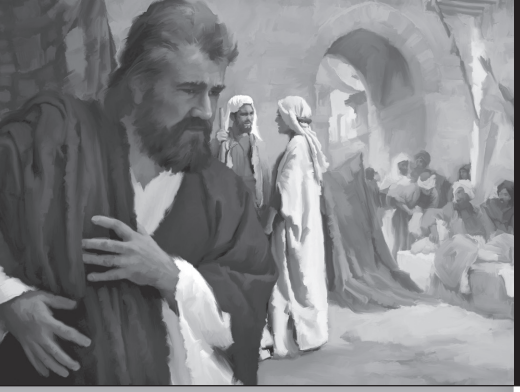


4

A Desperate Father

Service
Like Jesus, we love and serve others unconditionally.

POWER TEXT

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest'" (Matthew 9:36-38).

KEY REFERENCES

- John 4:46-54
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 20, pp. 196-200
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 153-156
- Student lesson on page 52 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 when we serve others, we can help build their trust in Jesus.
- **Feel** eager and willing to help others know Jesus.
- **Respond** by sharing Jesus with someone.

POWERPOINT

Jesus uses our service to help others trust Him.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus looks for ways to meet people's needs and at the same time reveal Himself to them as their friend and Savior. Jesus heals the son of an official. In doing so, He builds the faith of the official, who not only sees his son restored to health, but learns to fully trust in Jesus as well.

This is a lesson about service.

Our service today can be modeled after that of Jesus. We can seek to serve others and then introduce them to Jesus, who can meet all their needs.

Teacher Enrichment

Qualities of the nobleman (royal official or courtier) that enabled Jesus to respond to his needs:

1. Although a nobleman or a royal official of high standing at the court of Herod, he was humble enough to come to Jesus, who had no greater status than a village carpenter of Nazareth. He traveled about 20 miles from Capernaum to Cana to get help from Jesus.

2. He refused to be discouraged even though Jesus met him with the rebuke "Unless you people see signs and wonders, . . . you will never believe" (John 4:48, NIV). Here Jesus was testing his faith. If the courtier had been too proud to accept a rebuke and had turned away, Jesus would have known that his faith was not genuine.

3. The nobleman had faith. He started on his journey home with only the assurance of Jesus' statement "Go, . . . your son will live" (verse 50, NIV).

4. He surrendered himself to the promises of Christ. He was not one who went away after getting what he wanted and then forgetting about Jesus (adapted from William Barclay, *The Gospel of John* [Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1975], vol. 1, pp. 175, 176).

How do I rely on Jesus to do what He says He will in my life? What needs do I have in my life that I should surrender to Jesus?

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. Mingling Game* *B. Service Quilt*	Bibles Bibles, construction paper, pencils, colored pencils, markers, string
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 47. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, glove
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	Bibles Bibles, art supplies, paper, pencils Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Children's Ministries*	white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
* 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:
- ☐ Bibles

Mingling Game

Explain to the students that everyone has to mingle and wander around until they hear you call out a number. Then they need to grab people around them and get into groups of that number. Anyone left without enough people in their group stands aside to watch and cheer the rest. Call out various numbers. Play until you have three or fewer people left. Congratulate the winners.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel when you were able to find enough people for your group? How did you feel when you weren't able to find enough people? How is this like or unlike finding someone to whom you can introduce Jesus? How could you have this much enthusiasm for finding people to whom you can introduce Jesus? How does meeting Jesus help make people "winners"?** Say: **Let's say together our power text, Matthew 9:36-38:**

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest' " (Matthew 9:36-38).

