

Unit 28

Willing to Serve

“Here am I. Send me!”

Isaiah 6:8

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <http://bibleinlife.com/video/> to watch **Willing to Serve** before doing the devotion together. This devotion works well in December.

The video shows children sharing about the ways they serve others. We also see them serving others by preparing food and clothes for people in need.

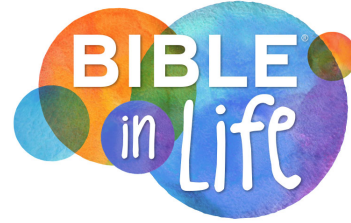
- How do you serve others? What are some new ideas for serving others you could try?

The Bible stories this month talk about people who tell others about Jesus, starting with Paul, who was changed when he came to know Christ (Acts 9:1–31). In the next lesson, we learn that Paul and his friend Barnabas went where God sent them (Acts 13). After Jesus is born, the shepherds share the good news of His birth (Luke 2:1–20). Then we learn about more of Paul and Barnabas’s work for Jesus (Acts 14).

Through our stories, we learn that sharing the good news of Jesus with others is a great way to serve them.

- You have opportunities to serve others every day. How can you choose to serve them? How can you help them know about Jesus at Christmastime?
- Memorize Isaiah 6:8. As a family, talk about how you can worship God by serving others. Then choose one way your family can worship God through serving this week.
- Spend time at a family meal talking about ways you could serve others together. Write ideas on notecards and save the cards in a “serving stack.” Place the stack in a place where your family can regularly choose a card and do the service activity written on it.

End with a short prayer: God, help us to serve You with willing hearts. Give us opportunities to love and serve other people. We will worship Jesus as we do this. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



Unit 29

Ready to Serve

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.”

Mark 16:15

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <http://bibleinlife.com/video/> to watch **Ready to Serve** before doing the devotion together. This devotion works well in January.

In this video, we learn that telling other people the good news of Jesus is a way to serve God! The students in the video meet, pray, and write letters to missionaries. Telling other people about Jesus and encouraging other people who are telling people about Jesus are great ways to serve God.

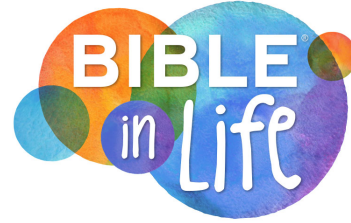
- What are some ways *you* can serve God by sharing the good news of Jesus with others?

Our Bible stories this month continue to focus on the apostle Paul, including his decision to talk to anyone, anywhere about Jesus (Acts 25:23–26:32; Mark 16:15). Paul preaches about Jesus in Philippi (Acts 16) and to Jews and Gentiles (Acts 17). Paul serves by taking an offering to the poor at Jerusalem (Acts 19:21; Romans 15:25–27; 2 Corinthians 8:1–5) and by teaching about Jesus through the Scriptures (Acts 18).

From Paul’s evangelism, we see many ways to serve others and spread the gospel.

- What are some ways you can share the gospel with someone this week? How might you encourage missionaries as they share this good news of Jesus?
- Memorize Mark 16:15. As a family, reflect on circumstances in which sharing the gospel might be challenging. Remember that God still strengthened Paul to be a witness for Jesus, no matter where he was. Pray, asking God to give each family member strength to be a witness for Christ, even when it is not easy.
- Set aside a family prayer time each day this week. Each day, pray for someone who does not know Jesus. Ask God for opportunities to share His good news with those people. Let family members take turns being the prayer leader each day.

End with a short prayer: God, help us to share the good news of Your Son. Give us opportunities to share the gospel with people who need Your hope. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



Unit 30

Power to Serve

“As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.”

Galatians 6:10a

When your family sits down to share God’s Word, use this devotion on its own or go to <http://bibleinlife.com/video/> to watch **Power to Serve** before doing the devotion together. This devotion works well in February.

Throughout the video, we see kids serving others. At the beginning of the video, we hear kids share their desires to help other people. The second half of the video shows the kids finding ways to serve others.

- What do you think it means for God to *equip* us to serve others?

This month’s Bible stories continue following Paul as he travels and tells people about Jesus. In our first story, we learn that Paul heals the sick and raises a young man to life (Acts 19:11–20; 20:1–12). When Paul is in Jerusalem and on a ship as a prisoner, God keeps him safe—even when the ship wrecks in the storm (Acts 21:27–36; 23:11–24; 27:1–44). When Christians hear of Paul’s imprisonment, they give an offering to help him (Acts 28:16–31; Philippians 4:10–20; 2 Timothy 4:9–13). Our last story teaches us about Paul encouraging fellow believers (Acts 20:13–38; Ephesians 1:1–2, 15–23; 6:18–24).

From Paul’s travels and ministry, we learn that God gives us strength and power to serve others.

- Jesus helped Paul and his missionary friends when others tried to stop their work. How can knowing this help you as you serve others in Jesus’ name?
- Memorize Galatians 6:10a. As a family, discuss opportunities that each person might have to serve others this week.
- Take a service challenge. Challenge each family member to serve someone this week in one of the following ways: praying for them, encouraging them, helping them with something, sharing the good news of Jesus with them. As a family, concentrate on loving and serving God together.

End with a short prayer: God, help us have hearts to serve You and Your people. Protect missionaries who are telling others about Your Son, Jesus. Help us to rely on Your power as we serve You. In Jesus’ name. Amen.