

# 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**

### **Early Arriver**

- No supplies needed

**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**

### **Service without Applause**

- Plastic spoons or spatulas; one for each kid
- Plastic egg

**10:15**

### **Service with a Smile**

- "Service with a Smile" Activity Pages; one set for each kid
- Markers
- Stapler

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

- No supplies needed

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

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

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to give your group creative and fun ideas for ways they can be generous and rich in good deeds. Pray that God would remind you of ways your few can use their time, talents, and energy to be generous toward others. Thank God for giving you that opportunity through leading your group.*

**9:00 & 11:30**

**Early Arriver**

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Guide kids to sit in a circle with you.
- Ask: "Has anyone ever given you a high five or a round of applause for something?" Prompt them with examples such as: violin concert, soccer game, good grades etc. Allow time for kids to share examples.
- Tell them to put their arms out like they are asking "Why?" and to lay their hands flat out. Tell them to put their right hand under the person's hand to the right of them and their left hand on top of the person's to the left of them.
- Explain that you will begin by taking your left hand and clapping the person's hand who is sitting to the right of you and that you will all continue going around the circle.
- The fun part is, you will yell "High five!" at any time. Explain that the goal is to not have your hand clapped on "High five," so you will want to go around the circle as quickly as possible!

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

### GETTING READY

#### 1. Opener/Closer

##### What You Need:

- Someone to hand out the Secret Service envelopes Host
- Pre-selected Small Group Leader
- Desk call bell
- Apron
- Five envelopes (see “What You Do”)
- Five pens
- Ten index cards
- Objects to create an obstacle course:
  - Chairs
  - Tables
  - Traffic cones
  - Pool noodles
- Blindfold
- Innertubes and water wings

#### 2. Bible Truth

##### What You Need:

- Historyteller
- Small Group Leader (the same one who did the obstacle course in the Opener)
- Bible
- Balloon
- Hand pump
- One Secret Service envelope to hold up as an example

#### 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**

*As the kids enter, someone hands out the five Secret Service envelopes and helps kids fulfill their missions.*

*Host enters, wearing an apron.*

**CG: Countdown Video**

**CG: Theme Video**

### **Opener**

**HOST:** “Welcome to the Parkway Diner, everyone! I’m so glad to see all of you—some of you for the first time. You, my friends, are in the right place at the right time. We’re serving up superb service in the diner today!

“What is service?”

**CG: Life App Video**

**“Service is lending a hand to help someone else.**

**CG: Theme TransBack Video**

“There are so many ways you can serve. Share a kind word. Give a minute of your time. Open a door for someone. Lend a hand! Easy as pie!

“What do you say we play another awesome diner game—hot and fresh off the grill? I call this one the ‘Diner Lingo Dash’!

**CG: “Diner Lingo Dash” Slide**

“Did you know that there is, essentially, a whole different language that takes place in diners? Yeah, it’s

pretty much called diner lingo. For example, if you're ordering some scrambled eggs, in the diner we call that, 'Grab two cackle fruit and wreck 'em.' (*Ring the bell.*) Want some bread? It's called 'raw toast!' (*Ring the bell.*)

*Move to the beginning of the obstacle course.*

"I figured I would teach you some diner lingo and put it to good use. You can see this obstacle course set up here. It's your job to try to guide a blindfolded contestant safely through. However, you won't be able to tell them normal things that you're used to, because all of those normal directions are going to be diner lingo. Let me show you what I mean.

**CG: Diner Lingo Key Slide**

"If you want the person to go left, shout 'Flop two!' That means two eggs over easy.

"If you want them to go right, shout 'Houseboat!' That means a banana split.

"If you want them to go forward, say 'Mike and Ike!' That's salt and pepper.

"If you want them to go back, yell 'Bow-wow!' It means hot dog.

"If you want them to step OVER something, say 'Brown cow.' That's chocolate milk.

"If you want them to duck UNDER something, say 'Sticky sap.' That means pancake syrup.

"You'll shout out these directions to see if you can direct our volunteer safely through the obstacle course. Can I get a Small Group Leader to volunteer?"

*Bring up your pre-selected Small Group Leader. Put a blindfold on her and some "safety equipment," if possible (innertubes, water wings).*

"[Leader's name], take a good look at the screen so you remember what to do when you hear our lingo. (*To audience*) Let's see if we can get her through! On your marks, get set, go!"

*Help the Leader make it through the obstacle course, with the audience shouting out directions. Remind the audience that they can only shout out the dining lingo terms. (You may need to remind the Leader what the terms mean if she can't remember.)*

*Once the Leader finishes the course, have her remove the blindfold.*

"Amazing! Let's give our brave contestant a big hand.

*Dismiss the Leader to her seat.*

"I think you're all ready for slinging hash at your own local diner! But right now, let's welcome [Historyteller's Name] with today's Bible Truth."

