

6

Grace Inspires Service

Service
We follow Jesus' example by serving others.

POWER TEXT

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

KEY REFERENCES

- Galatians 1; 2
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 36, pp. 383-388
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 76-78; 132-134
- Student story on page 72 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 22, Christian Behavior
- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 11, Growing in Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that they have the opportunity to serve others in every situation.
- **Feel** a desire to invite Jesus in their lives.
- **Respond** by asking God to help them serve His children even when facing difficulties.



Jesus empowers us to serve others in love.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

When false teachers tell the Galatians that they must obey Jewish laws to be saved, the Galatians start focusing on themselves instead of on Jesus. Without realizing it, they are trying to be perfectly good by obeying rules. They are forgetting that we are saved not by what we do, but by grace—what Jesus did on Calvary. They lose sight of the fact that genuine service to God and others is not a means of obtaining salvation—that it grows out of one's commitment to God and love for others. In explaining this to the Galatians, Paul used the example of his own experience as the perfect young Pharisee who meets Jesus on the Damascus road. To stay true to Jesus, Paul allows his selfish life to die so that Christ may live in him. Paul's conversion experience enables him to serve God and others.

This is a lesson about service.

God's unbelievable generosity and favor toward us was manifested in Jesus' life of service to the fallen human race. He came to earth, lived among us, and died to win us back and to pay forever the penalty for our sin. All this was at no cost to us. When we come to Jesus and truly want to follow His example, He enables us to serve others lovingly and self-sacrificially.

Teacher Enrichment

"The Holy Spirit wrought with mighty power, and many whose feet had wandered into strange paths, returned to their former faith in the gospel. Henceforth they were steadfast in the liberty wherewith Christ had made them free. In their lives were revealed the fruits of the Spirit—'love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.' The name of God was glorified, and many were added to the number of believers throughout that region" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 388).

How can I follow Jesus' example of self-sacrificial service? What does it mean to "die to self"?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	A. Where's the Power? B. Maze Challenge	battery-operated items OR electrical appliances blindfolds, chairs
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 67. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, battery-operated device (optional)
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story and Exploring the Bible	Bibles, volunteer reporter, copy of script, simple costume, white/chalkboard and markers/chalk (optional)
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*What's Number One?*	for each person: five index cards or slips of paper, pen/pencil
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Our Own Top 10 List*	large sheet of poster board OR paper, markers
* Closing		A. Prayer and closing comments B. Reminder to parents C. Coming up next week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ battery-operated items OR electrical appliances

Where's the Power?

Ahead of time, find an assortment of small battery-operated items (travel clock, flashlight, beater, razor, remote-controlled toy, toy cars, etc.), or set up electrical appliances.

Remove the batteries/electrical cords (or unplug the electrical cords and bury them behind furniture so the students cannot immediately see they are unplugged).

Display the items or appliances and ask the students to try them out. The students will probably try to figure out why the appliances do not work. If not, you can suggest they do so. Give the students the necessary batteries or cords so they can try again.

Debriefing

Ask: **What happened here?** (The appliances would not work.) **What was missing so that the appliances would not work?** (batteries, electrical connections, power, etc.) **Let's say together the power text, Galatians 2:20:**

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

How can the activity we just did help us understand this verse? Read the verse again. **Paul's life has been unplugged, disconnected (crucified), because the old source of power was not working. Now he is connected to a new source. What is it?** (verse 20—Christ, the Son of God) **And what is the cord that connects Paul to Christ?** (faith, believing in God)**. How can we be most effective in serving others?** (If we are connected to Christ, the source.)

What is our power point for this week?

Jesus empowers us to serve others in love.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ blindfolds
- ☐ chairs

Maze Challenge

Challenge the students to create a maze by rearranging the chairs to form obstacles in the room. Blindfold a volunteer to go through it alone. Explain that their turn is over if they touch a chair. Allow several students to try, making the course harder each time. Then have students try to walk the course with a partner who talks them through it, telling them how many steps to take and when to turn. To make it even harder, try the activity with two or more pairs of students giving and taking the instructions.

