

Helping at the Tabernacle

Lesson 6

Bible Story

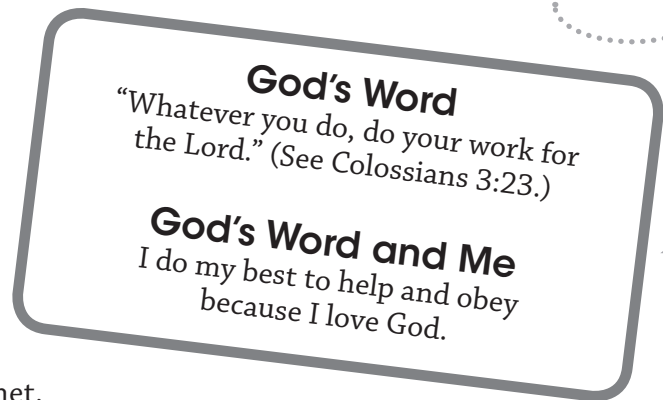
1 Samuel 1:28; 2:11,18-21,26

Teacher Challenge

Samuel must have known from a very young age that he'd one day go to the Tabernacle. He began serving God by doing practical tasks for Eli, who was old, overweight and nearly blind. Samuel's role grew through the years, to serve as priest, prophet, judge and leader. His lifelong work built on that early experience of practical usefulness centered on God.

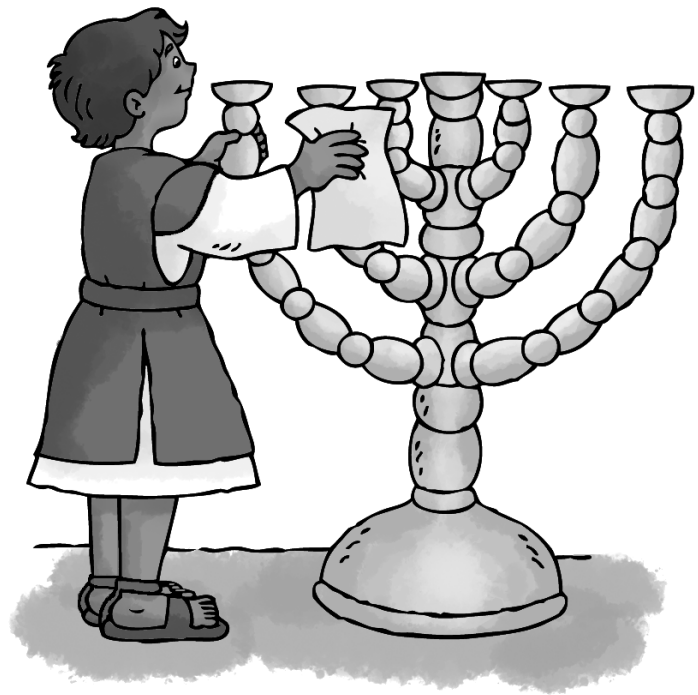
- ➔ In what areas do you feel you have contributed to God's work?
- ➔ What changes do you sense God wants you to make in these areas?

We all grow spiritually throughout our lives. The children in your class are on the same journey as you are—they've just begun later! As you invite children to join you in serving God, help them notice how much they enjoy helping. Acknowledge and encourage their work: "I see you worked hard!" or "Thank you for picking up all the scraps." You're teaching them that doing our work for the Lord (no matter the size of the job) always has great value!



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 6

Active Game Center: Target Sweep

Collect

Bible, masking tape, paper, basket or box, one broom (whisk, child-sized or regular) for every four to five children.

Prepare

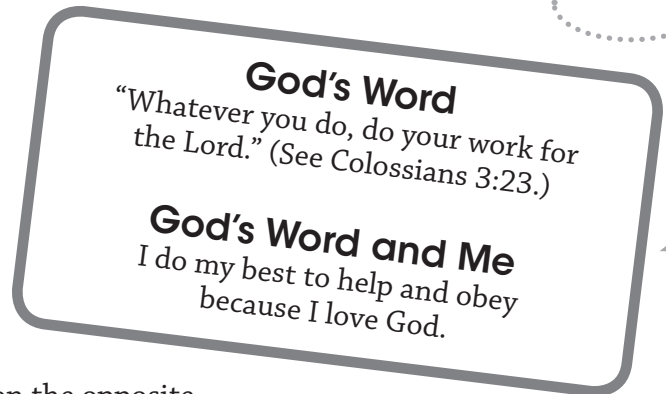
At one end of an open area, make a large masking-tape square on the floor. Make a masking-tape line on the opposite side of the open area. (Note: Remove tape immediately after use.)