Jesus asks us to go and meet the needs of others, helping them to build their trust in Him. As the power point reminds us:

Jesus uses our service to help others trust Him.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ square-shaped pieces of construction paper (previously cut and hole-punched on four corners)
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ colored pencils
- ☐ markers
- ☐ pieces of string (of equal length)

Service Quilt

Have students work with a partner to complete this activity. Distribute to each student a piece of square-shaped construction paper (previously hole-punched on the four corners), and pieces of string of equal length, as well as pencils, colored pencils, and markers. Have students brainstorm with a partner ways they could serve others. Each will decide on an act of kindness they could do for someone else. Next, students will write on their cards a sentence about their chosen service activity (example: I could help my neighbor by mowing his lawn). They will then exchange their cards with those of their partners and will decorate each other's cards to graphically illustrate the messages written on them. Once students have completed these tasks, they will align their cards with those of their partners. Have students tie the cards with the pieces of string, placing knots on them. The students will repeat the procedure and join their cards with those of other students until all pieces are tied together. The finished product will be a colorful "service quilt" that could be displayed on a wall or bulletin board.

Debriefing

Ask: **How was it relying on your partner to help illustrate your involvement in service? How was it being able to help illustrate your partner's idea of service? How is this like or unlike the way we connect with people to share with them the good news about Jesus?** (Our service can be the link that helps people connect to Jesus.) Say: **Let's say together our power text, Matthew 9:36-38:**

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest' " (Matthew 9:36-38).

Today we are learning that:

Jesus uses our service to help others trust Him.

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

"The Lord Is Good" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 108)
"I've Got a River of Life" (*He Is Our Songv* no. 128)
"Micah 6:8" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 133)

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. Help students have a heart for the needs of the world. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ glove

Show pictures of disaster scenes or houses from other countries. Say: **Sometimes it's good to remember that knowing Jesus can transform our world even more than building new houses. Let's see how our mission to the world is going.** Remind students that our offerings go to support others, helping them to build their trust in Jesus.

Prayer

In prayer, ask God to help us all to become more childlike in faith and sensitive to the needs of the people around us.

Close with a prayer 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:
- ☐ Bibles

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **Can you think of a time in your life when you desperately needed help, but had only promises that someone would eventually help you?** Allow time to share.

Say: **Our Bible story today is about faith that grew in a doubting man because of the help Jesus gave Him. Let's repeat our power text, Matthew 9:36-38:**

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest' " (Matthew 9:36-38).

We are learning today that:

Jesus uses our service to help others trust Him.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils

Experiencing the Story

Have all the students find John 4:46-54. Ask an adult or good student reader to read the passage aloud as the students follow. When you have completed the reading, ask the students to divide into groups and choose one of the following activities.

1. Draw pictures depicting the events just described.
2. Create a pantomime of the story.
3. Write the script for a news report of the incident.

When students have completed their projects, or used all the time allotted, have them share their presentation with the rest of the class and explain it.

Debriefing

Ask: **What need did this royal officer have? Why did the official choose to bring his need to Jesus? What was the outcome of the official's interaction with Jesus, where he demonstrated his deep faith in the Great Healer?** (The official and his entire household believed in Jesus.) **What can we do to help others come to believe in Jesus in this way?** Say: **Let's say together our power text, Matthew 9:36-38:**

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest' " (Matthew 9:36-38).

Remember:

Jesus uses our service to help others trust Him.

Accommodations for students with special needs: Guide students with special needs who experience difficulty with this activity to groups that offer them assistance in participation. Build on their strengths and encourage them to contribute in ways that allow them to feel comfortable, accepted, and valued.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Ask the students to find and be ready to read from the following passages: Matthew 9:35-38 and Luke 9:1-6.

After reading Matthew 9:35, 36 together, ask: **What did Jesus do when he found people who were worried and helpless?** (He had compassion on them; He met their needs.)

After repeating Matthew 9:37, 38 together, ask: **What do you think He meant by what He said to the disciples here?** (That others besides Himself needed to go out and serve others, helping them to build their trust in Jesus.)

After reading Luke 9:1, 2 together, ask: **Who did Jesus send to serve others and meet their needs?** (the disciples) **Who are His disciples today?** (We can be. Those who follow Him and serve others.)

After reading Luke 9:3-6, ask: **How much were the disciples to prepare for their work of service?** (They weren't. They were to rely completely on God. They were to meet people where they were and stay with them, meeting their needs if they felt they had any. If they didn't feel a need of Jesus, the disciples were to go on to others who did.) **Let's repeat once again our power text, Matthew 9:36-38:**

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest' " (Matthew 9:36-38).

