

Lesson Plan

August 9th, 2026

This Month's Truth: I am designed for a purpose

Bible Story: How to serve (Matthew 5:38-42; 6:1-4,19-24)

Theme Verse: Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven. (Matthew 5:16b)

Teachers rally with your team a few minutes before kids start to arrive: Rally is a pre-service time for you to be expectant and equipped before the kids start arriving. Go over the lesson and any ideas for the day. Pray over your space and for the kids that will be coming that they will be connected to the person of Jesus.

Share: Today we get to teach kids that we can honor God by serving others. We are created to help others because we love God, not because we want the praise of others. Jesus taught people what it looks like to help and serve in a way that was different from what the culture taught about how to serve. (Read Matthew 5:42; 6:3-4.) Jesus challenged people to serve in a self-sacrificing and joy-filled way. Kids will learn today that we can follow the example of Jesus and serve like Him.

Pray: Lead the group in prayer, thanking God for the volunteers who are serving like Jesus.

Pre Service

Arrival time, please use this time to build relationships with kids and encourage them to build relationships with one another.

Service

What To Do:

- **Teacher** Start 5-minute countdown **5 minutes prior to service start time.**

Teacher Opener: Hello, hello, hello! If you can hear me, say, "Next Up!" (Next Up!) I am ____, and I will be your Host for today! Our Theme this month is Next Up! When we go through life, we might wonder what is going to happen next—like on a game show! However, there is

Someone who always knows what is next up—God! He designed us for a purpose, and He always knows what is next. Repeat after me, “Next!” (Next!) “Up!” (Up!) “Next Up!” (Next Up!)

Parody

Game Rules:

1. Divide your class into teams of 5-8 kids each.
2. Invite one player from each team to the front.
3. Show the category to the players.
4. Direct players to shut their eyes.
5. Show the charade prompt to the audience.
6. Instruct players to open their eyes.
7. Invite the audience to act out the prompt.
8. Award the points on the slide to the first player who guesses correctly.
9. Invite new players to the front after three rounds and repeat.

What You Say: Turn to your neighbor and say, “I’m ready for a game!” (I’m ready for a game!) Excellent! Because next up is “Parody!” Everyone, say, “Parody!” (Parody!) In “Parody,” it is your job to parody—or act like—the prompt on the screen with the hopes that your teammate at the front can guess it and win the “Parody” points!

First, let’s have one player from each team come to the front. (Select players and invite them to the front.) I will tell you the category. Then the players will close their eyes while I show the prompt to the audience.

Audience, your job is to act out the prompt so that your player can guess what it is. Also audience, you have a big rule! Say “Big rule!” (Big rule!) The big rule is that you cannot make a sound! You cannot make what? (A sound!) Small Group Leaders, help keep track of how many points each team wins. After three rounds, we will select new players. The team with the most points at the end wins. If you are ready, let me hear you say, “Let’s play!” (Let’s play!)

Our categories are “Animals,” “Sports,” and “At Home.” Each category has a prompt that is worth 100, 200, or 300 points. I will tell you the category and amount before each round. Let’s play “Parody!” Your first category is:

“Animals” for 100 points! Players, close your eyes!

Audience, here is your prompt!

Community Big Kids

Players, open your eyes! Audience, let's parody! (Allow the audience to act out the prompt. Help teams keep track of their points.) Awesome parodies, people! Next up, your category is:

"Sports" for 100 points! Players, close your eyes!

Audience, here is your prompt! Remember, you must be silent!

Players, open your eyes! Audience, let's parody! (Allow the audience to act out the prompt. Help groups keep track of their points.) Awesome parodies, people! Next up is ...

"At Home" for 100 points! Players, close your eyes!

Audience, here is your prompt!

Players, open your eyes! Audience, let's parody! (Allow the audience to act out the prompt. Help groups keep track of their points.) Awesome parodies, people! Next up, new players please! (Allow one kid from each team to come forward.) Your next category is ...

"Animals" for 200 points! Players, close your eyes!

Audience, here is your prompt!

Players, open your eyes! Audience, let's parody! (Allow the audience to act out the prompt. Help groups keep track of their points.) Awesome parodies, people! Next up!

"Sports" for 200 points! Players, close your eyes!

Audience, here is your prompt!

