

Food for Widows

Lesson 33

Bible Story

Acts 6:1-7

Teacher Challenge

As more people became Christians, it was discovered that a group of widows were being overlooked, and someone complained to the leaders. The Twelve got together and after discussing the importance of this issue, they decided to turn over the responsibility for making sure that everyone was taken care of to seven godly men who were full of the Holy Spirit. In this way, kindness was shown to all.

- ➔ List some kindnesses you have received from others.
- ➔ What are some reasons you have for showing kindness to others?

God is our model of kindness. It is His kindness that leads us to repentance. It is our kindness that can also lead people to God. Look for simple ways that you can show kindness to those around you throughout the day. Rather than being another thing to add to your to-do list, kind acts should be a natural part of your lifestyle. Your model of kindness will teach the children in your class, and they in turn will begin to display kindness to others.

God's Word
"Be kind to the poor and you will be happy." (See Proverbs 14:21.)

God's Word and Me
I'm glad to help others by being kind.

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 33

Active Game Center: Find That Face!

Collect

Bible, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, large paper plates, markers.

Prepare

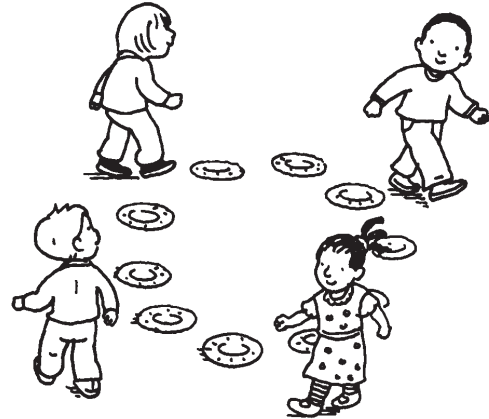
On one paper plate draw a happy face. On another paper plate draw a sad face. Leave the others blank.

Do

1. Place plates face down in a circle. Play "Kind to Everyone" (track 7 on CD) as children walk around the circle. Play music for 10 to 12 seconds. When music stops, each child stops by a plate and turns it over to see if there is a face on the plate.
2. Child who finds the sad face shows his or her plate to the group and makes the appropriate facial expression. Other children copy the expression. Then child who turned over happy face shows plate and makes appropriate facial expression. Other children copy the happy expression.
3. Mix up plates and repeat game.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, some women were very hungry. They were sad because they did not have enough food. Show me a sad face. Then Jesus' friends were kind and gave the hungry women food. This made the women happy! Show me a happy face.**
- ➔ **Lily turned over the plate with the happy face. Yes, now she is smiling! When we are kind and help other people, it makes them happy. It makes us happy, too!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Be kind to the poor and you will be happy." We can be kind and help others. Madison, how does your mom's face look when you help her set the table? Our moms are happy when we help!**



For Younger Children

Children walk in circle. When music stops, teacher holds up either a happy or sad plate face. Children make appropriate facial expressions.

For Older Children

Invite children to move in a different way for each round: sliding, crawling, skipping, hopping, etc.

Play to Learn

Lesson 33

Art Center: Food to Share

Collect

Bible, scissors, brown paper grocery bags, precut pictures of food from magazines or grocery-store advertisements, glue sticks; optional—Lesson 33 Food Patterns from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM.

Prepare

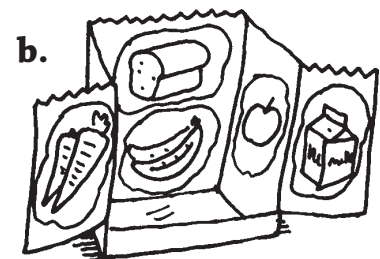
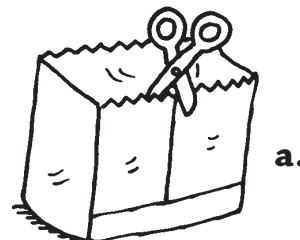
Make a T-shaped cut in the side of each grocery bag (see sketch a). (Optional: Make copies of Food Patterns and cut them apart.)

Do

Children select pictures of food items and glue them inside grocery bags (see sketch b).

