

Serving God Wholeheartedly

Theme Lesson

PREPARATION

Objective

Students will understand that living for God enables him to accomplish his purpose in and through their lives.

Outcomes

1. Students will learn what it means to live for God.
2. Students will dedicate their lives to Christ through a simulation of giving him their hearts, hands, feet, mouth, and possessions.

Directions

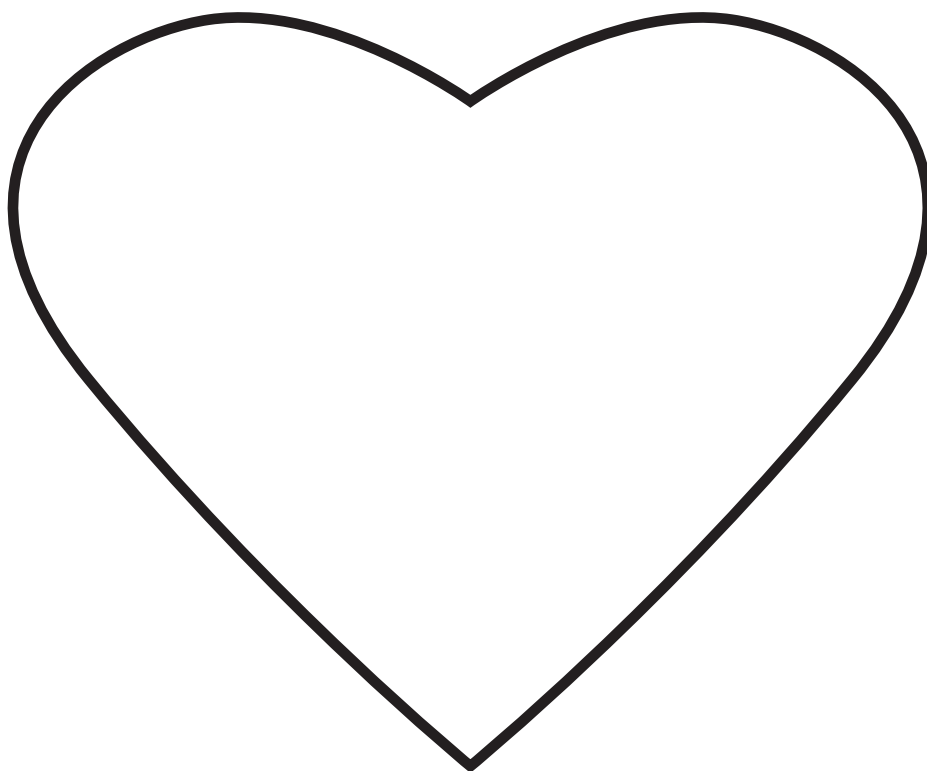
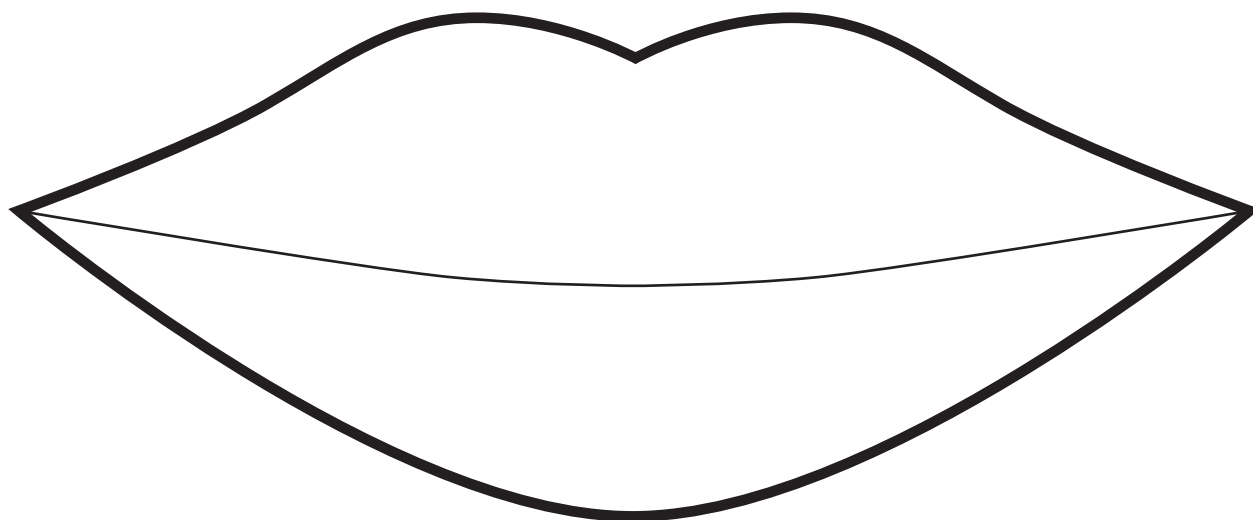
1. Gift wrap a box and the lid separately.
2. Trace your hands and feet onto white construction paper and cut them out.
3. Color and cut out the “Mouth and Heart” (p. 2).
4. Place hands, feet, mouth, and heart shapes in the gift-wrapped box.
5. Place the stuffed animal, picture or photo of friends, and an item that represents a talent or skill you possess into the gift-wrapped box.
6. Put the lid on the box.
7. Use a colorful bed sheet, tablecloth, or other material to decorate a big chair to represent God’s throne.
8. Place the big chair that will represent God’s throne in a prominent place in your teaching area.
9. Put the crown and Bible on the seat of the chair.
10. Have white construction paper, “Mouth and Heart” sheets, pencils, crayons, and pencils ready for students to use as they enter the room.
11. Set up CD player.

