

Unit 28

Willing to Serve

“Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.
Matthew 4:10

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 the birth of Christ, starting with God sending Zechariah and Elizabeth a son who will help people get ready for Jesus (Luke 1:5-25, 57-80). In the next lesson, we learn that an angel appears to Mary, telling her she’ll give birth to God’s Son (Luke 1:26-56). After Jesus is born, the shepherds share the good news of His birth (Luke 2:1-20). Later, wise men travel to worship and bring gifts to Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12).

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 Matthew 4:10. As a family, talk about how you can worship God by serving others. What is 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 note cards 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 focus on the apostle Paul, beginning with his decision to believe in Jesus and tell others about Him (Acts 9:1-22). We also see how Paul and Barnabas are willing to obey Jesus and be missionaries (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 9:15; 13:1-5). God even gives them power to heal a man (Acts 14:6-18)! We learn how Paul and Silas help the people in Philippi believe in Jesus (Acts 16:12-40). Lastly, we hear how Paul helped the church in Corinth (Acts 18:1-11).

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 even when Paul was imprisoned and shipwrecked, God still strengthened him to be a witness for Jesus. 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

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

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 is arrested in Jerusalem for preaching the Good News (Acts 21:10-14, 27-36; 23:11-35). When Paul is being transported on a ship as a prisoner, God keeps him safe—even when the ship wrecks in the storm (Acts 27). When Christians hear of Paul's imprisonment, they give an offering to help him (Philippians 4:10-23). Our last story teaches us about John Mark learning to be a good missionary (Acts 12:25—13:13; 15:36-41; Colossians 4:10; 2 Timothy 4:11).

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 1 Corinthians 15:58. As a family, discuss how each person can give themselves "fully to the work of the Lord" 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.