

YEAR C | QUARTER 1

10

Getting Ready

Service

Jesus is our example in service.

POWER TEXT

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 26:17-19
- Luke 22:10-12
- *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 71, p. 642
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 55-60
- student story on page 112 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 21, Stewardship
- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries
- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that they serve God best when they are prepared for service.
- **Feel** a desire to be prepared to serve God.
- **Respond** by discovering ways to use their gifts and abilities to serve God.

POWERPOINT

We serve God best when we use the gifts He has given us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus is preparing to celebrate the last Passover meal with His precious disciples. Unlike the disciples, He knows what the next few days will bring. He has a plan and wants everything to be just right. In order for Peter and John to serve Jesus best, they have to follow His directions and timing. Just like Jesus sent several of His disciples ahead to prepare for the Last Supper, so He will prepare and send us out to serve.

This is a lesson about service.

Because we do not know what the future holds we trust God's plan as we discover our spiritual gifts and develop the talents He has given us. We can serve well only as we allow Him to prepare us.

Teacher Enrichment

"God gives us gifts so we can build up his church. To use them effectively, we must (1) realize that all gifts and abilities come from God; (2) understand that not everyone has the same gifts; (3) know who we are and what we do best; (4) dedicate our gifts to God's service and not to our personal success; (5) be willing to utilize our gifts wholeheartedly, not holding back anything from God's service. . . .

"When you identify your own gifts . . . ask how you can use them to build up God's family. At the same time, realize that your gifts can't do the work of the church all alone. Be thankful for people whose gifts are completely different from yours" (*Life Application Bible* Notes and Bible Helps [Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1991], pp. 2050, 2051).

What are my gifts? How am I using them to serve others?

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 door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Gifted for Service*	*He Is Our Song* songbooks, copies of quiz on page 149 for each student (optional), whiteboard/chalkboard, markers/chalk
		B. Getting to Know Me	paper and pencils, copies of quiz on page 149 for each student, whiteboard/chalkboard, markers/chalk
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 107. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles, haroseth, matzoh bread (recipes on page 150), plates, cups, napkins, juice, salt, water, parsley, horseradish, lamb-shaped cookies, candle, silk or dried flowers (or art supplies), whiteboard/chalkboard, markers/chalk
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles; spiritual gifts list with references from page 151 for each facilitator
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Service Project*	supplies for service project
* 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:
- ☐ *He Is Our Song* songbooks
- ☐ copies of quiz (p. 149) (optional)
- ☐ whiteboard/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Gifted for Service

List the gifts (encouragement, mercy, healing, faith, administration, giving, missionary, hospitality, helps, teaching) where all can see. Explain to the students that these are spiritual gifts that God gives to His people in order to prepare them to serve others. Hand out the *He Is Our Song* books. Have students find the following songs:

"I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord," no. 15
"Our Prayer," no. 137
"We Are His," no. 140

Ask them to decide which one of the spiritual gifts you listed are reflected in these songs. Write next to each spiritual gift the number of the song the class has chosen to represent it. Have students select one or two of these songs to sing together.

Give students copies of the quiz on page 149 to complete, or use it from the front in order to help them understand the different gifts listed. Ask the students to look at the list and decide which of the gifts they feel they might have, even if it is not yet fully developed. Place a check mark next to each of the spiritual gifts that the students name.

Debriefing

Referring to the list of spiritual gifts and the check marks next to them, ask: **How many different gifts do we have represented here? Why do you think God gives different people different gifts?** (So working together they may accomplish more.) **Why might it be important to discover your own gift/s and develop them? Today our power point is:**

We serve God best when we use the gifts He has given us.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Allow students with special needs to work with a partner.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ copies of quiz (p. 149)
- ☐ whiteboard/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Getting to Know Me

Arrange students in a circle and ask them to write four things about themselves, one of which is not true. Each student will then share the list with the group. The others will decide which is the untrue statement and tell why they think it is untrue.

List the gifts (encouragement, mercy, healing, faith, administration, giving, missionary, hospitality, helps, teaching) where all can see. Explain that these are spiritual gifts that God gives to His people in order to prepare them to serve others.

Give students copies of the quiz on page 149 to complete. Ask them to look at the list and decide which of the gifts they feel they might have, even if it is not yet fully developed.