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story, Jesus' friends were kind to some women who had no food. They gave the women food and made sure they had enough to eat. Let's make some grocery bags with pictures of food that we would like to share with others.**
- ➔ **Thomas, you found a picture of an apple. When might you share an apple with someone? What is something else you can share with your brother? I'm glad we can be kind and help each other.**
- ➔ **What can you do to be kind and help others at your house? What can you do to be kind when you play with your friend?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Be kind to the poor and you will be happy." Pray briefly, Dear God, help us be kind to others.**



For Younger Children

Children glue pictures of food onto a large sheet of paper. Print "Food we can share" on the top of the paper and display in class.

For Older Children

Children color the outside of their bags and may use inventive spelling to add a name (or logo) of a real or imaginary grocery store.

Play to Learn

Lesson 33

Block Center: My Store

Collect

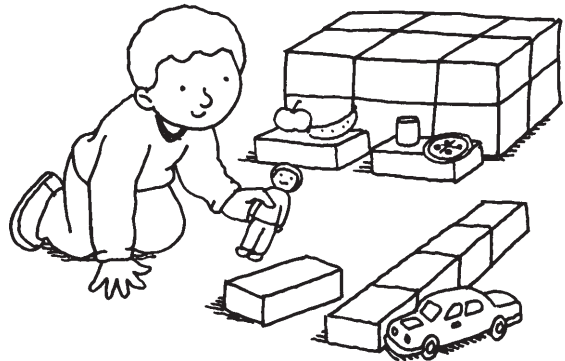
Bible, blocks, toy food, toy cars and people.

Do

1. Children use blocks to build one or more grocery stores and shelves.
2. Children arrange toy food on shelves and play with toy cars and people.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Be kind to the poor and you will be happy.” When we are kind to others, we help them be happy. And we feel happy, too. Let’s use our blocks to make a store. We can act out people coming to buy food. As we play, we can be kind to each other.**
- ➔ **Sophie, I see you are helping Christopher build the store. You are a kind helper! That must make you and Christopher happy.**
- ➔ **Jason, how can you be kind to your sister when you are getting ready for bed? Yes, you can let your sister brush her teeth first.**
- ➔ **Olivia, how can you be kind in your home? You must be glad that you can be kind to the cat by feeding it. You are a good helper, Olivia!**
- ➔ **God is glad when we help others! Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for being kind to us. Help us to help others. We love You.**



God's Word
“Be kind to the poor and you will be happy.” (See Proverbs 14:21.)

God's Word and Me
I'm glad to help others by being kind.

For Younger Children

Make the outline of a store on the floor with masking tape. Children place blocks along the tape outline to form store. (Note: Remove tape immediately after activity.)

For Older Children

Provide sheets of black construction paper and chalk for children to use in creating parking lots for their stores.

Play to Learn

Lesson 33

Science Center: Food to Share

Collect

Bible, variety of snack ingredients for trail mix (dry cereal, mini marshmallows, raisins, chocolate chips, sesame seeds, fish crackers, stick pretzels, etc.), disposable bowls, lunch-size paper bag and two snack baggies for each child, plastic spoons.

God's Word
"Be kind to the poor and you will be happy." (See Proverbs 14:21.)

God's Word and Me
I'm glad to help others by being kind.

Prepare

Place each snack ingredient into one or more bowls. Post a note alerting parents to the use of food in this activity. Also check registration forms for possible food allergies or restrictions.

Do

1. Give each child a paper bag and spoon. Child uses spoon to place desired snack ingredients into paper bag. Encourage children to count the number of spoonfuls they use. (Note: Limit the number of certain ingredients such as chocolate chips or marshmallows.)
2. After placing appropriate amount of ingredients into bags, children hold bags tightly closed and shake them to mix ingredients.
3. Help children divide the snack between the two baggies. Children eat snack from one baggie and take home the other baggie to share snack with a friend or family member.



Talk About

- ➔ **When you're hungry, what's your favorite food to eat? In our Bible story today, some women were hungry. Jesus' friends were kind to them and helped them have enough to eat. Let's make snack bags today that we can share with others to be kind.**
- ➔ **Chris, you helped Tyler put the raisins in his bag. Thank you for being kind!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Be kind to the poor and you will be happy." It is important to be kind to ALL people! What can you do to be kind to your family? Kylie, who are you going to give a snack bag to?**

For Younger Children

Limit the number of ingredients. Instead of using spoons to put ingredients into bags, give children small paper cups.

