

7

Man Overboard

Service
We follow Jesus' example by serving others.

POWER TEXT

"Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all' " (Mark 9:35).

KEY REFERENCES

- Acts 28:1-10
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 42, pp. 439-446
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 118-122
- Student story on page 82 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries
- No. 22, Christian Behavior

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that they can follow Jesus by meeting people's needs.
- **Feel** motivated to discover ways they can meet the needs of others.
- **Respond** by finding ways to encourage and help the people in their neighborhood.

POWERPOINT

We seek opportunities to serve others in every situation.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Paul and his company are shipwrecked on the island of Malta. During the first hours there, Paul meets the immediate needs of his shipmates. In the next three months while he is there, he heals the sick (including the father of Publius, the governor of the island) and preaches the gospel. As a result of Paul's service to them, the people treat everyone from the ship with kindness. When they leave, the islanders provide the ship's crew and passengers with everything they need for their journey.

This is a lesson about service.

God wants us today to look for ways we can meet the needs of people around us, even when in unpleasant circumstances ourselves. By our service we are obeying Jesus and adopting His way of life as our own.

Teacher Enrichment

"The shipwrecked crew were kindly received by the barbarous people of Melita. . . . Paul was among those who were active in ministering to the comfort of others. . . .

"During the three months that the ship's company remained at Melita, Paul and his fellow laborers improved many opportunities to preach the gospel. . . . For Paul's sake the entire shipwrecked company were treated with great kindness; all their wants were supplied, and upon leaving Melita they were liberally provided with everything needful for their voyage" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 445, 446).

In what ways have I met the needs of others while experiencing my own time of crisis? How was the other person blessed? How was I blessed?

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. Sound Off B. Clean Up	 messy room
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 77. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, gift box with slit, colored strips of paper, glue/tape/staples, pens/pencils/markers
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	three copies of *Net Kid*s script (p. 152) Bibles Bibles, concordance, pens
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*What Do You Do?*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*No Excuses*	banner paper, art supplies
* 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

Sound Off

Ask: **Think of a time you have helped someone do something or someone has helped you. With a partner, act out what happened with actions only, no words. The rest of the class will try to guess what went on.** Give students time to plan, then have them present.

Debriefing

Ask: **Thinking about the experience you just acted out, how did you feel when you were helping someone else? when you were being helped? Let's say together our power text, Mark 9:35,**

"Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all' " (Mark 9:35).

Say: **Our power point this week is:**

We seek opportunities to serve others in every situation.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ messy room

Clean Up

Before class allow some tasks in the classroom undone so you could enlist students' help with the clean-up (i.e., take down posters or pictures, scribble on the chalk/whiteboard, trash on the floor, craft supplies all over a table, etc.). As the students come in, ask them to help clean up the room. Suggest to each what needs to be done. Observe the students' responses to your request.

Debriefing

Ask: **When I asked you to do a specific thing, how did you feel? How did you feel when you finished? What would you consider doing next time you are asked to do something you were not responsible for? Let's say together our power text, Mark 9:35,**

"Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all' " (Mark 9:35).

Say: **Our power point this week is:**

We seek opportunities to serve others in every situation.

Prayer & Praise

Notes

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

"Hey, Mon" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 138)
"Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 126)
"I've Got a River of Life" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 128)

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:
- ☐ gift box with a slit

Use a gift box for collecting the offering.

Ask: **What are some things that we can offer to God?** Get as many responses as possible.

Say: **While we give our offering, let's each sit quietly and think of other ways we can give to others and to God this week.**

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ colored strips of paper
- ☐ glue, tape, OR staples
- ☐ pens, pencils, OR markers

Invite students to voice prayer requests, answers to prayer, and praises. Record their answers on colored strips of papers and add them to the prayer chain if you already have one in the Sabbath School class. Otherwise, start making a prayer chain. Ask a student volunteer to pray over the requests, answers to prayer, and praises that are listed on the prayer chain. Close by praying for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ three copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 152)

Introducing the Bible Story

***The* Net Kids**

The *Net Kids* are an imaginative way to introduce the Bible story. If you prefer not to use this imaginary element, read over the script yourself and introduce the lesson concept in your own words. (Refer to Lesson 1 for background and setup information.) Make three copies of the *Net Kids* script found on page 152 of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity.

Present the skit.

Debriefing

Say: **Today our lesson is about serving God in all types of circumstances.**

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Have the students sit around in a circle and imagine the scenes described in Acts 28:1-10. Have volunteers read verses 1, 2.

Ask: **As strangers how would you have liked to be welcomed by the island's inhabitants? How did the islanders serve the visitors?**

Ask: **Who would like to share about a time you or someone you know was unexpectedly treated kindly by strangers? What was your response to the person's kindness?**

Designate another student/students to read verses 3-6.

