue Twisters

- No supplies needed

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

9:00 & 11:30

Hands-On Service

- Brown paper grocery bags
- Markers

10:15

Copy Clap

- Bible marked at Mark 9:35
- Construction paper; one piece for each kid

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- Bible marked at Matthew 6

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s Bible Truth.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray that God will give you meaningful examples to share with the kids of how you can serve others in secret. Ask God to give the kids a heart to serve others, not for applause, but to show them Your love. Help them to know that by doing so, they are loving and serving You. Help them understand that this is the best reward.

9:00 & 11:30

Ring on a String

What You Need: Plastic toy ring, key ring, or binder ring, yarn, scissors

What You Do:

- Gather your group in a circle and pass the yarn around the circle. Each kid should unwind it, pass it on, and then hold on to their own section with both hands.
- When the yarn comes back around to you, cut the end, slip the ring onto the yarn, and then tie the ends of the yarn together to make one big yarn circle.
- Choose one player to step inside the circle and close their eyes for a count of ten. During this time, the kids in the circle slide the ring along the string. They can move it backward or forward around the circle.
- After the count of ten, kids keep trying to move the ring along the string, and the player in the middle tries to guess whose hand the ring is under.
- When the player guesses correctly, that person must switch places and become the new guesser.
- Play as many rounds as time allows.

TO ADAPT FOR OLDER KIDS: If this is not challenging enough for older kids, they can play where the kids face outward and move the ring around the string behind their backs.

What You Say:

“This game was all about moving that ring in secret. **[Transition] Let’s go hear how we’re going to use top-secret skills to serve others.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

10:15**Telephone Tongue Twisters****What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:**

- Encourage kids to stand in a circle.
- Explain that you will whisper a Telephone Tongue Twister to the first person in line and the group will pass it down the line until they get to the end.
- Remind them that they may only whisper it once and that even if the person didn't hear them, they can't say it again.
- Ask the last person in line to share aloud what they think the telephone tongue twister was!
- Continue as time and interest allow.

Telephone Tongue Twisters:

1. The darling donkey did a daring deed by dashing to the door.
2. I'd like a proper glass of soda pop pronto, please.
3. Tiny tarantulas are still a teeny terrible time if you ask me.
4. The terribly tall teacher taught the totally trendy class.
5. What was the rhinoceros roaming around the room for?
6. How many miles must I move to make a mega mile mark?

What You Say:

"Wow! Some of those Telephone Tongue Twisters got really messed up. You all were making me laugh so hard. Has anyone ever told a secret with your friends or had someone try to whisper something to you from across a room? It can get pretty confusing in real life, too. **[Transition] Today in Large Group, we are going to learn about something good we can do in secret and why it's better to keep it that way!**"

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Other adult or high school student volunteer (will need to be able to act a little bit)
- Bible
- Prop box containing:
 - Megaphone
 - Sunglasses
 - Beanie
 - Two or three scarves
 - Two or three cans of food (like soup)
 - Two or three books

3. Worship

What You Need:

- “Live Differently”
- “This Little Light”
- “We Are One”

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 25 minutes)

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

CG: Theme Loop Video

Host enters, dressed as a waiter/and carrying a tray with some diner food on it.

CG: Countdown Video

CG: Theme Video

Opener

HOST: “Well, hello, everyone! It’s a great day to be here in the [your environment’s name] Diner. I’m your server, [your name], and I’m so glad you’re here today.

Set the tray down.

“This month we’re talking about service!

CG: Life App Video

“Service is lending a hand to help someone else.

CG: Theme TransBack Video

“We’ve talked about lots of ways to serve others, and hopefully you’ve already been able to see what a difference it can make when we do. Let’s keep the conversation going. Please welcome [Historyteller’s Name] to the stage this morning.”

Host exits. Historyteller enters.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

Clap once, and look at the kids. They'll probably just stare back at you. Clap once again. Continue until they finally catch on and clap back in response. Then clap twice and wait for their response. Continue clapping different rhythms in a call and response. Then clap applause-style, as though for the end of a performance. Slowly wind down and then put your hands at your side. Wait until the kids do the same.

HISTORYTELLER: "That was fun! I love clapping. All of us have clapped for someone before—like maybe at a game, a performance, or a recital. There are lots of ways you can clap, too, like a very proper golf clap.

Do a golf clap.

"Or a standing ovation!

Do an enthusiastic standing ovation while screaming "WOOOOOO!"

"Let me ask you a question. Do you think it's more fun to clap or to be the one who people are clapping FOR?"

Pause to let them respond.

"I think if we're being honest, most of us would say it feels good to be clapped FOR—to be recognized when we do something well. *(Pause.)* If we're REALLY honest, we want to be recognized when we serve someone, too.

"Jesus actually had something to say about that. One day, when He was sitting on a mountainside, Jesus said this to His followers. It's found in the book of Matthew.