Ask: **What do we know about our work as disciples today? As our power text states it:**

Jesus uses our service to help others trust Him.

Scenario

Read the following scenario to your students.

Aka just recently got to know Jesus. He is so excited about his relationship with Jesus that he just can't keep it to himself. He wants to help others and to introduce them to Jesus so they can know the joy he has in knowing Jesus. He stops and talks to people wherever he goes. But he's a bit nervous about talking to his closer friends, especially since they know how bad he used to be (and expect him to still be the same). He comes to you for advice.

Debriefing

Ask: **What personal experience would you share with him? What do you think he can do to introduce them to his new best friend Jesus? How do you think his friends might respond? How can he be prepared for their response and help them build their trust in Jesus? What could he learn from our power text?**

Jesus uses our service to help others trust Him.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Children's Ministries

Allow time for students to share with the class if they had a chance during the past week to volunteer with a community service agency for children or to help a younger child in their neighborhood or at school.

Say: **The first part of our power text is about crowds who are harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. That can be anyone. But a primary "crowd" of people that you could be shepherds to are younger children. Let's brainstorm ways that we here in our Sabbath School could be shepherds to (or in some way serve) younger children.** (You can mention that the person Jesus healed in today's Bible story was a child.)

Write suggestions on the board as your students make them. Also consider some of the following ideas, which would need careful planning and supervision by adults.

1. Begin a Sabbath afternoon service for children somewhere in your neighborhood. You could use the Sabbath School programs to present in a park or public building.
2. Organize an after school activity for younger children.
3. Plan a nursery church in your junior room once a month so that parents can be free to listen to the sermon.

After you have brainstormed, choose a project that your Sabbath School can plan and implement. Remind them that:

Jesus uses our service to help others trust Him.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Dear Jesus, please give us opportunities to serve Your children. We ask that You use us to help others grow in their faith in You. Amen.**

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: **The centurion's servant is healed. God wants us to share our faith in loving acts of service and blessing to others.**

Notes

Student lesson

A Desperate Father

Think of a time you made a request for something that you were hopeful you would get. The father in this story went to Jesus hopeful that the Great Healer might heal his son. Let's read about how Jesus' miraculous healing of the royal official's son strengthened the father's faith.

The news that Jesus was coming to Cana spread like wildfire across the town. Can you imagine how it must have been to have Jesus visit your town? Every sick person seized the news with hopeful expectation. The news reached even to the nearby city of Capernaum. There a noble Jewish man who was an officer for the Roman emperor received the news with a glimmer of hope. Immediately he thought of his son, who was very ill. The physicians had given up hope that the boy would get well and live. They had come time after time to try their remedies on the young man, and time after time they had concluded that his sickness was incurable.

When the desperate father heard that Jesus was coming to Cana, his hope was rekindled once again. He knew he had to meet the Great Healer and invite Him to their home. Perhaps Jesus could help his son.

He set out on his journey to Cana. But when he finally found Jesus he remarked to his surprise that the Great Healer was only a plainly dressed man. The royal official grasped the small flicker of hope and approached Jesus with his request burning in his heart.

Jesus knew that there was no pain like the pain of a father being separated from his child by death. That was the pain His heavenly Father would experience when Jesus would hang dying on the cross. The heart of Jesus felt compassion for this royal official, and He longed to help.

Jesus also knew that the royal official had decided to test Him. He wanted to see if Jesus could heal his son. Only then would the royal official believe that He was God's promised Messiah.

"Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe," Jesus said. The royal official was startled by how Jesus could recognize the doubts in his heart. Perhaps he was standing in the presence of God after all. Oh, but his faith was so weak!

"Sir, come down before my child dies!" the royal official cried out with every bit of faith. Desperate and broken, he waited for Jesus to speak.

"Go your way; your son lives," came the Great Healer's comforting reply (John 4:48-50). By faith the royal official grasped the significance of the words and believed that his son would be healed. More than that, he knew that Jesus was the promised Messiah that he had learned about from the writings of Moses. He believed that Jesus could also heal the sickness of sin.