**PREPARATION: 25 min.****TEACHING: 33 min.**

Materials

- Bible
- box with removable lid
- large paper cut out of hands, feet, mouth, and a heart
- small stuffed animal (needs to fit in the box)
- picture or photo of friends
- item that represents a talent or skill you (teacher) possess (needs to fit in the box)
- copy of “Mouth and Heart” (p. 2) for each student
- two pieces white, 9 x 12-inch construction paper for each student
- crayons
- scissors
- gift wrap paper
- clear tape
- pencils
- sticky notes like Post-its® (optional)
- big chair to represent God’s throne
- colorful bed sheet, tablecloth, or piece of material (to be used to decorate God’s throne – purple, gold, or red would work well)
- king’s crown (could be made of paper)
- worship music CD or cassette of your choice
- CD or cassette player
- at least two helpers

Mouth and Heart



TEACHING (CORE)

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY: GIVING MY ALL

Directions

1. As students enter, pass out white construction paper and pencils. Have your helpers show students how to trace their hands and feet on white construction paper. Assist those students who need help.
2. Pass out the crayons and a “Mouth and Heart” page to each student. Direct them to color the mouth and heart.
3. Pass out scissors. Direct students to cut out the hands and feet they traced as well as the photocopied pictures of the mouth and heart.
4. Have students place these items as well as any items they brought from home in individual piles in the back of the room. (Optional: Have a helper write students’ names on sticky notes and label each pile.)
5. As students begin to finish, turn on the CD player. Lead students in a short time of worship in song, focusing on who God is and how much he loves us.

THEME LESSON: LIVING FOR GOD

Directions

1. Start by saying, *“Boys and girls, God loves us so much! Do you love God back?”* Allow responses. *“I love him too. God is happy when we tell him we love him and worship him by singing.”*
2. *“It also makes God happy when we choose to give him our lives. What do you think that may mean?”* Allow response. *“Giving God your life can mean a lot of different things. Today we will learn more about what it means to live for God.”*
3. Draw the students’ attention to the chair representing God’s throne. Say, *“Do you like our special chair? We are pretending that this is God’s throne, a fancy chair for a king. The Bible tells us that someday in heaven, all kinds of people will worship God as the king.”*
4. *“We don’t have wait until we go to heaven to worship God. The Bible tells us God is with us all the time. That means he is here with us now, for real. We do not see him because God is a spirit, but God is here and he hears what we say and knows what we think. He sees even into our hearts. Do you think we have a great and loving God?”* Allow responses.
5. Hold up the crown. Say, *“Why do you think a crown is on God’s throne?”* Allow responses. Then say, *“God is king over everything – over people, angels, and all other things that he created. As his followers, we worship God. Did you enjoy singing a few minutes ago? God loves to hear us worship him.”*
6. Ask, *“What else do you see on the throne?”* (Bible) *“Why do you think a Bible is on the throne?”* Allow responses. *“God speaks his words to us through the Bible. Let’s look in the Bible and see what God says about giving our lives to Jesus.”*