Open the Bible to Matthew 6:1-4 (NirV) and read.

"Be careful not to do good deeds in front of other people. Don't do those deeds to be seen by others. . . . When you give to needy people, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. . . . Your Father will reward you, because he sees what you do secretly."

"Wow. Jesus didn't hold back, did He? Those were strong words. But they were words that His followers needed to hear back then. They're words that we need to hear today, too.

"Why do you think we love applause? Any thoughts?"

Allow kids to answer. Look for answers like: "It makes us feel good." "We feel like we did something good." "It makes us feel important or valuable."

"Those are all good answers. It's not bad to want to feel appreciated for something we've done. But when it comes to serving others, Jesus said there's a better way."

HOME

HISTORYTELLER: “We can serve to get applause OR, like Jesus said, we can choose to serve in secret. I’ve got a helper today to show you what that might look like.

Student or adult volunteer enters, carrying the prop box.

“Let’s say you walk in from school and see that the dishwasher is full of clean dishes. How would it look if you wanted to serve to get the applause?”

Volunteer gets the megaphone from the prop box and holds it up.

VOLUNTEER: *(Speaking loudly into the megaphone)* “Attention, everyone! I notice that the dishwasher is full of clean dishes. I, [your name], am going to do the right thing and empty them. Did you hear that? I am doing something I don’t have to do, but I am doing it anyway!”

HISTORYTELLER: “Well, that’s certainly one way to do it. *(To volunteer)* Now, how would you do it if you were serving in secret?”

Volunteer gets the sunglasses and beanie from the prop box and puts them on. Then she looks around the room with her finger in front of her mouth, as though shushing the crowd.

VOLUNTEER: *(Whispering)* “It looks like no one’s here. Let’s see how quickly and quietly I can get these dishes put away. I bet no one will even notice, but it’ll make my parents’ day so much better!”

HISTORYTELLER: “That’s more like it! Way to go, [volunteer’s name]!”

COMMUNITY

HISTORYTELLER: “What about this one? You’ve heard that there’s a great need for clothes and food for people who don’t have homes who are living in or around our city. How might you serve in a way that’s looking for applause?”

Volunteer takes the scarves and canned food out of the prop box. She picks up her phone and pretends to be using the maps app.

VOLUNTEER: *(Looking at her phone)* “Let’s see, where is the busiest intersection I can go in town so everyone will see me? Okay, that one looks good.

Volunteer puts the phone away and walks to the other side of the stage, pretending to talk to people, clearly faking modesty.

“Hello, sir. You look cold. Can I offer you one of these newly purchased scarves I bought with my own money? No, it’s really no problem. I’m here to serve. And you look like you’re hungry. Would you like this can of organic soup? Nothing but the best when it comes to serving others, I always say.”

HISTORYTELLER: *(Interrupting)* “That was . . . something. *(To volunteer)* I see what you’re doing there, and, I mean, it’s good that you gave the scarves and soup. But I think there’s a way you can do that without trying to get so much attention for yourself. Can you try that again?”

Volunteer walks back over to the prop box, puts the items into the box, and picks up the box. She walks back over to the other side of the stage and pretends to talk to a person—more quietly this time.

VOLUNTEER: “Hi. I’ve got a box of items to donate. No—it’s okay—you don’t need to write my name down on the form. I don’t need credit for it. Do you need any help handing this stuff out or maybe working in the back to sort all the donations? Awesome! I’d love to sign up.”

HISTORYTELLER: “Wow! *(To volunteer)* I love that, [volunteer’s name]. You’re getting this ‘serving in secret’ thing down. It’s not that you have to HIDE what you’re doing, but you’re not trying to get attention for the good things you’re doing either.”

SCHOOL

HISTORYTELLER: “Let’s do one more. Let’s say you’re at school, and you notice the bookshelf in your classroom is super messy and unorganized. What would it look like if you served so you could get lots of attention and praise?”

Volunteer pulls out a couple of books from the prop box.

VOLUNTEER: *(In a bragging tone)* “Um, Ms. Scott, I just finished organizing your bookshelf. Did you notice how awful it was? All the K’s were in the T section, and everything else was mixed up around it, and it was so dusty, too. I put all the books back in order, and I dusted the shelves, and I did it all without being asked! Shouldn’t I get to move up on our behavior chart?”

HISTORYTELLER: “Whoa! *(To volunteer)* [Volunteer’s name], it sounds like you were hoping your teacher would notice what you did so she’d reward you. But I think there’s probably a better way to serve. What if you chose to serve just because you saw a need and you wanted to help? Let’s try that again.”

Volunteer returns to the prop box and puts the books in it. She stands up and wipes off her hands on her pants as though they were dusty.

VOLUNTEER: *(Talking to yourself, but loud enough for the audience to hear)* “Phew! That was harder than I expected. But I’m so glad I got it done while Ms. Scott was talking to the principal. It should make her job much easier now!”