Do

1. Children crumple paper into balls and place in basket or box. Children line up behind masking-tape line. Hand a broom to the first child in the line and place basket or box next to him or her.
2. At your signal, the first child selects a paper ball and drops it onto the floor. He or she uses broom to sweep ball onto masking-tape square. Child returns to line and hands broom to the next child who repeats action. Continue until each child has a turn. Next, children sweep balls from masking-tape square back to starting line, placing paper balls back in basket or box. Repeat as time and interest allow.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story, Samuel helped at the Tabernacle. One way he may have helped was by sweeping the floor. Let's play a sweeping game!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. How can you help a brother or sister? How can you help a grandparent?**



For Younger Children

Children do not use paper balls but simply make sweeping motions with the broom as they move across the playing area.

For Older Children

Each child writes the first letter of his or her name on paper before crumpling it into a ball. After each round of play, open it and tell the letter. Children whose names begin with that letter tell ways to help.

Play to Learn

Lesson 6

Art Center: Helping Hands Book

Collect

Bible, paper, pencils, crayons or markers; optional—Lesson 6 Helping Hands Book Pattern from *Discovering God's Love* CD-ROM, stickers.

Prepare

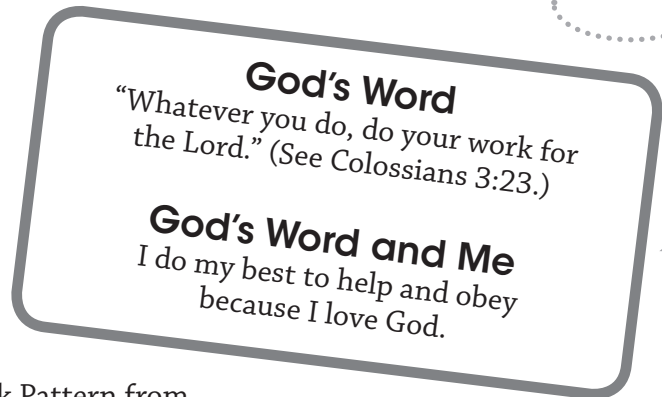
Fold paper in half. Print "I Can Help" on front of book. (Optional: Make copies of Helping Hands Book Pattern from CD-ROM.)

Do

1. Children open book and use pencils to trace their hands on inside pages. Then children decorate their hand outlines with markers. (Optional: Children use stickers.)
2. Inside hand outlines, children draw ways they can help at home.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, a boy named Samuel helped at the Tabernacle. We can use our hands to help others. Let's make books that show our hands.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. This verse reminds us to do our best work. When Samuel helped at the Tabernacle, he did his best work. We can do our best work when we help others, too.**
- ➔ **What is one way you help someone in your family? What is one way you help a friend?**



God's Word

"Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord." (See Colossians 3:23.)

God's Word and Me

I do my best to help and obey because I love God.

For Younger Children

Teacher or older child traces around children's hands.

For Older Children

Children dictate ways they can help. Write words on back of books.

Play to Learn

Lesson 6

Block Center: Helper at Home

Collect

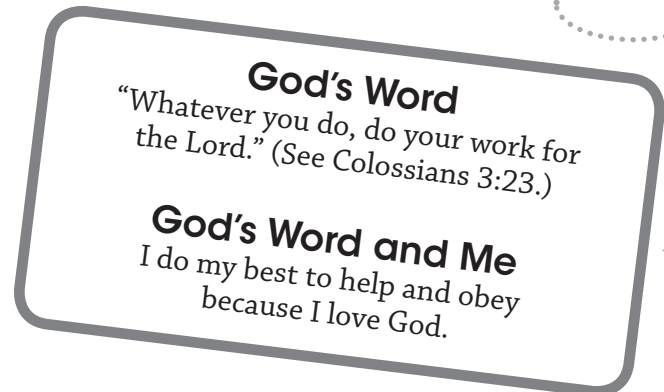
Bible, blocks, large toy feathers; optional—clothespins.

Do

1. Children use blocks to build different rooms of their house.
2. Children use feathers to act out cleaning the house. (Optional: Children hold a few feathers with a clothespin to make a feather duster.)