Debriefing

Ask the persons who walked blindfolded: **How did it feel to walk the maze on your own?** (It was harder than they thought.) **Did you care whether or not you bumped the furniture?** (Yes, most will care.) **Why? Or why not?** (Because they wanted to finish; they wanted to do it perfectly; or they didn't care.) **How is walking the maze like living your life?** (Accept their responses; see if anyone mentions trying to live without sinning. If they don't, mention it yourself.) **Could you get through the maze perfectly on your own?** (no) **You cannot live the Christian life on your own by keeping rules, either. You need Jesus in your life to guide and empower you. What difference did it make when the blindfolded people listened to their guide?** (They got through or they got farther.) **How did you feel when there was more than one person giving directions?** (It was harder; they had to listen for the correct voice.) **In real life there are voices deliberately trying to mislead us and discourage us. Sometimes a selfish side of us leads us astray. What does Paul advise us to do about our selfish voice?** (Crucify it.) **He chose to make Jesus Lord of his life and to listen only to Him. Let's repeat our power text together:**

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Remember,

Jesus empowers us to serve others in love.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"Oh, Magnify the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 12)
"Lord, Be Glorified" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 148)
"Got a Reason for Livin' Again" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 79)
"Forgiven and Free" (*Praise Time*, no. 48)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ battery-operated device (optional)

Ahead of time, get a creative person to help you configure a battery-operated device for collecting the offering today. For instance, a remote-controlled truck or car pulling a basket. Explain that as the power from the battery moved the object that was used, so God's Holy Spirit energizes us and empowers us to resist and overcome sin in our lives.

Prayer

The students will pair up and each offer a short prayer by thanking God for the privilege of serving and asking Him to empower them to serve others even when facing challenges.

Close by praying for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Say: **One time false teachers came to Galatia and told the Galatians that they must obey Jewish laws to be saved. When that happened, the Galatians started focusing on themselves instead of on Jesus. Without realizing it, they were trying to be perfectly good by obeying rules in their own power. They were forgetting that we are saved by grace—what Jesus did on Calvary—and we are also changed by grace—through the power of the Holy Spirit, who teaches us to live a new life in Christ.**

When Paul tried to explain this to the Galatians, he used the example of his own experiences as the "perfect" young Pharisee who met Jesus on the Damascus road. It was only when he recognized his need of a Savior that Paul was able to serve God most effectively. A visitor is going to join us today and interview us about Paul's life. You will need your Bibles. When the reporter asks you questions, I will give you texts in which you can find the answers.

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ volunteer reporter
- ☐ copy of script
- ☐ simple costume
- ☐ white/chalkboard, markers/chalk (optional)

Experiencing the Story and Exploring the Bible

The reporter dresses in a bathrobe with a cloth draped over their head. They carry a long piece of paper (two sheets of paper taped together, which can contain a copy of the script below) and a quill or pen. The following dialogue gets the students finding and reading verses in their Bible in order to find the facts of Paul's life.

Whenever the reporter asks a question of the students, the leader suggests a Bible reference that supplies the information (perhaps writing it where all can see). The students then look up the text and/or give the information in their own words to the reporter. The reporter can keep reminding them to explain what they mean if they do not put it in their own words. The reporter has freedom to add conversation. They pretend not to notice the prompts that the leader gives the students.

[The reporter enters, asking for Paul. They notice the audience and bow.]

Reporter: **Dear Friends, I understand that you are Christians and that you know the apostle Paul. I have been sent by the Galatia *Times,* a very influential newspaper, to do a story on Paul. Could you please help me gather the facts for my story?**

Maybe you can answer some questions for me. Do you mind? I would be so grateful if you would try. Just the facts, please.

Where was Paul born? (Acts 9:11—Tarsus)

I see. So Paul was a Roman, not a Jew? (2 Corinthians 11:22; Acts 22:27)

Then he must not have been a very good Jew, right? (Galatians 1:14)

Don't be defending Paul. Just give me the facts. How would you know that, anyway? (He wrote it in a letter to the Galatians.)

