JESUS BLESSES THE CHILDREN

LUKE 18:15-17

Big Idea:
Jesus wants us to serve others.

Key Verse:
Serve one another in love. | Galatians 5:13

Leader Tip:
Prepare the free-play activities and pray for your group before the children arrive.

Ls Life Story

1. **Find the Children** — **Free Play**
   Search for hidden children cutouts and bring them to a Jesus activity page.
2. **Serving Hands Match** — **Free Play**
   Play a matching pictures game and talk about loving and serving others.
3. **Roll the Ball** — **Large Group**
   In this ball rolling game, highlight that Jesus loves us and wants us to serve.

Gs God Story

CIRCLE TIME!

4. **Music** — **Large Group**
   Play "Gonna Serve" on the *Little Praise Party: Taste and See* CD, and join the children in singing, dancing, and having fun together.
5. **Bible Story** — **Large Group**
   Read "The friend of little children" in *The Jesus Storybook Bible*.
6. **Key Verse** — **Large Group**
   Learn the new key verse by working collaboratively to place the words in order.

Ms My Story

7. **Small Group Activity** — **Small Groups**
   Read *Sharing God's Love* and discuss the Jesus Creed in small groups.
8. **Craft** — **Large Group**
   Review today's Bible story as the children decorate a scene from it.
9. **Dolls** — **Free Play**
   Take care of baby dolls to model serving others for the children.
10. **Jesus Loves Me!** — **Large Group**
    Wave scarves to "Jesus Loves Me" on the *Little Praise Party: My Best Friend* CD.

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11. **Dismissal**
    Give parents take home cards and this month's Key Verse colouring page.

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Ls Life Story

1. FIND THE CHILDREN

Supplies:
- Child cutouts
- Jesus activity page

Before the Activity:
- Hide the cutouts around your class space before the children arrive.

Leader Tip:
- Repeat free-play activities as long as they engage the children. Then invite a new group to do them.

Instructions:
a. Invite a few children to join you during free play.
b. Show them the Jesus activity page.
c. SAY: Children are important to Jesus. Today's Bible story is about Jesus and some children!
d. Place the activity page on a table.
e. Explain that there are 10 children cutouts hidden around your class space.
f. Lead the children to search for the cutouts.
g. When someone finds one, have them place it on the Jesus activity page.
h. To wrap up, SAY: Jesus loves children. Jesus loves you! You can love him, too.

2. SERVING HANDS MATCH

Supplies:
- Matching picture cards

Before the Activity:
- Spread one set of cards on a table with the pictures showing. Mix up and place the matching set of cards in a facedown pile nearby.

Instructions:
a. During free-play time, gather a few children to join you at the table where you set up the matching picture cards.
b. Demonstrate how to take a card from the pile and match it to a picture on the table.
c. Encourage the children to take turns picking up a card and finding its match.
d. As they match pictures, talk with the children about ways we can love and serve others.
e. Introduce this month's new Big Idea: **Jesus wants us to serve others**.

3. ROLL THE BALL

Supplies:
- Ball

Leader Tip:
- Make sure that everyone gets a turn! If someone feels shy, lead a few children to say the phrase together.

Instructions:
a. Gather all the children in an open space on the floor and ask them to sit in a large circle.
b. Roll the ball to a child.
c. Direct that child to shout "Jesus loves me!" or "Jesus wants me to serve others!"
d. Continue rolling the ball to different children and alternating between shouting out the two phrases.
e. SAY: Jesus loves you! Soon we'll hear a story from the Bible about Jesus and another group of children that he loved.
f. Explain that we can show Jesus we love him by serving others.

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Gs God Story

CIRCLE TIME!

Supplies:
- *CD player*
- *Tidy up and/or circle time songs on class CD*

Instructions:
a. Make sure the CD player is easily accessible during circle time.
b. Play music while clearing space on the floor.
c. Gather the children into a circle to do the God Story activities together.
d. Change the order of the circle time activities so they work well for your group.

4. MUSIC

Supplies:
- Song lyrics sheet
- Wall-safe tape
- CD player
- "Gonna Serve" (track 11) on *Little Praise Party: Taste and See* CD
- (Optional) Scarves or musical instruments

Before the Activity:
- Hang the lyrics where leaders can read them easily.

Leader Tips:
- Be energetic and have fun during music activities to set the tone for the children.
- Feel free to extend your music time with the class CDs.

