

Serving

OBJECTIVE: *To learn what it means to be a servant and to consider ways to serve others.*



WORSHIP

Sing praise and worship songs as well as songs about serving that are familiar and meaningful to your group. Here are some suggestions.

"Come Bless the Lord"

"Freely, Freely"

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

"They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love"

"This Little Light of Mine"

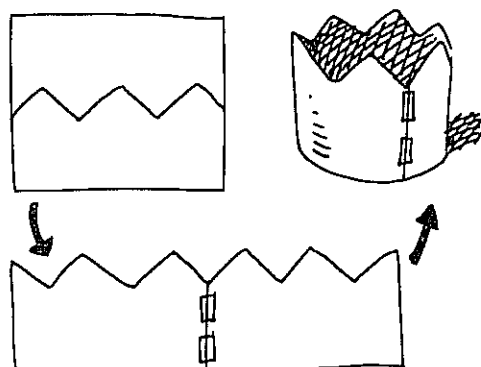
"What a Mighty God We Serve"

STORY

Disciples Want to Be Great in the Kingdom, Matthew 20:20-28

- The mother of James and John asks Jesus to let her sons rule in his kingdom with him.
- Jesus says it's God's job to decide who rules with him.
- Jesus says whoever wants to be great must be a servant.

Make two crowns. For each one, cut a piece of plain white paper in half as shown and tape the short ends together. Curve this paper strip around to form a crown and tape or staple it to fit a child. As you tell the story, choose one child to stand on your right wearing a crown and another child to stand on your left wearing a crown. But when Jesus talks about being a servant, give each of them a dustcloth and ask them to dust the furniture.



MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant" (Matthew 20:26).

To help the children remember this verse, ask them to repeat it several times with hand motions. On the word *great*, each child forms a crown shape with their hands and holds it above their heads. On the word *servant*, they kneel.

ACTIVITIES

Choose one or more of the following activities to support the story and to provide a springboard for discussion.

SERVING. Serve someone by washing a car, cleaning a room, weeding a garden, taking out trash. Discuss the Scripture.

APRONS. Ask each child to bring a dish towel. Make aprons out of these by cutting 1-inch vertical slits like button holes, spacing them evenly across one short end of the towel. Let the child weave ribbon or $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch strips of cloth (2 yards long) through the slits. Tie the ends of the ribbon around the waist to put on the apron. If the dish towels are too long, fold them in half. Discuss serving.



SERVANT'S RELAY. Divide into two teams. Mark a starting line and a goal line. The teams line up single file at the starting line. Give the first person on each team a tray with a cup of water on it. When you say, "Go," the first players hurry to the goal line and back without spilling the cup of water. Then each gives his tray to the next person in line, who hurries to the goal and back, and so on. Players must stop to get a refill of water if it spills. Option: carry an egg (plastic or real) in a spoon instead of tray and cup of water. Discuss serving.

SERVANTS' MUSICAL CHAIRS. For eight or more players, divide into two groups. The first group sits in a wide circle on the floor. Provide chairs for every player in the second group except one. Players in the second group walk around the chairs during the music. When the music stops, each tries to touch one chair, calling the name of a player on the floor, who must come and sit in it, while the player who touched the chair sits on the floor. Let the player without a chair control the music for the next round.

QUESTIONS

1. What is serving?
2. Is a servant always a hired person? Who can be a servant?
3. Do you know anyone who is a servant? What does that person do?
4. How was Jesus a servant?

KIDS' COUNCIL

BRING IT HOME

- How do most people in the world try to become great?
- Are you a servant? Tell ways you serve others. Suggest other ways to serve.
- Who will you serve this week?
- How will you serve?

SHARE AND PRAY

- Ask the children to share their concerns and pray for each other.
- Ask God to show them what they can do to serve this week.
- Thank God for giving us people in our lives who serve us, and for sending Jesus to show us how to serve.

ADULT STUDY QUESTIONS

- Tell about someone who has become great in your eyes by becoming a servant.
- What would you list as some character traits of a servant?
- What does the world consider great? How do most people in the world try to become great?
- Read and discuss Philippians 2:5-11. How can you take on this attitude like verse 5 encourages us to?

SNACK AND FELLOWSHIP

Servants and Muffins. Bring boxed muffin mixes and the ingredients required to prepare the muffins. Ask the children to mix, bake, and serve the muffins as part of being servants. Discuss the Scripture.