Players, open your eyes! Audience, let's parody! (Allow the audience to act out the prompt. Help groups keep track of their points.) Awesome parodies, people! Next up, your category is ...

"At Home" for 200 points! Players, close your eyes!

Audience, here is your prompt!

Community Big Kids

Players, open your eyes! Audience, let's parody! (Allow the audience to act out the prompt. Help groups keep track of their points.) Awesome parodies, people! Next up, new players please! (Allow one kid from each team to come to the front.) Your next category is ...

"Animals" for 300 points! Players, close your eyes!

Audience, here is your prompt!

Players, open your eyes! Audience, let's parody! (Allow the audience to act out the prompt. Help groups keep track of their points.) Awesome parodies, people! Next up, your category is ...

"Sports" for 300 points! Players, close your eyes!

Audience, here is your prompt!

Players, open your eyes! Audience, let's parody! (Allow the audience to act out the prompt. Help groups keep track of their points.) Awesome parodies, people! Next up, your category is ...

"At Home" for 300 points! Players, close your eyes!

Audience, here is your prompt!

Players, open your eyes! Audience, let's parody! (Allow the audience to act out the prompt. Help groups keep track of their points.) Awesome parodies people! Let's have our players sit down and total up the points to see our winner! (Allow Small Group Leaders to share their totals and announce the winner.) Let's cheer for our "Parody" winners, ____!

These prompts were designed to be acted out. And you know what else? God has designed you for a purpose! Point to yourself and say, "Who, me?" (Who, me?) Yes, you! God has a plan for your life. He has a purpose for everything. And His purpose is good! So when you want to ask, "What is next up?" remember that God knows the best way forward. Say, "I am designed for a purpose!" (I am designed for a purpose!)

Transition Script to go into the Intro Video: Turn to a neighbor and ask, "What is new?" (What is new?) Your neighbor might be able to tell you what is new, but I know someone who can tell all of us the newest and latest news. Her name is Nikki Nevada! To hear today's nifty stories, say, "What's new, Nikki?" (What's new, Nikki?)

Play Intro Video

What You Say: Does a good tennis serve mean you are good at serving others? Everyone, say, “No way!” (No way!) Does singing a song about sponges and bathtubs that smell like trash cans mean you are good at serving others? Say, “No way!” (No way!) Does helping others, choosing kindness, and putting others first mean you are good at serving others? Say, “Yes way!” (Yes way!) That is right! God has an amazing purpose and plan for our lives. Part of His plan is that we love and serve others. And we can do that when we learn from and follow the example of God’s Son, Jesus. Say, “Let’s serve like Jesus!” (Let’s serve like Jesus!)

Worship

What You Say: Let’s all stand up and worship together!

What To Do:

- Turn lights off
- 2 songs of worship
- **Teachers and Small Group Leaders worship with the kids, modeling what it looks like to give God our praise. Stand in the front of the room, or next to the kids- but not in the back.**
- Dismiss the kids back to their seats when the songs are over

What To Do:

- Have the kids **open up** a physical Bible and find the Bible story for that day.
- Use the Bibles provided in the classroom if a kid does not have their own Bible with them.

Transition Script to go into the Bible Story Video: (Open the Bible to Matthew 5:38-42; 6:1-4,19-24.) Next up is our Bible story! Turn to your neighbor and say, “I am designed!” (I am designed!) Turn to another neighbor and say, “For a purpose!” (For a purpose!) That is right! God has designed you for a purpose! Part of that purpose is to serve others like Jesus. We are going to learn more about that from the Bible. Learn from the what? (The Bible!) The Bible is God’s true message to us about Himself, including what it says about His Son, Jesus. Today, our Bible story is from the book of Matthew. Which book? (Matthew!) Jesus taught how we should serve and who we should serve. Say, “Let’s serve like Jesus!” (Let’s serve like Jesus!)

Play Bible Story Video

Questions to consider asking after the video:

- What is something that you learned about God from the video?
- What is something that you learned about people?
- What can you take away from the video?
 - How can you apply the lesson from today into your life?