*Host exits as Historyteller enters.*

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### **SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH**

**HISTORYTELLER:** "Hey, everyone! It's been great talking about service this month. We've seen what it looks like to serve, because Jesus gave us the perfect example when He washed His friends' feet. We learned how we can look for ways to serve others with the gifts God has given us. And we've seen how if we use what we have, God can use our little bit to make a BIG difference in someone's life.

"But you know what? There's one side of service that we haven't really talked about yet."

### **APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE**

**HISTORYTELLER:** "Before we get into it, though, I want to try a little experiment. Let me get [Small Group Leader's name] to come up here.

*Ask the Leader who did the obstacle course in the Opener to come up on stage.*

"[Leader's name], I'd like you to go offstage (*or out of the room*) for a moment, and I'll let you know when to come back on.

*Leader exits. When she's off the stage, whisper instructions to the audience. Try to do it so the Leader doesn't hear.*

*(Whispering)* "When [Leader's name] comes back on stage, I need you to clap like crazy for her, okay? And when it seems like the applause should end, get even louder! Clap and cheer and whistle until I tell you to stop! Can you do that? *(Pause for response.)* Great!

*(To the Leader)* "Okay, [Leader's name], come back out!

*The audience erupts in applause. Keep it going for a good 20-30 seconds, and then hold up your hands to calm the group down.*

"Wow! Pretty cool! All right, let's try that again. [Leader's name], go back offstage (*or out of the room*), and I'll call you back on again in a minute.

*Leader exits. When she's off the stage, whisper instructions to the audience again.*

*(Whispering)* Okay! This time, don't clap AT ALL. No sound . . . no applause . . . no laughing . . . just total silence! Cool?

*(To the Leader)* “Okay, [Leader’s name], we’re ready. Come back out again!

*There should be dead silence. Just stare at the volunteer for a good 20-30 seconds.*

“Okay! *(To Leader)* You got a very different response that time, didn’t you? Which one did you like better? The applause, right? *(Pause for response.)* I thought so! Thanks for your help, [Leader’s name]. We all think you’re awesome—trust me!

*Dismiss the Leader to her seat.*

*(To audience)* “Why do we like applause so much? Why does that make us feel good inside?”

“Well, I think there’s something within ALL of us that wants to be recognized. We want to be picked for teams in gym class. When we do a game here at [your environment’s name], we want to be the one chosen. We want to win, and we want people to SEE that we’ve won.

“I think it’s the same when we do something good for someone else. We want people to know it was us! Like when you get your friend a great gift for her birthday, you want her to open it right in front of everyone. You want people to know it was you, right?”

### **LOOK-AT-ME-ITIS**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “There was a time when Jesus was sharing some wisdom with his friends as they sat on a mountainside. He was talking about service—helping others and doing good things for them. Here’s what He said to them.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 6:1 (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.”*

“Okay! Jesus was saying that when you do something for someone else—when you serve—don’t do it to be seen by other people. Don’t brag about it. Don’t get caught up in look-at-me-itis. Do something to help because you want to HELP, not because you want to get the applause for it.

“Listen to what else Jesus said.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 6:2 (NIRV) and read.*

*“When you give to needy people, do not announce it by having trumpets blown. Do not be like those who only pretend to be holy. They announce what they do in the synagogues and on the streets. They want to be honored by other people.”*

“Wow. Talk about look-at-me-itis!

*Grab the balloon and hand pump.*

“When you make a big deal of things, and you think you’re all that and a side of hash browns, you get kind of full of yourself—like this.



*Pump up the balloon a little.*

“You do a good thing, but you make a big deal out of it. All of a sudden people start applauding, and you feel pretty good about yourself!

*Pump up the balloon a little more.*

“You might even start to forget that God was the reason you could get the job done in the first place. After all, people noticed, right? You’re kind of a big deal! You’re . . . well . . . you’re missing the point.

*Let go of the balloon so it sputters to the ground.*

“After all, God made us to serve others so we could help them, period. Not so we could be noticed.”

### **SECRET SERVICE**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Jesus also said this.

*Open the Bible to Matthew 6:3-4 (NirV) and read.*

*“When you give to needy people, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Then your giving will be done secretly. Your Father will reward you, because he sees what you do secretly.”*

“Don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing’—that’s interesting! In other words, we should serve others so secretly that it’s like we ourselves can’t even see it!

*Hold up a Secret Service envelope.*

“At the beginning of Large Group, when all of you were walking in this room, we handed out these envelopes to a few of you. Each envelope had a secret mission. We are not going to reveal the names or the identities of those kids, because they’re part of the Secret Service. But just out of curiosity, did anyone in here happen to get a nice note saying how awesome you are?