Ask: **If you were one of the island's inhabitants how would you have treated the ship's crew and passengers? What could they have done? What can we learn from the example of those islanders about being a servant? What can we learn from Paul?**

Invite volunteers to read verses 7-10.

Ask: **In this passage who had a servant attitude? In what ways did they serve?**

Debriefing

Ask: **What can you do to help someone feel welcome, loved, and cared for? What are ways you could show hospitality to someone? What is the reward of those who practice hospitality and serve others?** (A sense of contentment that comes from knowing that you have made a difference in someone's life. The joy that Jesus gives when we follow His example and serve others.)

Say: **Remember our power point is:**

We seek opportunities to serve others in every situation.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ concordance
- ☐ pens

Exploring the Bible

Ask: **If we could determine the importance of a trait by the number of times it appears in the Bible, which of the two, service or love, do you think would be more important? Why?**

Say: **Let's look in our concordances at the words "love" in all its tenses and forms (loved, loving, beloved, lovely, etc.) and "serve" and all its tenses and forms (served, serving, service, servant, etc.). How does the number of times "love" is mentioned compare to the number of times "service" is mentioned?**

Have the students look up the following texts that have to do with service and/or love:

Galatians 5:13, 14 ("serve one another humbly in love")

Matthew 25:40 ("whatever you did for one of the least of these")

1 Peter 5:2 ("not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve")

Ask: **How important is serving others? Is it more or less important than loving them? Explain. Is it possible to serve others without loving them? Is it possible to love others without serving them? How can you demonstrate both love and service to others? Let's say together our power text, Mark 9:35,**

"Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all' " (Mark 9:35).

Say: **Remember, our power point is:**

We seek opportunities to serve others in every situation.

What Do You Do?

Read the following to your students, stopping after each scenario and asking them how they would resolve the following situations using their servant sensibilities.

You are growing so fast, your parents have to buy new clothes for you every three months. A friend of your mother's works in a department store. She brings you a lot of things she bought for her daughter who is older than you. For once in your life, you have almost everything you need. The next day while changing for gym, you notice that one of your classmates doesn't change. You ask her if she has forgotten her gym clothes. She says she doesn't have any. What do you do? Allow time for discussion.

Your little brother forgets his lunch. Your parents are out of town for the day on a business trip. The school offers only peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches and milk to students who have not preordered lunch. Your brother is allergic to peanuts and milk. You're starving because you skipped breakfast. You have saved just enough money to buy lunch for yourself because today is the day your favorite entrée is served. It contains no peanuts or milk. What do you do? Allow time for discussion.

You are late for science class. When you arrive, everyone has divided into groups to work on their projects for the fair. The only people left are the most unpopular kids in your grade level. Not only are they unpopular, but they are also clueless. You realize you will have to walk them through the whole project. You will have to work with this group for the whole semester. What do you do? Allow time for discussion.

Debriefing

Ask: **Has anyone you know ever been in a situation such as one of these we've described as either the helper or the person needing help? How did that person resolve the situation? How do you think you would have responded?**

Ask: **What is our power point?**

We seek opportunities to serve others in every situation.

4 Closing

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ banner paper
- ☐ art supplies

No Excuses

Invite students to share if they had the opportunity during the past week to serve others who were in very unfortunate circumstances. Ask: **Who were the people you got to serve last week? What did you do to help someone struggling with a major issue? How did you share your passion for Jesus with someone who does not know Him yet?**

Ask: **What are some kinds of things we could do as individuals within the next couple of minutes, hours, or the rest of the day to serve others?** (Accept all answers: Help the deacons/lower-grade teachers with cleanup after service/class, help serve snacks to younger children, care for crying babies, play with toddlers so a mother can listen to the sermon, help set up for potluck, invite someone home for dinner, help parents with preparations.) **What are some obstacles you would have to overcome?** (transportation, parental permission/impatience, asking people to allow me to help, time, hunger, habits, unruly children, tiredness, excuses, friends) **What could you do to overcome the obstacles?** (Do an act of kindness between Sabbath School and church or before leaving the church. Do it after lunch, dinner, sundown; get a ride home with someone else, ask your friends to help you, tell them you'll meet them later.)

Say: **Within the next few minutes I'd like those of you who have chosen to do an act of kindness between now and the beginning of the church service to tell me what you are going to do, and I will let you have time right now to do it. I will expect a full report next week.**

Ask: **Are there any questions?** (Dismiss this group.)

Those who are left in the class may design or create something to share with those who are ill or lonely in order to bring some cheer in their lives.

Say: **Let's repeat the power point one more time:**

We seek opportunities to serve others in every situation.

Closing prayer and comments:

Say: **Let's pray together for your classmates, for yourselves, and for the people you will serve.**

Pray that God will reveal His love to each of your students and that they will share that love with their neighbor-in-need.