Materials

- “Mouth and Heart” (p. 2) page for each student
- two pieces white, 9 x 12-inch construction paper for each student
- crayons
- scissors
- pencils
- sticky notes like Post-its® (optional)
- at least two helpers

Materials

- chair decorated like God’s throne
- king’s crown and Bible on seat of chair
- gift-wrapped box with items inside

7. Open your Bible and read Romans 12:1: *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.”*
8. Say, *“This verse says that because of what God has done for us, we need to give our whole lives to him. What did God’s Son Jesus do for us that no one else could do?”* Allow responses. *“How else has God blessed you?”* Allow responses.
9. Say, *“Wow! God loves us, cares for us every day, and forgives our sin. We should show him how much we love him. The verse uses the word ‘sacrifice.’ A sacrifice is something you give willingly to someone else. Giving God every part of our life is an act of worship.”*
10. Bring out the gift-wrapped box with items hidden inside. Say, *“I brought some things that are important to me. I want to give these things to God because I love him.”*
11. Open the box and bring out one item at a time explaining the meaning of each one.
12. Show the paper heart. Say, *“The Bible says that God wants us to love him with our whole heart.”* (Luke 10:27) *“That means nothing in the world is more important to me than God. I want to give God my love.”* Place the heart on the floor in front of the throne.
13. Show the cut-out of your hands. Say, *“The Bible says I need to do everything as if I am doing it for God.”* (Colossians 3:23-24) *“Everything I do with my hands I need to do in a way that honors God. What about doing things to honor God in your own life? This would include how you clean your bedroom, how you do your school work, and even how you play sports.”* Place the hands on the floor in front of the throne.
14. Show the cut-out of your feet. Say, *“God tells us to go into the world to tell people about Jesus.”* (Matthew 28:18-20) *“I need to be willing to go wherever God wants me to go, even if it is not easy. What about your own feet? Maybe God will ask you to go help a girl who always teases you. Maybe God will ask you to visit a sick person in the hospital. When you grow up, God might want you to go to China or North Africa. Maybe he will ask you to stay right here in __ (insert name of your city).”* Place the feet on the floor in front of throne.
15. Show the paper mouth. Say, *“The Bible says we are to proclaim or tell everyone, the good news of Jesus.”* (Mark 16:15) *“I want to give my mouth to God. I need to use kind words when I talk to people. I want to use my words to tell others about Jesus.”* Place the mouth on the floor in front of the throne.
16. Show students the stuffed animal. Say, *“Here is something special I brought from home that I love! Because I love God more than anything, I want to let God use everything I have, even my special things. Giving God my things does not mean that I put them in front of this pretend throne and leave them there forever. I will take home my special friend today.”*
17. *“Giving God all my possessions means I am willing to use them in a way that pleases God.”* (1 Timothy 6:17-19) *“Maybe you have a game, a toy, or a bike that is special to you. How could you use your things in a way that*

would make God happy?” Allow responses. (share, don’t fight over who plays with it, take turns, give it to someone to play with if he is sad or scared, give it to a boy or girl without toys, etc.) Place the stuffed animal on floor in front of throne.

18. Show the photo or picture of friends. Say, *“The Bible says that I should love him even more than I love my family and friends.”* (Matthew 10:37-38) *“God may one day want me to move to another place to tell other people about him. I need to be willing to leave people I love behind so I can make new friends for God.”* Place picture on floor in front of throne.
19. Show the item that represents a talent or skill you possess. Say, *“God gives each of us talents or skills. We go to school to learn how to do certain kinds of jobs. We also learn how to play instruments, create art projects, dance, play sports, act in plays, or do hand crafts like sewing. This ____ (insert name of your item) shows that God gave me the ability to ____ (insert your talent or skill). I do not want to use this talent so people will say how great I am. I want to use this talent so I can tell others about God and how great he is.”* Place the item on floor in front of throne.
20. Motion to the pile of items in front of the throne and say, *“All these things are parts of our lives. They help us understand what it means to give our lives to Jesus.”*

IN CLOSING ...