*Look for several raised hands.*

“Hmm . . . interesting. I bet that made you feel good, didn’t it? And you’ll never know who did it—because someone just served you in secret!”

### **WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH**

**HISTORYTELLER:** “Jesus made it really clear. Serving isn’t about us. It’s about the other person. It’s lending a hand to help someone else. Why? Because we want what’s best for them—not because we want any credit or attention.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

**“Serve others without looking for applause.**

“Applause might FEEL good, but it’s not the reason we serve. We serve because we want to lend a hand and help the people God has put around us. Let’s pray and ask God to help us remember that as we choose to serve others.”

**CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide**

### Pray

**HISTORYTELLER:** “God, You know that it can be tough for us to serve without looking for applause. Help us to find ways to lend a hand without trying to get the credit for it. Help us to be part of Your Secret Service and give to others without looking for anything in return. We know that’s the way You want us to serve. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“If you have an offering with you today, you can bring that on up now.”

“Now, up on your feet and be extra generous with your praise and worship to Go!”

*Host enters as Historyteller exits.*

### Worship

**CG: “Live Differently”**

**CG: “This Little Light”**

**CG: “We Are One”**

### Closer

**HOST:** “Well, it’s closing time at the diner, my friends. It’s been my genuine pleasure to serve you this month, and I have to say, I’ve learned a lot about serving, too. I’ve learned that serving is a great way to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way I want to be treated.** I mean, I want other people to treat me with kindness. If I ever need help, I’d want someone to give ME a helping hand. So that’s what I’ll do for other people. I’ll choose to serve!

“Here’s the one thing to remember today.

**CG: Bottom Line Slide**

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

“We shouldn’t serve others just to be noticed—just to be liked. No, God wants us to give in secret and serve without taking the credit. After all, when we serve because we want to help someone—and then we get to SEE how we’ve helped them—that feels even better than getting a huge round of applause!

“And remember, even when no one else notices, God notices. He loves it when you serve and when you show His love to others.

“Our memory verse this month is Mark 9:35. Jesus gave His friends a pretty cool picture of what it means to serve.

**CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide**

**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*

“That’s what it’s all about—**serving others without looking for applause**. Let someone go in front of you in line. Let someone else get the good kickball at recess. Let your brother get the first controller on the Xbox® AND pick the game mode on Fortnite. And do it all without looking attention—without looking for anything in return.

*We suggest giving your kids and families a tangible way to serve by connecting them with a project through Compassion International, such as a food drive in your community. Take time before dismissal to promote this idea to your kids.*

“Now it’s time for you to head back to Small Group and talk some more about how YOU can serve in secret. Have fun!”

*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**

### **Service without Applause**

**What You Need:** Plastic spoons, plastic egg

#### **What You Do:**

- Encourage kids to stand in a circle facing each other.
- Hand out a spoon to each kid.
- Explain that you will place an egg on someone’s spoon and they will pass it to the person who is to the right of them.
- The goal is to use their spoons to pass the egg around the circle without dropping it.
- Make it even more challenging for kids by having them put their spoons behind their backs to pass it to each other.

#### **What You Say:**

“No one wants to clap when you’ve dropped and cracked an egg open! Has anyone ever dropped an egg on the ground in real life? (*Allow time for responses.*) Eggs make a complete mess, that’s for sure! Here’s the thing, though. When it comes to serving others, we don’t need applause from others. We can just serve because we know it’s the best thing to do. Remember our lesson from today. You can **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause.**”

**[Make It Personal] (Share a personal example of a time you served someone who didn’t even know it was you who helped them. Tell how you felt afterward.)**

**10:15****Service with a Smile****What You Need:** "Service with a Smile" Activity Pages, markers, stapler**What You Do:**

- Give every kid a set of Activity Pages.
- Tell kids to fold them in order to make a book. Let them know you will come around and staple the books for them.
- Encourage kids to decorate their books and pick out which service activities they are going to accomplish this week.

**What You Say:**

"I love the way you all are designing your 'Service with a Smile' books. Now you will have a bunch of awesome ideas to serve others all week long. Out of all the ideas, what is one you are most excited for? *(Allow time for as many kids to respond as time allows.)* I love it! It will be even more awesome if you can accomplish those things in secret. It may be fun trying to sneak around and make it happen without anyone noticing. Remember, serving isn't about getting recognized by others. You can **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause.**"

**All Service Times****Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)****What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:**

- Ask kids to think about how a high five from a favorite coach or applause from their parents makes them feel.
- Ask a few kids to share their thoughts.

**What You Say:**

"Dear God, we know that applause does make us feel good! We like to know we have done something good. But when it comes to serving, help us remember that we can **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause.** Help us to remember that when we are serving people in secret, YOU are applauding us, and that is all we need! We love You and thank You for using us to serve others. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen!"