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 a prisoner. It is a privilege to follow Jesus in service.**

Notes

Student lesson

Man Overboard

Have you ever been in a situation in which all you wanted was to be full, warm, and dry? Paul and his shipmates were. But Paul knew someone had to make the first move, so even though he was a prisoner, he did.

After the ship ran aground, the centurion ordered everyone off. Along with the other men, Paul clung to pieces of the ship and they were washed ashore. As the men who were shipwrecked stood shivering on the beach, they noticed a group of people walking toward them.

The island's inhabitants were friendly. They welcomed everyone to their island called Malta. The islanders quickly built a fire in a sheltered area. Paul, helpful as usual in spite of the cold and wet, helped gather kindling wood. As he threw his bundle in the fire, a poisonous snake struck him and hung on to his hand.

The islanders jumped back. One of them declared that Paul must be a murderer, because even though he escaped the sea, justice would not allow him to live. When Paul brushed off the snake and it fell into the fire, they told him that his hand would swell up or that he would die soon. But, contrary to their expectations, Paul just smiled as he continued to warm himself by the fire. The islanders carefully watched him. Nothing happened.

When their predictions didn't come true, they agreed loudly among themselves that he must be a god. One of them slipped away to tell their ruler. That man didn't return, but a servant of the ruler soon came. He invited Paul to the home of a man named Publius who was the top authority on the island of Malta.

Publius graciously welcomed Paul. His servants brought a wonderful meal to the guests. Paul ate well and started to get his appetite back. After the meal Publius spoke directly to Paul about his experience with the snake. He wanted to know if it was true that it didn't affect him. When Paul replied that he was well, Publius asked Paul if he was a god. Paul, of course, used this opportunity to introduce Publius to the living God. As Paul continued talking about God, Publius listened politely. He asked several questions.

Paul enjoyed the hospitality of Publius for three days. During one of those days a servant bowed quickly and whispered into Publius's ear, whose expression changed into an anxious frown. He jumped up and excused himself. One servant told Paul that Publius's father had been suffering from fever and dysentery. The doctors couldn't help him. He was near death. Paul asked to see him. When Paul arrived, the man's color was poor and his breathing shallow. He looked like he was dying.

Paul told Publius he would like to pray for his father. Publius agreed without hesitation. Paul knelt by the bed and laid his hands on the sick man. He prayed to the living God for the healing of this man.

Publius's father opened his eyes and sat up. He pushed back the coverings and stood up as if he had just woken to a new day. His face glowed. The servants looked from him to Paul and back to him with wide eyes. Publius introduced his father to Paul as the one who had healed him. Paul again directed them to the living God as the healer.

Word quickly spread around the island about the healing. People came looking for Paul. By the time Paul and the men with whom he had sailed were ready to leave, three months later, many other sick people had been healed, and almost everyone had heard the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Paul and his shipmates never lacked anything as long as they were on the island. When it was time to leave, the islanders furnished them—the crew, prisoners, and passengers with everything needed for the journey.

The example of Paul serving the people of Malta in spite of his prisoner status and poor health is evidence to the fact that we can serve God—and others—regardless of our circumstances.

KEY REFERENCES

- Acts 28:1-10
- *The Acts of the Apostles*, chap. 42, pp. 439-446
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 118-122
- Our Beliefs nos. 11, 17, 22

POWER TEXT

"Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all'" (Mark 9:35).

POWER POINT

We seek opportunities to serve others in every situation.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 60.

Sunday

READ Read Acts 28:1, 2 and this week's story, "Man Overboard."

REVIEW Review the power text.

SEARCH On a world map, see how far is Malta from where you live.

PRAY Praise God for watching over you when you are in danger.

Monday

READ Read Acts 28:3, 4.

THINK What positive actions can you take when you are in a bad situation? Think of examples.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about a time God brought good out of a bad situation.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to give you the discipline to make the best of a bad situation.

Tuesday

READ Read Acts 28:5, 6.

THINK Why didn't the snake harm Paul? How did this incident help Paul be a witness for God?

ASK Ask an adult about a time he/she served under difficult circumstances.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you serve in all circumstances.

Wednesday

READ Read Acts 28:7-9.

THINK How did Paul give the islanders what they needed most? What can you do for others?

APPLY Find ways to alleviate other people's suffering.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God for the ability to meet people's needs.

Thursday

READ Read Luke 22:26.

LIST List three ways you can follow this counsel.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for Jesus' example of being a servant.

Friday

READ Matthew 20:26–28.

DISCUSS with your family how you would respond to the following situations:

- An old woman gets on the bus, and there are no seats left. No one moves.
- Glass fragments and juice are everywhere in the aisle of the grocery store.
- An unpopular girl is sitting alone crying. Your friends want you at their table.
- Your grouchy neighbor hasn't been outside in a few days.
- Your brother doesn't do his chores before soccer practice.

SAY Repeat the power text aloud by memory.

PRAY Ask God to give you a servant's heart.