Transition immediately into the Prayer Activity: Prayer of Commitment (p. 12).



SONG: YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES

Before the Activity Directions

1. Set up the TV/DVD. Cue the DVD to the “You Will Be My Witnesses” song. Practice the hand motions.

Directions

1. Say, *“In our last lesson, we learned that witnesses are people who see something and can tell others about what they know.”*
2. *“Paul was a witness. He traveled to many places in the world, telling people what he knew about Jesus.”*
3. *“When we tell people that we know about Jesus, we are witnesses, too.”*
4. Play the “You Will Be My Witnesses” song on the DVD. Direct students to listen to the words and watch the motions the first time.
5. Direct students to stand. Play the song again. Invite students to sing along and try the motions.



PREPARATION: 2 min.

TEACHING: 3 min.

Materials

- “You Will Be My Witnesses” song (MS)
- TV/DVD



VIDEO: HALLELUJAH TO THE LAMB

Before the Activity Directions

1. Preview “Hallelujah to the Lamb” on the DVD.

Directions

1. Hold up the globe and say, *“The Bible tells us that one day in the future, people from every place on this globe will know and worship God and his Son, Jesus.”*
2. *“This video shows people who believe in Jesus today. As you watch, look for all the different ways people worship.”*
3. *“The song on the video is called ‘Hallelujah to the Lamb.’ In the Bible, Jesus is called the ‘Lamb of God.’ Why do you think that people in heaven will be thanking and praising Jesus?”* Allow responses. (Jesus died on the cross, Jesus takes away our sin, etc.)
4. Show the video.
5. Conclude by saying, *“Heaven will be a wonderful place where we will worship God with people from every place on earth.”*



PREPARATION: 5 min.

TEACHING: 8 min.

Materials

- “Hallelujah to the Lamb” (VF)
- TV/DVD
- globe



CRAFT: HANDS FOR JESUS

Note: This craft involves paint. The handprint page will need to dry before students can add a picture frame. You may consider using a hairdryer to speed drying. Move to another lesson component such as the game or snack while you wait.

Before the Activity Directions

1. Cut the white construction paper into four, 5 x 8-inch pieces.
2. For the frames, cut the black construction paper into four 6 x 9-inch pieces.
3. Put the tubs of rinse water and paper towels near the craft activity area. Leave one table clear for handprint sheets to dry.

Directions

1. Start the activity by saying, *"We have talked about giving ourselves to Jesus for him to use. We can give our mouths to Jesus; telling others about him with our words. We can give our feet to Jesus; going to tell other people about him. We can give our hands to Jesus; showing others what Jesus is like by what we do and how we treat them. Today, we will make something that reminds us that Jesus can use our hands."*
2. Pass out a sheet of white construction paper and pencil to each student. Direct them to print their name in the bottom corner.
3. Give each adult helper several colors of fabric paint.
4. Have students bring their white piece of paper and line up across the table from the adult helper you designate.
5. Have the student in the front of each line put their piece of paper on the table.
6. Direct the adult helpers to turn the students' hand, palm side up. Beginning with the pointer finger, squirt a thin line of fabric paint down the middle of each finger. Continue the line on the pinkie down the side, across the bottom of the hand, and up the thumb. (See A next page.)
7. Help the students to place the painted side of their hand down on the sheet of white paper and press to make a handprint.
8. Tell them to use their clean hand to carry their paper to a designated table to dry.
9. Direct them to the tubs of water and paper towels.
10. Continue with the next group of students. Have students who are finished go with a helper to discuss ways they can use their hands for Jesus.
11. Allow handprint pages to dry.
12. When handprint pages are dry, pass them back to the students.
13. Say, *"Now we will make frames for our pictures."* Give each student a piece of black construction paper and glue. Show them how to put glue



PREPARATION: 10 min.