Then have students go around the circle again and each person tell the person to their right one of the gifts they feel that person has been given, and why. (For example: Samuel, I believe you have been given the gift of encouragement. When my grandmother died, you brought our family a card you had made.)

Debriefing

Say: **You are just beginning to discover your gifts. But God has given all His children at least one gift in order to prepare them to serve Him and others.**

Ask: **How do you feel about a gift you've discovered, or someone has pointed out to you?** (Encourage sharing.) **What have you learned about a friend? How do these gifts help us serve God and others as a group?**

We serve God best when we use the gifts He has given us.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Some students with special needs will work best on this activity with a partner.

Prayer and 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
"Make Me a Servant" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 126)
"We Are an Offering" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 136)

Mission
Use *Adventist Mission* magazine for the mission story. You can go to https://am.adventistmission.org/mq-children or go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION.

Offering
Say: **We serve God best when we share with others.**

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Prayer
Plan for and explain a "popcorn prayer." The teacher begins and ends the prayer, and in the middle the students spontaneously call out one-word responses. Say: **What ideas do you have about how God is preparing you or others to serve Him better? As we say a popcorn prayer today, you can praise Him for the way He is preparing us for service by stating it out loud.** (Prayer responses might be: parents, school, church, Bible study, friends, tough situations, blessings, prayer, etc.) When words seem to have quit "popping," close the prayer.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **Think of a time you were asked to do something for someone else that you knew you couldn't do very well. How did you feel? Think of a time you were asked to help with something that you knew a lot about. How did you feel then? We all do some things better than others. We call these things our gifts or talents. In our story today Jesus prepared two of His disciples to serve Him the best way they could.**

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ haroseth
- ☐ matzoh bread (recipes p. 150)
- ☐ plates, cups, napkins
- ☐ juice and water
- ☐ salt
- ☐ parsley
- ☐ horseradish
- ☐ lamb-shaped cookies
- ☐ candle
- ☐ silk or dried flowers OR
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ cushions or pillows
- ☐ whiteboard/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Experiencing the Story

Read Matthew 26:17-19 to the students. Say: **Today we are going to do what the two disciples were asked to do, prepare a Passover meal. But first, let's read the directions God gave for the first Passover meal.** Read together Exodus 12:3-11. **Whether that was the way Passover was celebrated in Jesus' time we don't know. But today we are going to prepare (or study) a Passover meal the way many Jewish people celebrate it now.**

Go over instructions and purchase supplies before class. Make a list on the board of all the preparations necessary to enjoy a Passover meal together. Have all the resources necessary for the activity ready before Sabbath. Allow students to choose the area of the preparation with which they would like to help. Following instructions, work together to prepare a Passover meal.*

The following are suggestions of preparations you can list for students to choose from (adapt to fit your situation):

1. Select a spot for a low table or even a large piece of paper spread on the floor.
2. Surround the table with pillows or cushions.
3. Set the table with a candle, plates, cutlery, glasses, and napkins.
4. Create (or place) place cards with the name of each student and teacher (or guest).
5. Create a floral arrangement or other decoration for the table.
6. Make and/or arrange matzoh bread on plate (recipe on page 150).
7. Prepare parsley and salt water.
8. Prepare haroseth (recipe on page 150).
9. Place lamb-shaped cookies to represent the meat.
10. Pour juice.
11. On each plate, place parsley, horseradish, and a small portion of haroseth.
12. Place a matzoh and bowl of salt water within reach of each student.
13. Serve the finished food to others.

After eating and discussing the symbolism (outlined on page 150) of each item, work together to clean up.

(If you don't have access to these food items, you may write the words of the foods, or draw pictures of them on a long rectangular piece of paper, symbolizing a table.)

*Take note of any food allergies students in the class may have and make adjustments as necessary.

Debriefing

Ask: **What events do we celebrate today in which food serves to remind us of the past?** (Answers will vary with culture and country.) **What did you like about being able to help prepare for our meal today? How did you feel when you were serving? being served? How will this celebration prepare us to serve God better?** (Remind us we can work together, doing different things to be of service; remind us of God's blessings and sacrifice for us.)