If you have a copy of that letter, this is historical evidence. That's good. Tell me more. Was he just trying to look good to please the Galatians? (verse 10) **As you see here, Paul recognized that in order to serve others well, he needed to win, not the approval of people, but the approval of God.**

So let's go back to Paul's youth. What makes you think

that he was such a good Pharisee? (Philippians 3:5, 6)

Where and how did Paul become a Christian? (Acts 9:1, 3, 4)

And then where did he go? (Galatians 1:15-17)

So he didn't have the blessing of the Christian leaders in Jerusalem? (verses 18, 22, 23)

Where did I get the idea that Paul went to Jerusalem? (Galatians 2:1)

I understand that Paul said he was crucified. Why did he say that? (Galatians 2:20, 21—This is Paul's way of saying that when you accept Jesus, your old self dies and Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, lives in you, making you a new person.)

How could we adopt this attitude of complete surrender to God, as Paul did, to become more effective in serving others? (Like Paul, when we put self aside and allow God to come first in our lives, we will serve others out of love.)

Debriefing

Ask: **What can we learn from Paul's experiences with God?** (Accept their responses without comment.) **For people who are used to getting things done, it can be hard to accept that all the great stuff we do is not what saves us. And yet, if we love God we will want to help others. Though we are not saved by doing good works but by faith in God's grace, true faith in God is reflected in good actions (James 2:14-17, 26). Let's repeat our power text together:**

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

We are reminded through our power point that

Jesus empowers us to serve others in love.

YOU NEED:

for each person:

- ☐ five index cards OR slips of paper
- ☐ pen/pencil

What's Number One?

Give each student five index cards or slips of paper and a pen. Instruct them to write on the cards/paper the five most important things in their lives, one per card/paper. The things might be persons, possessions, relationships, or a quality of life such as health, etc. When the cards are ready, the students hold them in one hand and fan them out so they can see what is on them. Ask: **If God asked you to give up one of the things written on your cards, which one would you choose?** Have them drop that card/paper to the floor. Ask the same question three more times, with students dropping one card/paper to the floor each time until only one is left.

Repeat Galatians 2:20. Say: **You know you are crucified with Christ and want to follow Him when the very last card in your hand has something to do with God.**

Ask students to close their eyes as you pray. Say: **Dear Father, help us always to think of You as first and most important in our lives. Thank You for Jesus' example of genuine service. We invite You to be number one in our lives, and please help us to serve You and others wholeheartedly. Amen.**

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you learn just now?** (Wait for a response; do not push them; just nod when they respond.) **It is not easy to give up the thing you value most. How do you feel now that you did it?** (OK, sad, great) Say: **When we choose to follow Jesus' example of service we will enjoy an abundant life filled with purpose and meaning. When Paul gave everything, he gained Jesus and got a life. Jesus enabled Paul to live God's way and to serve Him. You and I can also gain the joy and freedom Paul has found when He decided to live his life to serve God and others. Let's say together our power point:**

Jesus empowers us to serve others in love.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ large sheet of poster board OR paper
- ☐ markers

Our Own Top 10 List

Invite students to share if they had the opportunity during the past week to put the needs of someone else first to reach out to them for Jesus. Ask: **How did you identify someone's need of your help? What did you do to meet the needs of others? Were you able to share your love for Jesus as your personal Savior with someone who does not know Him yet? How did that person respond?**

Say: **Let's make up our own Top 10 list. This is a serious list. We are not doing it to get a laugh, but to share what we learned this morning. Let's see if we can think up 10 ways to finish this sentence: "When I allow Christ to be first in my life . . ."**

Divide into groups of two to four and see how many responses each group can think of in two minutes. When the time is up, ask for students to volunteer one response. Invite them to come write it on the poster board. They keep reporting and writing as long as they have responses that have not been mentioned or until you have 10. The students sign their names on the back of the board. (Large church: give out adhesive note paper for the students to sign their names and come stick them on the back of the board. Small church: students can sign all around the edge of the front of the board.)