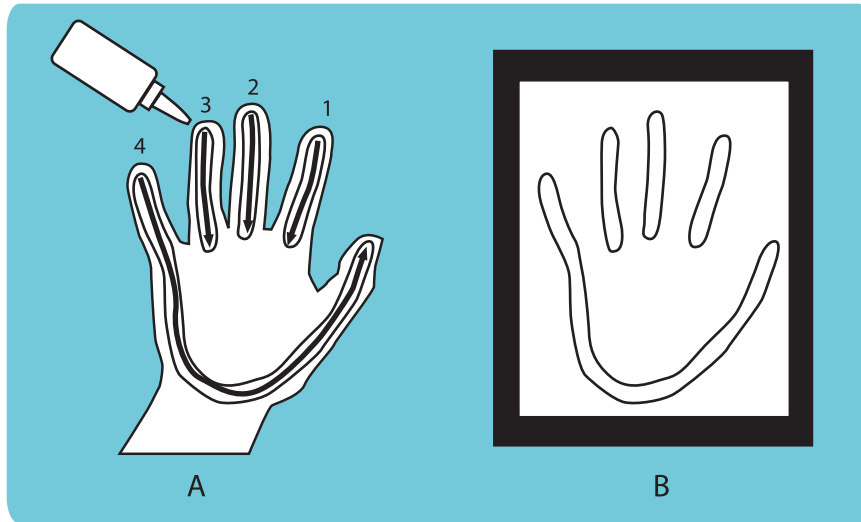
TEACHING: 20 min.

Materials

- fabric paints that can be squirted out in a thin line
- one piece of 12 x 18-inch piece of black construction paper for every four students
- one piece of 12 x 18-inch piece of white construction paper for every four students
- glue
- pencils
- shallow tubs of warm, soapy water for rinsing off paint
- paper towels
- hairdryer (optional)
- one adult helper for every six students

down the center of the black piece of paper. Caution them from putting glue on the edges, because this will be the frame of their picture.

14. Show them how to center their white paper on top of the black sheet and press down. (See B below.)
15. Say, *“When you take this handprint home, put it in a place where you will see it. Every time you look at it, remember that Jesus can use your hands to help other people learn about him.”*





GAME: REACH AROUND THE WORLD

Directions

1. Have the students form a large circle and sit down.
2. Put an inflatable globe or small world map in the middle of the circle.
3. Play the “Reach Around the World” song on the DVD and have the students watch. Teach the students to sing these words:
Reach around the world.
Tell each boy and girl,
God sent Jesus,
To save each one!
4. Direct the students to stand up, join hands, and sing the song as they walk around the globe or map. Tell the students that after they sing “save each one,” they should sit down.
5. Play the DVD. When the first verse on the DVD ends, push stop.
6. Have the last student to sit down go to the middle of the circle. Show him where your location is on the globe or map and have him touch that spot. Then have the students repeat after you: *“People in ____ (your location) need to know that God sent Jesus to save them.”*
7. Invite the student to stay in the circle and hold the globe or map for the second round of singing.
8. Have the students stand up and join hands again. Start the DVD again. Have students circle and sing.
9. Stop the DVD at the end of the second verse. Whoever sits down last in the second round should come to the middle of the circle and trade with the first student. Invite her to touch any land on the globe or map. Remind students that the blue areas are water. Help the student read the location that she touched. Then have all the students repeat after you: *“People in ____ (location selected) need to know that God sent Jesus to save them.”*
10. Continue the game, having the students choose new locations on the map or globe in each round.



PREPARATION: 5 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- “Reach Around the World” song (AS)
- inflatable globe or small world map
- TV/DVD



SNACK: "JESUS IS KING" CROWN

Makes six servings (one serving = one sponge cake)

Before the Activity Directions

1. Place an individual sponge cake on each plate.
2. Cut out the centers with a sharp knife, leaving a ring for the crown.
3. Place a variety of dried (or candied) fruits in bowls. You may wish to cut apricots, dates, or plums into bite-sized pieces.