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord.” This verse tells us that we should always do our best work. Let’s build a home and help others clean up.**
- ➔ **What kind of work do people do at your home?** (Cook food. Wash car. Stack papers. Dust.) **What kind of work can you do at your home?**
- ➔ **We can do our best work to show that we love God.** Pray briefly, **Dear God, we want to do our best work because we love You.**



For Younger Children

Provide dust-cloths instead of feathers.

For Older Children

Children use wipes to clean blocks and other toys.

Play to Learn

Lesson 6

Science Center: Clean Those Coins

Collect

Bible, newspaper, several dirty coins, water, three bowls, paper towels, liquid soap, measuring cup, vinegar, tablespoon, salt.

Prepare

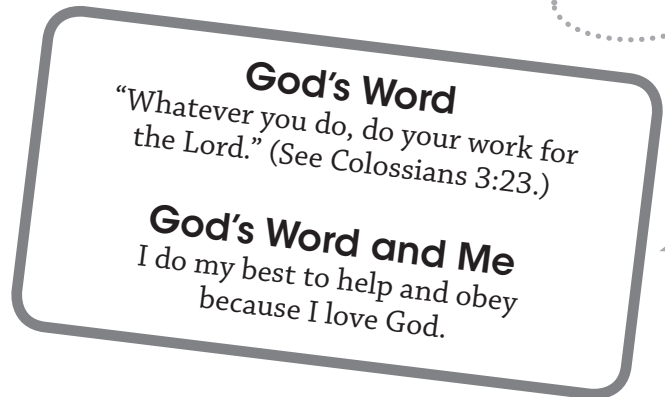
Spread newspaper over the activity area.

Do

1. Show children the coins you brought. **What do you think might be a good way to clean these coins?** Allow several children to respond. **Let's see if water helps clean the coins.** Pour some water into one of the bowls. Drop a few coins in the water. Allow several volunteers to try rubbing coins with paper towels. Add liquid soap to water and invite several different volunteers to wash coins again.
2. After several minutes, pour 1/2 cup vinegar in third bowl. Add one tablespoon salt and stir. Drop coins in mixture and lead children in counting to 25 as they watch the mixture clean the coins. Remove coins and rinse in water. Children dry coins with paper towels.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, a boy named Samuel did his best work to help others. One way he may have helped was by keeping a big candlestick clean and shiny. Let's see if we can clean some coins so that they are shiny.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord." This verse tells us that we should always do our best work. We can do our best when we help others.**
- ➔ **Who is someone you can help at your house? Who can you help in our classroom?**



For Younger Children

Children use water to wash and dry classroom objects.

For Older Children

Children mix vinegar and salt and then take turns dropping coins into mixture to be cleaned. Be sure to provide at least one coin for each child to clean.

Listen to Learn

Lesson 6

1 Samuel 1:28; 2:11,18-21,26

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 11 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1 CD* and player, small object (crayon, block, toy car, nature item, etc.), large paper bag.

Greet Each Other

Begin by saying the name of a child and clapping for each syllable in the name as you say it. Children repeat after you, saying the name with the appropriate number of claps. As group becomes familiar with the procedure, use a child's first and last names.

God's Word
"Whatever you do, do your work for the Lord." (See Colossians 3:23.)

God's Word and Me
I do my best to help and obey because I love God.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to 1 Samuel 2. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 11 pictures.

What is the first thing you do when you wake up in the morning? Today we're going to learn what Samuel did every day when he woke up in the Tabernacle.



"Samuel, Samuel," Eli called. "Samuel, it's time to **wake up** and start a new day at God's Tabernacle," he said.



Eli had a special job at the Tabernacle. He prayed to God for others. And Eli taught people about God. Samuel helped Eli and took care of the Tabernacle.

Sometimes Eli would say, "Today you may polish the candlesticks." Samuel obeyed. He rubbed and **rubbed** the candlesticks. Samuel rubbed them until they were shiny and bright.



"We will need some firewood from the woodpile," Eli told Samuel. "Please get some more wood." Samuel obeyed Eli. He carried firewood from the woodpile to the Tabernacle for Eli.

Eli told Samuel other jobs to do. And Samuel obeyed all Eli said. When all the work was finished, Eli said, "**Open** the doors to the Tabernacle. Let the people come inside."



Many people came inside to thank God and to sing glad songs to Him. When all the people went home, Eli would **call** Samuel to close the doors.

Every day Samuel grew taller and stronger. And every day Samuel learned more and more about God. Samuel did a good job of helping Eli at the Tabernacle. Samuel obeyed God by doing his best.