For Older Children

Children decorate bags with stickers.

Listen to Learn

Acts 6:1-7

Lesson 33

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 46 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, toy fruit and vegetables or cut-apart copies of Lesson 33 Food Patterns from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM, paper shopping bag, stopwatch or timer, sheet of paper, marker.

Greet Each Other

Each child selects a toy fruit or vegetable or a picture of a fruit or vegetable from Food Patterns on CD-ROM. Children sit in a circle.

I'm going to the Farmer's Market to buy (apples) as you place an (apple) in a paper shopping bag. Pass bag to next child. Child repeats sentence, inserting correct name of fruit or vegetable as he or she places it in the bag. Continue until each child has had a turn. **God has given us good food to eat. We can be kind and share food with others.**

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Acts 6. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 46 pictures.

What food do you like to eat? Listen to our Bible story to hear about some people who didn't have enough food to eat.



Every day Jesus' friends told more and more people the good news that Jesus loved them. More and more people learned to love Jesus. And every day these people were **sharing** their food and clothing with people who had none. They were very happy.

However, one group of women whose husbands had died were **not happy**. These women said, "No one is sharing food with us. We are not getting enough to eat!" This was a problem!



The people who were friends of these women could have gotten angry. They could have grumbled and argued and caused lots of trouble, but they didn't. Instead, they told Jesus' friends about the problem.



When Jesus' friends heard about this, they felt sad. They wanted everyone to have enough food to eat. They wanted to be kind to everyone. So these friends of Jesus called everyone together. "We know it isn't fair that some people don't get enough food to eat." The people listened quietly.



"This is what we will do," Jesus' friends said. "Choose **seven** special helpers. These special helpers will make sure everyone gets enough food." So the people chose one, two, three, four, five, six, seven men to be special helpers. Then Jesus' friends **prayed** and asked God to help the seven men do their best work.

These special helpers did a good job. Now the women had enough food to eat, just like everyone else. Everyone worked together to be kind and show they loved Jesus.

God's Word
"Be kind to the poor and you will be happy." (See Proverbs 14:21.)

God's Word and Me
I'm glad to help others by being kind.

Talk About the Story

What did the people do to be kind? (Made sure the women got enough to eat. Jesus' friends chose seven special helpers to give the food to the women.) **We can be kind and help others, too. When can you be kind to your mom? Your dad? Your brothers or sisters?**

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about obeying God. Lead children in singing "Hear the Word" (track 9 on CD). **I'm glad we have ears to hear God's Word. And I am glad we can obey it by being kind to others.**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Proverbs 14:21, say verse aloud. **We help others when we are kind. What are some of the things poor people might need?** (Food. Clothes. A place to live.) Lead children in repeating the verse after you a few times in this manner: Say the verse very quietly the first time and then a little bit louder each time you repeat the verse, until you are speaking in a normal speaking voice. Continue repeating verse, getting softer on each repetition, until speaking very quietly again.

Option: During the verse activity, invite children to clap their hands on each word. Children clap softly when speaking softly and clap louder as they speak more loudly.

Option: If you take a weekly offering during this worship time, explain to children that some of the money is used to share with people who are poor. Giving money is one way to be kind to others.

Pray to God

Children repeat prayer, phrase by phrase after you.
Dear God, . . . thank You that You help us . . . be kind to others. . . . Thank You that . . . when we are kind to others, . . . we will be happy, too. . . . In Jesus' name, amen.

Praise to God

Set a stopwatch or timer for one minute. **Let's see how many fruit we can name in one minute.** Write children's responses on large sheet of paper. Continue activity with different categories: vegetables, breakfast cereals, toys, etc. **God has given us many good things. God wants us to be kind to others. We can help others by sharing.**

Talk to Learn

Lesson 33

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect

A copy of Activity 46 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, scissors, crayons or markers; optional—3-inch (7.5-cm) yarn lengths, glue.

Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue yarn lengths to stripes on woman's clothing on page.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect

Copies of Puzzles 65 and 66 (p. 137 and p. 139 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 33 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.