Back at the house a miraculous change was taking place in the dying son.

The servants noticed that he was getting his normal color back and that his fever was gone.

The next morning the servants ran off to meet their master and tell him the good news. They rejoiced as they told the father that his son was alive and well. When the father asked about the time when the boy recovered, the servants replied, "Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him." The royal official nodded. He knew that was the moment when Jesus had said, "Your son lives" (verses 52, 53).

This miracle helped the royal official and his entire family become determined to believe.

The royal official's faith was strengthened when he experienced Jesus' love through the healing of his son. He understood that Jesus wanted to restore each human being to wholeness of body, mind, and soul. A strong desire was kindled in the heart of the royal official to get to know more about Jesus and His teaching. When the Great Healer finally visited Capernaum, the royal official and his whole family believed. They became followers of Jesus. Is our faith in Jesus unconditional? Or do we like the royal official doubt and wait for God to grant our request?

Jesus invites us to trust Him with all our desires and allow Him to accomplish for us what is humanly impossible. He has our best interest at heart and seeks to restore us to complete wellness.

KEY REFERENCES

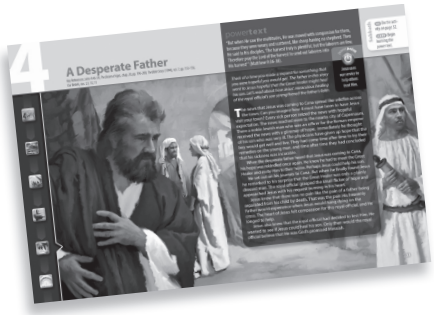
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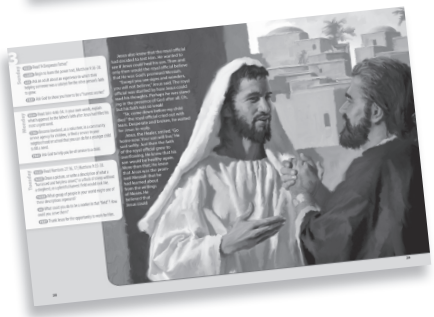
POWER TEXT

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send' out laborers into His harvest'" (Matthew 9:36-38).

POWER POINT

Jesus uses our service to help others trust Him.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 33.

Sunday

READ Read John 4:46-50 and this week's lesson, "A Desperate Father."

REVIEW Review the power text, Matthew 9:36-38.

ASK Ask an adult to share with you how they helped someone and as a result that person began to trust in God.

PRAY Ask God to show you how to be a "harvest worker."

Monday

READ Read John 4:51-54.

THINK How did the father's faith change after Jesus had filled his most urgent need?

FIND Volunteer in a community service agency or help a younger child in your neighborhood or at school.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you be of service to a child.

Tuesday

READ Read Numbers 27:16, 17; Matthew 9:35-38.

MAKE Draw a picture, or write a description of what a "harrassed and helpless crowd," or a flock of sheep without a shepherd, or a plentiful harvest field would look like.

THINK What people might these descriptions represent?

DO What could you do to be a worker in that "field"? How could you serve them?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank Jesus for the opportunity to work for Him.

Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 21:22.

WRITE Write a diary entry for the official. Record his reactions and his observations. How do you think he felt?

THINK When has Jesus performed a miracle, whether big or small, in your life? How did you feel? How did that experience make a difference in your life? How does knowing that God takes care of you help your faith grow?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you share what He has done for you that others may be encouraged to have faith in God.

Thursday

READ Read Luke 9:1-6.

TALK Talk with an adult about how to make a difference in your community. In what ways can you serve others? How will you depend on God while serving? How would your service help people place their trust in Jesus?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Praise God for the opportunity to serve others.

Friday

READ Read Luke 10:2.

ACT Act out the Bible story with your family for worship tonight.

SAY Say the power text, Matthew 9:36-38, by memory.

PLAN With your family, make plans for a service project to help some people with various needs that you can fill.

PRAY Praise God, expressing to Him your wholehearted gratitude for His care and provisions. Ask Him to bless your plans to serve others.