Talk About the Story

What are some of the chores Samuel probably did at the Tabernacle? (Polished candlesticks. Carried firewood. Swept floor. Opened and closed the doors.) **Samuel did his best to help and obey Eli. Samuel loved God. We can show we love God by doing our best to help and obey, too!** **Who is someone you can help at home?** (Mom, Dad, grandparent, baby-sitter, etc.) **What is something you can do to help your mother?**

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about obeying! Lead children in singing "A Little Bit More" (track 3 on CD). **According to the song, what do our hands do?** (Help others.) **Doing our best to help others is one way to show that we love God!**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Colossians 3:23, say verse aloud. **"Lord" is another name for God. We can do our best to help and obey because we love God.** Lead children in repeating the verse a few times in this manner: Say the verse very quietly the first time and then louder each time you repeat the verse.

Option: Children think of things they can do this week to help the people in their families. Print children's responses on a large sheet of paper. Display paper where parents will see it when they pick up their children.

Option: If you take a weekly offering during this worship time, explain to children that the money is used to help people learn about God. Giving money is one way to show our love for God.

Pray to God

We can ask God to help us do our best to help and obey. Children repeat prayer, phrase by phrase after you. **Dear God, . . . help us to always . . . do our best . . . to help and obey. . . . We want to do our best . . . because we love You. . . . In Jesus' name, amen.**

Praise to God

Secretly place an object (crayon, block, toy car, nature item, etc.) into a large paper bag. **Without looking, put your hand in this bag and try to guess what is inside the bag.** Children take turns to feel the object in the bag and then guess what it is. After all children have had a turn, remove the object from the bag. Continue, using other objects. **What else can you do with your hands beside feel things?** (Draw. Throw a ball. Play computer games.) **We can also use our hands to help others. We can do our best to help and obey because we love God.**

Talk to Learn

Lesson 6

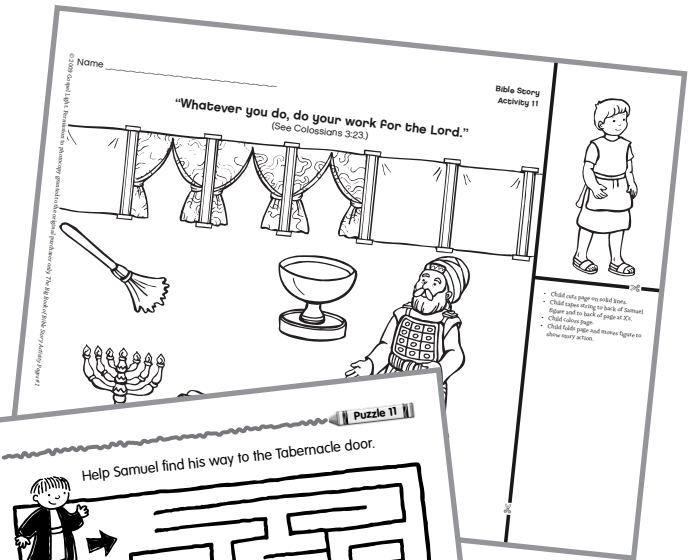
Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect

A copy of Activity 11 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #1* for yourself and each child, scissors, string, tape, crayons or markers; optional—small fabric pieces, glue.

Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue fabric pieces to Tabernacle curtain.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.



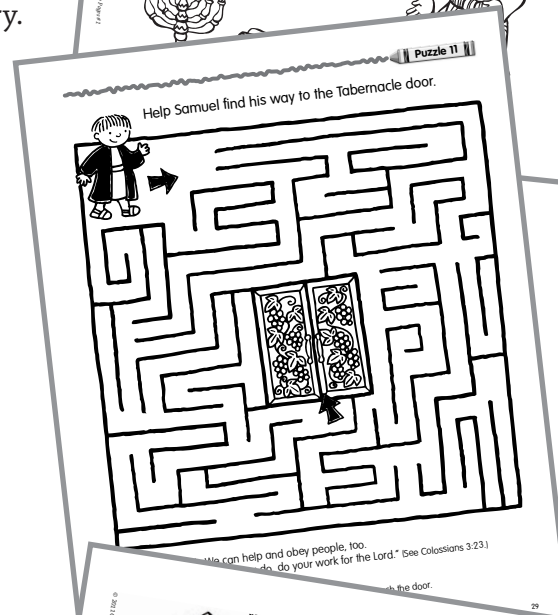
Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect

Copies of Puzzles 11 and 12 (p. 29 and p. 31 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 6 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.

