

The Greatest of All

Lesson 26

Bible Story

Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48

Teacher Challenge

What makes someone great? Their accomplishments, good looks, education? Maybe it depends on age, rank or how much experience the person has. Since Jesus is the image of God, take a good look at Jesus to see how God defines greatness. When the question of greatness came up among the disciples, Jesus set a small boy next to Himself. This child had no performance to commend him; he didn't know how to impress anybody. Yet this was the one Jesus pointed to as the most likely to succeed in His kingdom. Why? God values humility, kindness, sincerity, love and compassion.

- ➔ Who do you consider the greatest person you know? Why?
- ➔ What traits would you like to see God develop in your life?

Invite God to develop in you the attitudes that God values, and serve others—especially the young ones in your class. Let each child know that he or she is loved and accepted. By doing so, you are identifying with Jesus, declaring that every little child is great!

God's Word
"Serve one another in love."
Galatians 5:13

God's Word and Me
Jesus tells me to be kind
and serve others.

Teacher's Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



Play to Learn

Lesson 26

Active Game Center: Toss It!

Collect

Bible, magazine pictures of people (grandparents, parents, brothers, friends, babies, etc.), scissors, masking tape, beanbag; optional—Lesson 26 People Patterns 1-2 from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM.

Prepare

Cut out pictures and place on the floor in a grid pattern. Place a loop of masking tape on the backs of pictures to hold them down. (Optional: Print and cut out People Patterns from CD-ROM.)

Do

1. Children take turns tossing beanbag toward picture grid. If the beanbag lands on or near a picture, the child who tossed the beanbag tells one way to be kind to the person in the picture.
2. Children continue taking turns and tossing beanbag as time allows.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Jesus' friends learned it is good to serve others. Serving others means being kind and helpful to others. Let's play a game and talk about ways we can serve others!**
- ➔ **These pictures are of different people. Whose picture do you see here?** (A grandma, a mother, a baby, a friend, etc.)
- ➔ **What are some ways you can be kind and serve your mommy?** (Obey what she says. Say kind words to her. Help her at bath time.) Repeat for all the different people shown in the pictures.
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Serve one another in love."** Pray briefly, **Dear God, help us to serve others.**



For Younger Children

Younger children may not be able to verbalize ways to be kind to others. Help the child identify the type of person in the picture and tell ways to be kind to that person. **Yes, Josh, that is a grandmother. We can be kind to our grandmothers. We can say "I love you, Grandma!"**

For Older Children

To increase the challenge for older children, ask them to stand farther from the grid; or children may vary the way they toss the beanbag: over their shoulders, through their legs, etc.

Play to Learn

Lesson 26

Art Center: Welcome!

Collect

Bible, 9x12-inch (23x30.5-cm) colored construction paper, marker, adhesive craft foam shapes, stickers, crayons or markers, Con-Tact paper, scissors; optional—Lesson 26 Welcome Sign Pattern from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM.

Prepare

Print the word “Welcome” on construction paper—one for each child. (Optional: Print Welcome Sign Pattern onto construction paper, making one for each child.) Cut two pieces of Con-Tact paper for each child, large enough to cover the construction paper.

Do

1. Children decorate Welcome signs using craft foam, stickers and/or markers and crayons.
2. When children have finished decorating Welcome signs, write each child's name on the back of his or her sign and cover both sides of the sign with Con-Tact paper. Children take signs home.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible tells us, “Serve one another in love.” Serving others means being kind and helpful to others. We can serve others by making them feel welcome at our house. Let's make Welcome signs to take home and put at our front door.**
- ➔ **Elizabeth, letting Caitlyn use the blue marker was a kind thing to do. You are a kind friend. Jesus tells us to be kind and serve others.**
- ➔ **Ethan, thank you for putting your marker back in the box. You know how to help and serve!**
- ➔ **Kelly, who comes to visit at your house? How can you be kind and serve your grandma?**



For Younger Children

Assist children in peeling the backing off stickers.

For Older Children

Children dictate sentences about how they will serve at home. Print the sentences on the back of their Welcome signs.

Play to Learn

Lesson 26

Block Center: Service with a Smile

Collect

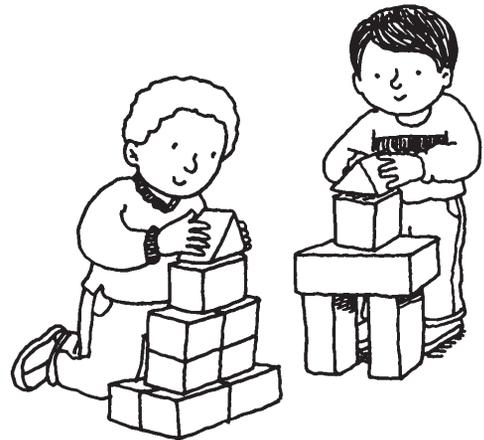
Bible, blocks, toy people.

Do

1. Children build homes.
2. Children play with toy people to act out being kind and serving visitors at home.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, Jesus said that God wants us to serve others. Let's build our homes and talk about ways to be kind and serve others!**
- ➔ **Who are the people in the house you are making, Ava? Let's pretend visitors are coming to the house. How will the people who live in the house get ready for visitors? Making food for friends is one way to serve others!**
- ➔ **The Bible tells us, "Serve one another in love." Pray briefly, Dear God, help us to serve others.**



For Younger Children

Young children will not be able to use blocks to make buildings and places. Provide baskets or buckets for children to use in block play. Children will enjoy filling and emptying their baskets or buckets with blocks. Use your conversation to connect children's activities to the lesson focus. **Michael, thank you for handing Julie that block. You are kind. I see lots of kind children in our class today.**

For Older Children

Children build block tables in their homes and set out toy food.