HISTORYTELLER: “That’s better, [volunteer’s name]. I think if you can keep serving in secret like that, you’ll find that you get a lot more joy—even if you don’t get more attention. Thanks so much for helping us see what it looks like to serve in secret!”

Volunteer exits, carrying the prop box.

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “You and I have a mission—a secret mission to serve others without looking for applause. It’s just better that way. And guess what. God sees what we do even if others don’t. We serve to help people, not to be noticed. We serve because we know God wants us to. Remember what Jesus said?”

Open the Bible to Matthew 6:1-4 (NirV) and read.

“Be careful not to do good deeds in front of other people. Don’t do those deeds to be seen by others. . . . When you give to needy people, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. . . . Your Father will reward you, because he sees what you do secretly.”

“God made us to serve—not to be noticed. That means we should make service all about others, not about ourselves.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Serve others without looking for applause.

“Let’s talk to God and ask Him to help us with our secret mission.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for Your amazing love. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to die for our sins so we can have a relationship with You forever. Your love makes us want to show love to others, too. Help us to serve without wanting to get something in return. Help us remember to serve others in secret so that it really is about THEM and not about us getting attention or applause. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, raise your hand and we will bring the bucket over to you.”

Worship

CG: “Live Differently”

CG: “This Little Light”

CG: “We Are One”

Closer

HOST: “It’s normal that we want people to like us or to think we’re nice. But that’s not the reason why we should serve.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, ‘Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.’” Mark 9:35 NIV

Not only should we be servants of all, we should also serve others without taking the credit. We should choose to help because we want to help—whether people notice or not.

“It feels great to serve that way, because it’s not about you. It’s about making things better for someone else. And remember—Jesus said that when you give in secret, God will reward you. Even when no one else notices, He notices.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Serve others without looking for applause. Say that with me.”

HOST and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Serve others without looking for applause.”

HOST: “If you’re wondering HOW you can serve, remember what we always say in here: **[Basic Truth] I should treat others the way I want to be treated.** Look around and see what YOU would want help with, and then do that thing for someone else! The next time you see that the trash can is pretty full, take out the trash instead of piling something else on top. When you notice that the sink is full of dirty dishes, take a minute to load them in the dishwasher. If you look around, there are all kinds of ways you can serve in secret!

“Thanks for hanging out at the Parkway Diner this month. I hope the food was good, but the service was even better! Have fun in Small Group!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

CG: Full Video (If needed)

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Life App: Service—Lending a hand to help someone else

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible Truth applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

9:00 & 11:30

Hands-On Service

What You Need: Brown paper grocery bags, markers

What You Do:

- Hand out the paper bags and markers. Encourage kids to decorate the bags cheerfully but not to sign their names.

What You Say:

“These bags will go to Lunches of Love to make some other kid’s lunch experience more fun! This is a small way we can **[Bottom Line] serve without looking for applause**. There are even more ways in our homes or communities.

[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story about a time you served in secret or did something to help a person without looking for a reward. Share why you served in that way, and tell what happened next.)

“We know that God sees everything and He will reward people who serve in secret. Sometimes that means that you’ll be blessed with more stuff to give away, more opportunities to use your talents or gifts, or a sense of satisfaction that God allowed you the chance to help someone. You can trust God no matter what, even when you’ve done a big job with no recognition.”

10:15**Copy Clap**

What You Need: Bible marked at Mark 9:35, construction paper

What You Do:

- Set the construction paper on the floor in a line, one for each kid.
- Guide kids to line up on the papers.
- Invite a child to open the Bible to Mark 9 and read the verse aloud or say it from memory.
- Lead the group to say/clap the verse with you. Clap once at your knees for single syllable words; twice at your waist for two syllable words; and three times above your head for three syllable words.
- After every three-syllable word, the child at the back of the line runs to the first position while the other kids move back one space.
- Continue as time remains, but be sure to end while interest is still high.
- Add variety by guiding kids to move on two syllable words OR on two AND three syllable words.

What You Say:

“It’s easy for us to want to be noticed for the good things we do, but God wants us to think more about others than about ourselves; He wants us to **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause**. That’s what Jesus meant when He said ‘the last will be first.’

[Make It Personal] (Tell kids about a time when you served someone in secret. Tell how it affected both you and the person you served.)

“When we focus more on serving others than on getting a reward, Jesus says that God will reward us, and that’s the best reward there is! So remember to **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause.**”

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)**

What You Need: Bible marked at Matthew 6

What You Do:

- Guide kids to gather around you and think quietly about how they can serve someone this week without that person knowing it was them. Give an idea or two.
- Invite a child to open the Bible where marked.
- Read Matthew 6:1-4 as a prayer over the kids.

What You Say:

“Lord, please help us find ways to do that this week. We love You. We pray this in Jesus’ name, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to tell their parents today’s Bottom Line: **[Bottom Line] Serve others without looking for applause.**