Instructions:
a. If using supplies, hand them out before starting.
b. Mix it up each week! Here are some options:
   - Sing along with the song.
   - Wave the scarves.
   - Use the musical instruments.
   - Make up fun actions that go with the song.
c. After the music is finished, prompt children to return any supplies to the bin.

5. BIBLE STORY

Supplies:
- "The friend of little children" (from Matthew 18, 19; Mark 10; Luke 18) in *The Jesus Storybook Bible* (p. 256)

Leader Tip:
- Use the Bible story to start conversations about God with the children.

Instructions:
a. Gather the children to sit on the floor with you.
b. Tell them that today's story is from the Bible.
c. Read the story to the children. Use an expressive voice and show everyone the pictures.
d. To wrap up, PRAY: Dear God, thank you for loving each of us! Thank you for Jesus' example of how to serve others. Help us to love and serve others as Jesus did. Amen.

6. KEY VERSE

Supplies:
- Key verse paper plates
- Key verse sign

Before the Activity:
- Place the key verse sign on a table or on the floor.
- Nearby, place the paper plates with the key verse labels face down. Move them around to mix up the order.

Instructions:
a. Introduce this month's key verse (Galatians 5:13).
b. Have the children take turns flipping over the plates.
c. Encourage the group to work together to put the words from the verse in order.
d. If the children need help, show them how to use the key verse sign to find the correct order.

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Ms My Story

7. SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Supplies:
- *Sharing God's Love* book
- Scenario photo cards
- Jesus Creed activity page

Leader Tip:
- Your group will read this book every week during the Serve series. This week, you will only read pages 2-9.

Instructions:
a. Gather the children into their small groups.
b. Show them the book and read the first page to introduce the Jesus Creed.
c. Read pages 2-9, using an expressive voice and showing everyone the pictures.
d. Review each of the following scenarios and hold up the associated photo:
   - Aksel asks Jaslynn to sit with him on the bus (p. 5)
   - Finley puts away her dolls (p. 5)
   - Aksel donates to the food drive (p/ 6)
   - Finley donates clothes she has outgrown (p. 6)
   - Aksel helps his teacher by handing out glue (p. 8)
   - Finley thanks her mom (p. 8)
e. Place each picture into the correct column on the activity page. Depending on your group, the children could assist you. Refer back to the book for the answers.
f. Discuss these parts of the Jesus Creed: "love other people as yourself" and "love God with all your heart."

8. CRAFT

Supplies:
- Jesus Blesses the Children activity pages
- Markers
- Stickers

Leader Tip:
- Make sure the children's names are written on their crafts.

Instructions:
a. Gather the children to sit at a table.
b. Give each child an activity page, markers, and stickers.
c. Encourage them to share their markers and to use plenty of different colours.
d. As they decorate their pages, review today's Bible story about Jesus and the children.
e. Remind everyone how much Jesus loves them and that they can love Jesus, too.

9. DOLLS

Supplies:
- Dolls
- Blankets

Instructions:
a. During free play, invite a few children to play with the dolls.
b. Explain that **Jesus wants us to serve others**. For example, they could serve by helping take care of younger children.
c. Show them how to take care of the dolls and wrap them up in the blankets.
d. Continue as long as the children are interested.
e. Before gathering a new group to play with you, SAY: Jesus loves you just as your mommies and daddies love you. You can love Jesus, too!

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10. JESUS LOVES ME!

Supplies:
- CD player
- "Jesus Loves Me" (track 20) on *Little Praise Party: My Best Friend* CD
- Scarves

Leader Tip:
- Have a plan in place to collect the scarves after the activity.

Instructions:
a. Gather all the children in an open space.
b. Give each child a scarf.
c. As the song plays, lead the children to do different actions (e.g., sway, wave scarves high or low, turn around, etc.).
d. To wrap up, ASK: Who loves you?
e. SAY: Jesus loves you and you can love Jesus, too! Remember, **Jesus wants us to serve others**. Serving others is a great way to show Jesus that we love him.

Os Our Story

11. DISMISSAL

Supplies:
- Children's crafts
- Take home cards
- Key verse colouring pages

Before Dismissal:
- Place take home materials and crafts where everyone can access them easily.

Leader Tip:
- Take a moment to share with parents about their children's experiences. Many parents will only hear about the morning from you.

Instructions:
a. Greet parents as they arrive to pick up their children.
b. Give parents take home cards and key verse colouring pages. Remind them to take any crafts.
c. Make sure children's security numbers match parents' numbers before they leave the classroom.

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