Directions

1. Say, *"We learned what heaven will be like. Some day, people from every group on earth will stand in front of a king's throne. Some will speak Spanish, English, Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, or other languages. What they say will have different sounds, but they will all be using their words to worship."*
2. *"The one they worship came from heaven down to earth. He taught people what God, his heavenly Father, is like. He died on the cross to take the punishment for the sins of the people. He rose from the dead and went back to heaven. Who is the one the people in heaven are worshipping?"* Allow responses. (Jesus)
3. *"Imagine that you are in heaven, standing or bowing before Jesus. What would you say or do to praise Jesus?"* Allow responses.
4. *"For our snack, we are going to make a crown. This crown will remind us that someday, Jesus will be recognized as the highest, most important king of all. In heaven, people will bow down before his throne in worship."*
5. Pass out plates with the cakes. Say, *"This is the crown. You will get to decorate it."*
6. Pass out spoons. Direct helpers to squirt canned whipped cream or spoon the dessert topping onto each crown. Let the students spread the topping with their spoons to cover their crowns.
7. Put bowls of fruit on each table. Say, *"We will pretend that these pieces of fruit are jewels like diamonds and rubies."*
8. Direct students to use their fingers to select fruit and arrange the jewels on their crown.
9. Tell students to use their spoons to eat the crown.
10. Provide plenty of napkins for cleanup.



PREPARATION: 15 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- package of six individual dessert sponge cakes
- whipped cream or dessert topping
- dried fruits (golden raisins, cranberries, dates, apricots, plums, etc.)
- sharp knife
- small bowls
- plastic spoons
- small paper plates
- napkins



PRAYER ACTIVITY: PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

Directions

1. Say, *"Today, I showed you things that tell about my life."* Mention some of the things you brought. *"I wanted to give these things to God because I love him. Where did I put my things?"* Allow responses.
2. *"The throne is a seat for a king. A king is the boss. He is in charge of people. I want God to be in charge of my life. I want him to help me decide where I go, what I say, what I do, and what I have. When I let God be in charge of my life, he can use me to show and tell other people about him."*
3. *"Today, all of you have some things that you can place at the throne if you would like. Remember, even though our throne is pretend, God is really here with us. When I call your name, I want you to go get the pile of things you made in the lesson – the mouth and heart you colored and the feet and hands you traced. Also, get any things you brought from home. Take all of your things back to your seat."*
4. Call students' names, a few at a time. Have students retrieve their items and put them beside or under their seat.
5. Say, *"Boys and girls I want you to spread out each of your items on the floor in front of you."* Allow time for students to follow instruction.
6. Then say, *"We are going to have a quiet prayer time in a minute. I want you to think about each thing that you made or brought. What would it mean to give that item to Jesus? You may pray with your eyes open if you want to look at your items while you talk to God. Ask God to help you decide which things to give to him today. You may want to choose one or two, or give them all."* Have students repeat the directions back to you. Answer questions, but do not make decisions for the students.
7. Announce that the time of silent prayer is starting. After two minutes, end the silence by praying aloud, *"Dear Jesus, We love you. We want to live for you so others will know you. Today we want to show you that we are giving our lives to you. Help us to live for you right now and as we grow up. Amen."*
8. Say, *"Music is going to play for a few minutes to give you more time for thinking or praying. When you have decided what things you want to give to God, you may take them to the throne and place those items on the floor in front like I did. At the throne pray silently to God. Ask him to help you live for him. When you are done you may return to your seat. This is a prayer time, so wait until I tell you we are finished before you talk to your friends."*
9. Begin the music CD. Allow time for students to come to the throne with their items.
10. After students have finished, say *"Boys and girls, God is very happy when we tell him we love him. Today you told God you love him by showing him you want to live for him. I know God is pleased. When we live for God, God is able to make himself known to other people through our lives. I want you to take home all of your items today and place them in your bedroom so you will be reminded about our lesson and what it means to live for Jesus."*



PREPARATION: 5 min.

TEACHING: 10 min.

Materials

- paper cut outs of mouth, heart, feet, and hands (pp. 1-2)
- any personal items students brought from home
- chair representing God's throne (p. 1)
- quiet worship music CD or cassette of your choice
- CD or cassette player