Making The Connection Script: We believe that God designed us for a purpose. Turn to your neighbor and say, “You are designed for a purpose.” (You are designed for a purpose.) Point to yourself and say, “I am designed for a purpose!” (I am designed for a purpose!) Like we heard in our Bible story, Jesus taught that to live as part of God’s family means to serve others, to choose kindness, and to love God above everything else. Living according to God’s purpose and how He designed us is the best way to live. This includes serving others, no matter how we feel or what they have done. This can be hard to do! Thankfully, we have the best example—Jesus. Let me hear you say, “Let’s serve like Jesus!” (Let’s serve like Jesus!)

Use the Three Circle Graphics on the Playlist

(Circle three) Jesus taught what it means to honor God by serving others. He chose to love a world that hated Him by serving the world in a very special way. In our Bible story, Jesus told His followers to “turn the other cheek” when someone got angry with them. He meant that when someone gets angry with us, we turn and offer patience and kindness rather than getting angry in return. Jesus took this even further. He died on a cross to take the punishment we deserved for our sin. Sin is when we choose to do what we think is best rather than following what God says is best. Sin breaks our relationship with God and requires a punishment. Jesus served us by taking that punishment Himself by dying on a cross. But He came back to life on the third day after He died. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can have a relationship with God. This happens when we ask Jesus to forgive our sins and turn from our sin to follow Him.

(Circle two) In our lives, we meet people who are unkind or mean. We ourselves can be unkind and mean to others! This happens because we—and our entire world—are broken because of sin. We need Jesus to forgive our sins, heal our hearts, and fix our relationship with God. Jesus is our example. So when we ask ourselves, “Why should I help others?” we can look to Jesus for the answer. We help others because that is God’s purpose and design for us. Jesus helps us to choose kindness over anger, to care about people, and to serve them even when we do not think they deserve it. Jesus served people who were kind and generous, but He also served

people who were unkind and mean. Jesus set an example of serving people by helping, even when it was difficult.

(Circle 1) When we trust in Jesus and ask Him to forgive us, He does! He makes us new and helps us live like Him. He helps us serve others not because of the recognition we might receive, but because we want to please God. When we trust in Jesus, we have a restored relationship with God! And living in right relationship with God is how God designed us to live. One day, Jesus will come back to earth and make everything new! Sin will be no more. Until then, we can live the way God made us to live by serving others and pointing them to Him.

If you want to know more about being forgiven or trusting in Jesus, please come talk to me or your Small Group Leader. Jesus is our perfect example of serving, but we cannot follow His example in our own strength. We need Him to heal our hearts so we can follow Him. Let us tell you how He can do that!

When we serve like Jesus, we are living in God's best design and purpose! Say, "I am designed for a purpose!" (I am designed for a purpose!) Say, "Let's serve like Jesus!" (Let's serve like Jesus!)

Theme Verse Review:

Theme Verse Motions:

Let your light shine before others, (Move your arms in a circle toward each other with palms facing forward, crossing in front of your body.)

so that they may see your good works (Move your arms in a circle toward each other with palms facing up, crossing in front of your waist.)

and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Push your hands up to the sky with palms facing in.)

Matthew 5:16b (Hold your hands out like a book.)

What You Say: When we serve like Jesus, we shine like lights in a dark world. Let's learn our Theme verse that will help us remember we can serve like Jesus.

Play Theme Verse Video

What You Say: This Bible verse tells us that we glorify God when we serve like Jesus! That means we honor Him and point others to Him. Sometimes, we want the glory when we do

something we think is good. We want people to tell us, “Good job!” or “Way to go!” But when we live in God’s best purpose and design, we get to follow Jesus’s example and point others to God instead of ourselves. We can do that with Jesus’s help as we serve others! Link your elbow with a neighbor and say, “Let’s serve like Jesus!” (Let’s serve like Jesus!)

Large Group Closing:

What You Say: Remember, God designed you for a purpose. Turn to your neighbor and say, “You have a purpose!” (You have a purpose!) Point to yourself and say, “I have a purpose!” (I have a purpose!) God’s design is the best way to live. We can trust Him to know what is next up in our lives! One way we can trust God is by following Jesus’s example in serving others. No matter how we feel or what we think others deserve, we can trust that when we serve like Jesus, we are living in God’s best design. Say, “Let’s serve like Jesus!” (Let’s serve like Jesus!)

Closing Prayer: God, thank You for our time learning about serving today. Thank You for the example You sent us in Your Son, Jesus. Help us have the courage to serve others even if they are unkind. Help us want to serve even if no one is watching. We love You! Amen.

