

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

Early Arriver

- 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

Copy Clap

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

10:15

Left Hand, Right Hand

- White paper plates; one for each kid
- Markers or crayons

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**Early Arriver Idea**

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Greet kids.
- Ask kids to talk about times when they've had people applaud for them: at the end of a school performance, after the happy birthday song.
- Ask:
 - When do we applaud others?
 - Why do we do it?
 - How does it feel to have people applaud you for something you've done?
- Play a game of "Statues."
 - One player is a museum guard. Her job is to move all around your small group area and catch anyone moving.
 - The rest of the kids are statues. When the guard isn't looking at them, their task is to get other kids to laugh or move when the guard is looking at them.
 - If the guard catches someone moving, they have to sit down wherever they are.

After a few minutes, choose a new guard. Play as many rounds as time allows.

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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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

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.**”

10:15**Left Hand, Right Hand**

What You Need: Paper plates, markers or crayons

What You Do:

- Briefly unpack the phrase “don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.” Use the conversation below as a guide.
- Give each child a paper plate, and set out the markers.
- Guide kids to trace both their left and right hands onto their plates multiple times, creating a colorful line tangle.
- Kids can take their creations home as reminders to **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause.**

What You Say:

“When Jesus said: *“Be careful not to do good deeds in front of other people” (Matthew 6:1 NIV)*, He meant that we shouldn’t serve others just to be noticed or liked. Instead, He said: *“When you give to needy people, don’t let your left hand know what your right hand is doing” (Matthew 6:3 NIV)*. That means that you should give in secret, and **[Bottom Line] serve others without looking for applause** or praise.

“Take your paper plates home and let them remind you that God wants you 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.**