Play to Learn

Lesson 26

Science Center: Measure Up!

Collect

Bible, construction paper, markers.

Do

1. Trace each child's hand or foot on a sheet of construction paper.
2. Child uses hand- or footprint to find an object in the room that is as long as his or her hand or foot. Then child finds objects that are longer or shorter.

God's Word
"Serve one another in love."
Galatians 5:13

God's Word and Me
Jesus tells me to be kind
and serve others.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Jesus' friends wanted to know who was the most important. But Jesus told them you don't have to be a grown-up to be important to God. Even little children can do what God wants. Let's find some things in our room and see if they are bigger or smaller than our hands or feet.**
- ➔ **Some people have big hands and some people have small hands. But all of us can use our hands to help others.**
- ➔ **Who did you help this morning at breakfast? Who did you help here at church? You showed love by serving them!**
- ➔ **Matthew, who are some of the people you love? What are some ways you can help your mommy at home?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Serve one another in love." What does it mean to serve others? Serving others means helping them. It means doing good things for others. Pray briefly, Dear God, help us to be kind and serve others.**



For Younger Children

Children lay objects such as crayons or blocks in a row that measures the same as their arms or legs.

For Older Children

Children use measuring sticks to find objects with exact measures. **Daniel, can you find an object that is longer than 5 inches (12.5 cm)?**

Listen to Learn

Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48

Lesson 26

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 34 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, a variety of stickers—two of each design.

Greet Each Other

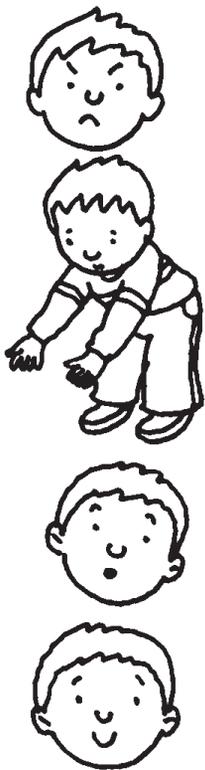
Give each child a sticker to put onto his or her shirt. **Find a friend who has the same sticker as you do.** Each child looks for a child with a matching sticker. Children with matching stickers sit beside each other. **Jesus tells us to be kind and serve others. You can serve your friends.**



Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Mark 9. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 34 pictures.

Who are some of your friends? Let's listen to hear what some of Jesus' friends talked about one day.



Jesus and His friends traveled from place to place. As they walked, Jesus' friends talked. One day, instead of using words that were happy and friendly, Jesus' friends said words that were unkind! One of Jesus' friends must have said he was better than someone else. Pretty soon each of them was feeling **ANGRY!** Each one wanted to be the greatest, or the best!

Jesus and His friends came into a house. Jesus said to His friends, "What were you arguing about on the road?"

Jesus' friends got very quiet. But Jesus **KNEW** they had been arguing about who was the greatest. And Jesus knew they had some wrong ideas.

Jesus sat down. Then He **picked up** a little child. Jesus set the child down beside the men. Jesus looked at His friends and said, "If you want God to think you are great, you must be like this little child. Don't think you are better than everyone else."

Jesus' friends were **surprised.** They thought they had to show God how good they were. Jesus was telling His friends they needed to learn that God loves a little child just as much as He loves any grown-up.

Jesus hugged the little child. He looked around at His friends. He said, "Treat children the way you would treat **ME.** When you are **kind** to children, it is the same as being kind to Me. God thinks you are great when you are kind and serve others."

Jesus wanted His friends to treat others with love and kindness instead of worrying about trying to be better than everyone else!

Talk About the Story

Jesus wanted His friends to serve others. Serving others means being kind and helpful to others. What are some ways you can serve others? (Help Mom by obeying her. Help a brother or sister do his or her chores.)

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about showing God's love by helping our family. Lead children in singing "What Are You Gonna Do?" (track 4 on CD). **Jesus tells us to be kind and serve others.**

Option: Lead children to experiment with singing the words of the Bible verse to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush" or "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Galatians 5:13, say verse aloud.

When we serve others, we are showing them God's love. That's why Jesus wants us to be kind and serve others.

Lead children in repeating the verse several times. As the children are repeating the verse with you, point to one child. You and the children say that child's name instead of the words "one another." Repeat until every child has had a turn.

Pray to God

One at a time, invite volunteers to name a person and complete the following prayer: **Dear God, help me to love and serve _____ . In Jesus' name, amen.**

Praise to God

Jesus served His friends. We can serve our friends, too. In Bible times, Jesus and His friends didn't have cars to drive in. Instead, they walked, rode in a boat or rode on a donkey. Let's pretend to travel like Jesus and His friends.

Ride your donkey. Lead children to walk, bouncing up and down as though riding a donkey. **Row your boat.** Children move their arms in a rowing motion as they walk. **Walk on the road.** Children walk.

Talk to Learn

Lesson 26

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect

A copy of Activity 34 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect

Copies of Puzzles 51 and 52 (p. 109 and p. 111 from *The Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles*) for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do

Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect

A copy of Story Picture 26 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #1* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.