Transition to Small Group Time: Split the kids into small groups. This can be done either by age, grade, or gender.

Small Group Time:

Option #1: Connection Questions

What To Do: Next up are questions about the Bible story! This is our chance to connect our Bible story to our everyday lives and ask questions. If you are ready, say, “I’m ready!” (I’m ready!)

1. What are some jobs where people serve and help others, and how do they serve others? (Allow kids to answer and include your own.)
2. How can we serve others when we find a dirty sock in our homes? How can we serve others when we see them in need? (Allow kids to answer and share your own. Answers may include pick it up, help them out, serve them, and so forth.)
3. The Bible tells us that when we serve like Jesus, we are living out God’s best purpose and design for our lives. Let’s open our Bibles to **Matthew 5:42 and 6:3-4** so we can read

about it together. (Invite kids to open their Bibles. Read the passage aloud or invite a kid who volunteers to read the passage aloud. Be sure to have Bibles available for kids who need one. Help kids find the passage so everyone can follow along together.) This passage tells us how to live out part of God's purpose for our lives—to serve others, to choose kindness, and to love God above everything else. We do that when we serve everyone with an attitude that honors and obeys God instead of an attitude of wanting attention from people. What are some ways we can serve others without seeking applause or pats on the back from other people? (Allow kids to answer and share your own. Answers may include I can serve even when no one is watching; I can encourage someone by leaving a note without signing my name; and so forth.)

4. Jesus served us when He took the punishment for our sins by dying on a cross and coming back to life. When we ask Jesus to forgive our sins, He does! And He gives us a forever relationship with God. What changes in your life when you have a relationship with God? (Allow kids to answer and share your own. Answers may include I will want to obey my parents, read my Bible more, or pray and talk with God more, and so forth.) It is OK if you do not know what a relationship with God might look like in your life! But if you want to know more, please come ask me. I would love to tell you about my relationship with God and how you can have one too!
5. The Bible tells us that when we serve others, we are living in God's purpose that He designed for us. So next up is to serve like Jesus! What is one way you can serve like Jesus this week? What is something you learned today? Is there anything you have questions about? (Allow kids to answer and share your own answer.)

Option #2: Secret Acts of Kindness

What To Do: Today we are going to create an envelope that contains different acts of kindness that you could do for people around you. I am going to pass out one envelope and 5 small pieces of paper to each of you. We are going to decorate our papers and our envelope and write 5 kind things that we could do this week.

Examples:

Help mom with the dishes
Pray for someone
Share a toy with a friend or sibling
Encourage a friend
Clean without being asked
Forgive someone
Make someone a card

Play with someone new at recess
Sit with someone new at lunch
Write thank you cards (older kids)

Loud And Clear: Look at your “Secret Acts of Kindness” envelopes! They look so good! Jesus helps us choose kindness over anger! Keep this envelope of kind acts this week and you can remember that you can serve others like Jesus! After this week you can add more acts of kindness to your envelope! Say, “Let’s serve like Jesus!” (Let’s serve like Jesus!)

Option #3: Activity Page

What To Do: This activity page helps us remember some big things we have learned about today. As you color and work on activities, talk to a friend about some of your favorite parts of our time together.

Leader Tip: Get to know the kids better. Ask them what they remember about the Bible story or remind them that we can serve others even if they are unkind or we do not get credit. We can serve like Jesus. Next up, let’s live in God’s design and purpose by serving like Jesus!

Loud And Clear: Jesus served others with kindness and pointed them to God. We can follow the example of Jesus by serving all people in order to obey and please God rather than ourselves. Let’s show others who Jesus is by serving them. Say, “Let’s serve like Jesus!” (Let’s serve like Jesus!)

Close out in prayer:

What To Do:

- Ask for any specific prayer requests
- Pray with the group
- Lead the group in the prayer below.

What You Say: God, thank You for serving us by sending Your Son, Jesus, to take the punishment for our sins by dying on a cross and coming back to life. Thank You for Jesus’s example of helping and serving others. Help us choose to trust Him. Give us the courage to serve others the way You served us. Amen.

Dismissal:

Community Big Kids

Leader Tip: Work with your team to dismiss the kids in a fun, manageable, and safe way. As kids leave, make sure they have all of the crafts and papers. Share with the person picking them up something positive you observed today. Invite them back next week.