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SERVING GOD

God can use me – Serving

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 8: SERVING GOD

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Romans 12:11; Matthew 6:19-20; Matthew 25:21,40

Objectives To explain that

- Today's lesson is about serving God, and following the example of Jesus the Servant King.
- We can serve God no matter what our age, even if we are young. Jesus can use our small and large gifts and service for great things.
- We serve God by serving our church and others in the world. When we serve God's family (the Church), we serve Jesus, because we are all part of his body, the Body of Christ.
- We love God and others by serving them. This is putting our love into action.
- God will reward us in heaven for serving him here on earth. And those heavenly rewards will last forever.

Memory Verse "Serve the Lord with all your heart." (Romans 12:11b – ICB)

ACNA Catechism Connections Today's lesson of Serving God is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q139 What is the work of all Christians? All Christians are to bear witness to Christ in their lives; to care for the poor, strangers, widows, and orphans; and, according to their gifts, to serve Christ in the world and in the Church.

Q91 Why does the Holy Spirit give such gifts? The Holy Spirit equips and empowers believers with gifts for service in the worship of Jesus Christ, for the building up of his Church, and for witness and mission to the world.

Q182 How do you live in God's kingdom? As a citizen of God's kingdom, I am called to live in obedience to God's Word and will, in loving witness and service to others, and in joyful hope of Christ's return.

Q368 What marks a life of sanctification? God calls me to a life marked by gratitude and joy. In gratitude for God's grace in Jesus, I die daily to the desires of my fallen nature. In the joy of knowing that I will become like Jesus, I live each day in service to him.

Q137 What is confirmation? Confirmation is the laying on of the bishop's hands with prayer for strengthening by the Holy Spirit, following a period of catechetical formation. In confirmation, I make a mature confession of faith, publicly renewing the vows and promises made at my Baptism.

Q138 What grace does God give you in confirmation? In confirmation, I am further empowered and gifted by the Holy Spirit for daily growth in wisdom, courage, and humility before God in every aspect of my life and work.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

Lesson Props: (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Serving God poster (Found in props document. Identical to condensed poster)
- Post-it notes to write children's suggestions on
- This Bible verse printed out: "Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moths and rust can destroy them, and thieves can break in and steal them. But store up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy them, and thieves cannot break in and steal them." (Matthew 6: 19-20)
- A second copy of the memory verse for use in the lesson: "Serve the Lord with all your heart." (Romans 12:11b)
- Storyboard symbol: God can use me: Serving (picture of child sweeping)

Costumes: None**Memory Verse:** "Serve the Lord with all your heart." (Romans 12:11b – ICB)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

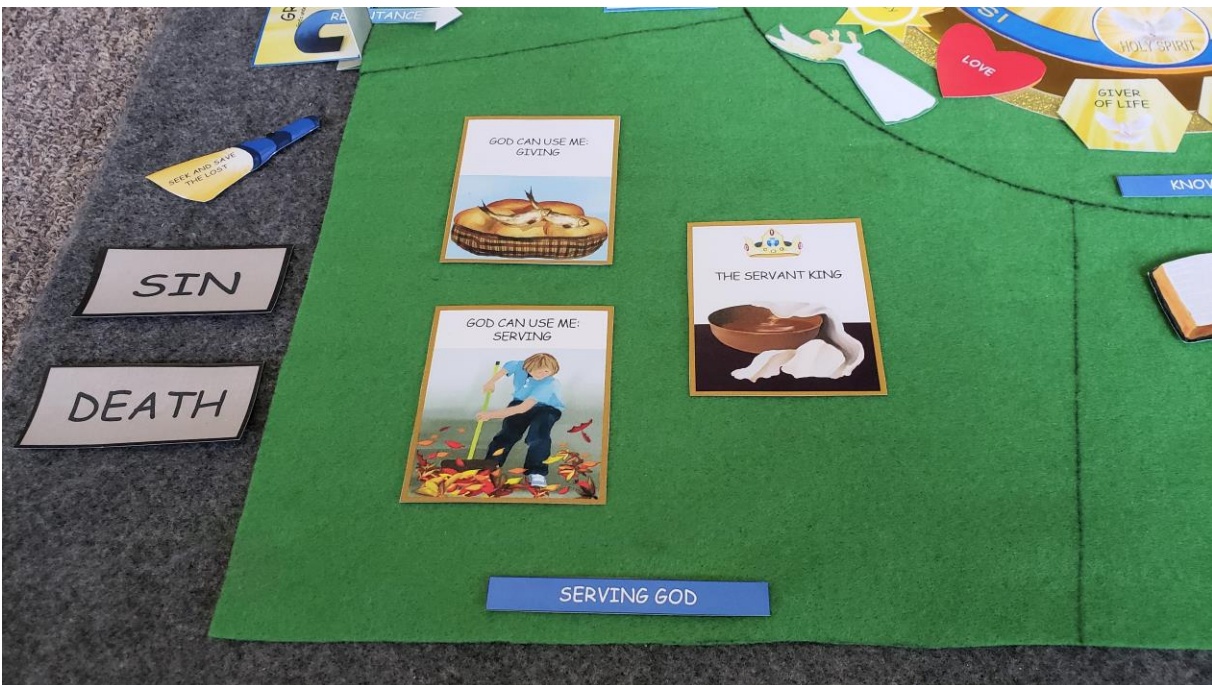
2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	What a Mighty God We Serve Store Up Treasures in Heaven (Bible StorySong Singers) Please check internet for lyrics and music.
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. Story board review is found in Section 4
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.
Related activities	After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. See Resource Section.

3 | Storyboard Progression



This is how the storyboard should look at the **start** of the lesson.