Debriefing

Read their list, starting with 10 and moving to 1. If there is time, vote on their favorite response and mark that as number 1. Challenge the students to tell people about their Top 10 list. Remind them to tell which response they think is number 1. Have everyone say Galatians 2:20 from memory:

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Remind them again that

Jesus empowers us to serve others in love.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Ask God to enable each member of your Sabbath School class to accept Him as first in their lives and to equip them for His service.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Paul is shipwrecked. Regardless of our circumstances God wants us to help those around us.**

Notes

Student lesson

Grace Inspires Service

Imagine having taught someone how to do something, only to come back later and find that someone else has been by and shown them a whole different way to do it. Trouble is, the new way is all wrong, and will only lead to costly problems down the road. Imagine how frustrated you would be. That's the situation in the first two chapters of the book of Galatians. Paul has spent a long time in Galatia establishing churches and teaching the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ—that we are saved by Christ's death, not by anything we do.

Now word has come that the Galatians have started believing a "different gospel." Jewish Christians coming to town have taught that believers must also keep old Jewish traditions. Paul wastes no time writing a letter to set things straight.

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ," he writes (Galatians 1:6, 7).

The word "gospel" means good news, and the good news is that Jesus' death saves us from our sins. Depending on old traditions, sacrifices, and circumcision is not good news at all in Paul's estimation. Rather authentic service to God and others comes from the renewed heart in response to God's love.

What's more, these new teachers were also trying to discredit Paul, saying he was not one of Jesus' original disciples and was therefore inferior in his teaching to the other apostles. So Paul feels a need to defend himself.

"I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ" (verses 11, 12). Paul explains how he had zealously kept the laws, to the point of persecuting Christians in an effort to destroy the newly founded Christian church.

"But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being" (verses 15, 16). The other believers "heard the report: 'The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy.' And they praised God because of me" (verses 23, 24). Paul was a changed man.

Fourteen years later Paul was called to defend himself before the apostles. He went to Jerusalem and met with the leaders—"those esteemed as leaders" is the way he put it (Galatians 2:2). This meeting convinced the other leaders of the church that Paul was indeed a dedicated follower of Jesus.

"On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised" (verses 7-9).

Jesus saves and changes human lives. The other apostles recognized the difference Jesus made in Paul's life. They saw how His grace changed a hateful, murderous man into one of His most trusted messengers of the gospel.

How did God prepare Paul for a life of service? "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me," Paul writes. "The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (verse 20).

Paul recognized that Jesus' death on the cross gives us eternal life and empowers us to serve Him. Being crucified with Christ means we have asked Him to come and live in our hearts. When Jesus comes into our hearts, He changes us into Christlike people who are eager to serve Him and others unconditionally, out of love.

Nothing Paul did could have changed him. Neither can our hard work change us. Genuine transformation comes with Jesus. Our service to God and to others is simply our heartfelt response of gratitude for His infinite grace and matchless love.

KEY REFERENCES

- Galatians 1; 2
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 36, pp. 383-388
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 76-78; 132-134
- Our Beliefs nos. 22, 10, 11

POWER TEXT

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

POWER POINT

Jesus empowers us to serve others in love.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 47.

Sunday

READ Read Galatians 1:6, 7 and this week's story, "Grace Inspires Service."

THINK What do you think Paul means by "the gospel of Christ" (verse 7)?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His promise to change your life.

Monday

READ Read Galatians 1:8, 9.

THINK Have you ever heard something about God that was wrong? What did you say to correct the wrong view?

SERVE Think about what helps a person remain faithful to God. Help a person who doesn't believe in God to understand the truth and distinguish it from error.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you understand the meaning of the gospel.

Tuesday

READ Read or recite John 3:16.

ASK Ask a few adults to state in a single sentence what John 3:16 means to them. What does it mean to you?

APPLY Share the message of John 3:16 with someone by helping them in a practical way and by telling them about God's great love for them.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for His work in the lives of others.

Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 18:12-14.

SERVE God's love is shown in the shepherd's concern for even one lost lamb. How will you care for His lambs today?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for all His messages of love to you.

Thursday

READ Read Galatians 2:17–21.

THINK Think of the meaning of the text: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me."

SERVE Invite Jesus to live in you and help you serve others.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for new life in Him.

Friday

READ Read Ephesians 4:11-13.

SHARE Tell this week's story to your family at worship.

SING Sing with your family members a song about new life in Jesus and your desire to serve Him.

SAY Repeat the power text by memory.

PRAY Praise God for the life you now live by faith in Jesus. Thank Him for helping you to grow in Him and share Him with others.