This is how the Serving God section should look at the **end** of the lesson. Leave the storyboard like this for next week.

4 | Story and Questions

SETUP: *This lesson is taught by the Kingdom Life storyboard. Have the "Serving God" poster ready to put up on the wall next to you.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's lesson is from the Bible, and it is about Serving God.'*

STORYBOARD REVIEW:

TEACHER: We have been learning about serving God and serving one another.

Why do we call Jesus the Servant King? *(Point to bowl & towel symbol.)*

Jesus set an example for us to follow when he served the disciples by washing their feet.

Jesus came to serve and give his life *(point to cross)* to set us free from sin. His Kingdom is the upside-down Kingdom, where those who want to be great must serve others.

We also learned that Jesus used the small gift of food *(point to bread & fish symbol)* from a young boy to feed more than 5000 people. Jesus is the true Bread of Life, who can use **our** gifts and service to bring **his** life to the world.

Can we serve God even when we are young? Yes, Jesus can use our gifts for great things whatever age we are.

STORY:

TEACHER: Today we are going to talk more about **how** we can serve others.

Did you know, another word for "serving" is "helping"? We can help others by giving our time, talents, and energy. When we are helping others, or serving them, we are also serving God!

(Show the Serving God poster) We can serve God in different ways and in different places. Let's start by talking about serving in church. *(Point to church on poster)*

When we serve our church family, who are part of the Body of Christ, we are actually serving Jesus.

What are some things that you can do now as a child, to serve God in church?

ACTION: *Let the children give suggestions and add some of your own. Write these down on the post-it notes, and attach them to the poster under the heading "Serving God in church".*

(Examples from Saint Matthew's: Help tidy up after coffee time, pray for others, be kind and helpful, use our talents to bless others, give money. Be a junior leader in Sunday school, be a crucifer or acolyte.)

(Optional: *The teacher may want to supplement this by having pictures of the different tasks that the children can help with, especially for the younger children.)*

TEACHER: Those are special ways that we can serve each other here in church, but what about outside of church? How can we bring God's life and love to the world? Let's list some ways we can serve people in other places such as at home, or at school, or in our neighbourhood. *(Point to the "Serving God in other places" heading on poster.)*

ACTION: *Let the children give suggestions and add some of your own. Write these down on post-it notes and attach them to the poster under the heading "Serving God in other places".*

(Examples: Tell our friends about Jesus, pray for others to know Jesus, be kind and help others, be a friend to those who don't have friends, help with chores at home, give money or time to those who have need, visit those who are sick or lonely, use our talents to bless others.)

TEACHER: These actions are all about loving God and loving others, aren't they? *(Point to stone tablets symbol on storyboard)* We can love God and others by serving them. This is putting our love into action.

Did you know that when we serve God, we store up treasures for ourselves in heaven?

Let's read what the Bible has to say about this. Who can read this verse for us? *(Hold up verse for child to read)*

STUDENT: "Do not store up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moths and rust can destroy them, and thieves can break in and steal them. But store up

treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy them, and thieves cannot break in and steal them.” (Matthew 6: 19-20)

TEACHER: What a wonderful promise! God will reward us in heaven for the ways we have served him here on earth. And those heavenly rewards will last forever. Sometimes we might serve, and people don't notice. But God sees **everything** you do, and he will reward you in heaven.

Our memory verse also talks about serving. Who can read this verse for us? (*Hold up verse for child to read.*)

STUDENT: “Serve the Lord with all your heart.” (Romans 12:11)

TEACHER: Just like God calls us to **love** him with **all** our heart, so God also calls us to **serve** him with **all** our heart. When we love and serve God, then we bring **his life** and love to the world.

Let's put this picture down on our storyboard to remind us that Jesus, the Servant King, calls us to follow him by loving and serving him and others. (*Place symbol on storyboard as shown.*)

In the upside-down Kingdom of God, those who want to be great must serve others.

OPTIONAL: *If Confirmations have happened recently or are happening soon, say the following as an explanation of what happens in Confirmation:*

TEACHER: The Holy Spirit helps us to serve God. Recently (or soon), some people in our church were (or will be) confirmed. Confirmation is a sacrament, where the bishop lays his hands on the person being confirmed and prays for them. In confirmation the Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way and gives us his power to love and serve God.

Life Application Prayer:

Jesus, you call us to serve you whatever age we are. When we serve each other in the Body of Christ, then it is really you we are serving. We want to store up treasures for ourselves in heaven by loving and serving you with all our heart. Amen.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this lesson tell us about God?** (He wants us to love and serve him and others. He will reward us in heaven for the ways we served him here on earth.)
- **Do you have to be a certain age to serve God?** (No, we can serve God at any age.)
- **How can you serve others in church?** (Help tidy up after coffee time, pray for others, be kind and helpful, use our talents to bless others, give money. Be a junior leader in Sunday school, be a crucifer or acolyte etc.)
- **How can we serve others in the world (school, home, playground, etc.)?** (Tell our friends about Jesus, pray for others to know Jesus, be kind and help others, help with chores at home, give money or time to those who have need, visit those who are sick or lonely etc.)
- **Will God reward us for serving him and others?** (Yes, God will reward us in heaven for serving him on earth. He will reward us for the things nobody else noticed as well. God sees everything we do for him and others.)
- **Who is great in the upside-down Kingdom of God?** (Those who serve others.)
- **Optional: What is confirmation?** (A sacrament where the bishop lays his hands on the person being confirmed and prays for them. In confirmation the Holy Spirit strengthens us in a special way and gives us his power to love and serve God.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers

"Serve the Lord with
all your heart."

(Romans 12:11)