Say: **Jesus had a special task to do, and He chose and prepared two men to do it. Because they followed His directions they were able to serve God the best way.**

Ask: **How did you serve in preparing our meal today?** (Allow students to share the contribution they made in the preparations.) **What might have happened if John or Peter had been unwilling to serve? How is God preparing you to serve Him today?**

We serve God best when we use the gifts He has given us.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Students with physical disabilities may have difficulty participating in this activity. They may make suggestions for how the table could be set and decorated.

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ spiritual gifts lists (p. 151)

Exploring the Bible

Divide your students into groups with adult facilitators. Divide the words you are using to describe the gifts of the Spirit among the groups (encouragement, mercy, healing, faith, administration, giving, missionary, hospitality, helps, teaching). Ask the adult facilitator to discuss a definition for each of the gifts given to their group, and then ask the students to think of Bible examples of people using these gifts. Supply facilitators with the list of spiritual gifts and texts relating to them on page 151.

When groups have finished, ask each group to explain the gifts they studied to the rest of the class and tell ways a person with those gifts is prepared to serve. Remind the groups:

We serve God best when we use the gifts He has given us.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Some students with special needs will work best on this activity with the help of a partner. Name for them some Bible characters and ask them to identify the gifts that each of them had.

3 APPLYING THE LESSON

Scenario

Read aloud the following scenario:

Julie is 12 and has been going to the same church since she was a little girl. She has always been interested in drawing, but since she began lessons at 10 her artistic ability has really improved. She has drawn pictures of all her family, friends, and pets. She has even drawn a self-portrait. Everyone who has seen her pictures can see the gift that God has given her.

Debriefing

Ask: **Julie knows that she is good at drawing, but how can her drawings be used to serve God and to bless others?** (Encourage responses.)

Say: **There are thousands of ways that we can serve God. Can you think of some ways to serve God in the church? at home? at school? Not everyone can or will serve in the same way. It is so important to recognize the gifts God has given you and the ways He is specifically preparing you to serve.**

We serve God best when we use the gifts He has given us.

(Note to Leader/Teachers: This is a good time to help your students explore their spiritual gifts on a deeper level. There are several good programs for this. Contact your pastor, personal ministries director, or ABC to find out about the resources available.)

4 SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ supplies for service project

Service Project

Say: **We have been studying some of the ways in which we are gifted. It is clear that we have a variety of wonderful gifts represented in this room.** Tell students that together you are going to select a service project to do for the next four weeks.

After you have selected the project, together you will decide where each person's gift best fits in accomplishing this project. If possible, plan a project that you will be able to complete during these four weeks on the theme of service. If possible, plan service times as a group during the week.

If you do not have ideas for projects, ask others at your church or contact your local ABC for resources about service projects for youth.

Say: **It will be exciting to see how God will use each of your gifts to accomplish _____ (chosen project)!**

Debriefing

Ask: **What are you most looking forward to about our service? What impact do you think it will have on _____ ? God has promised to give us everything we need when we plan and prepare to serve Him. We can expect miracles when we ask Him to use us to help others.**

We serve God best when we use the gifts He has given us.

Accommodation for students with special needs

It will be important in sharing the lesson that students with disabilities realize that God gave them gifts that they can use to bless others. Make sure that in the project these students are included and are using their gifts.

Reminder to Teacher: Global Youth Day is the third Sabbath in March. Have you started planning your Global Youth Day Service activity with your students?

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray that each student will feel that God is preparing them for a special service. Thank God for being willing to use each one in His plan. Pray that each will daily ask for the grace to accomplish the service to which God is calling them.

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 guide your children spiritually. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jesus washes the disciples' feet. Jesus is our ultimate example, who taught us how to serve Him and His children.**

Notes

Student lesson

Getting Ready

What is your first reaction when asked to help someone else? Are you immediately willing, or do you want to know how much work it will be? Does your response depend on who *is asking for help? Imagine Peter and John's responses.*

The morning breeze blew across the faces of the tired group as they prepared to travel on to another city. Jesus and His 12 disciples had just spent the day at Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper. He had given a feast in Jesus' honor for his miraculous healing. At this great feast a woman had washed Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. The disciples were still trying to understand what Jesus had said about it.

With all the delicious food and fellowship just over, the group was now ready to move on. Time was running short, and they needed to get into Jerusalem. They needed to get ready for the celebration of the Passover that was coming in a few days.

The Passover was a remembrance of the time when God released the Jews from Egypt. A lamb had been killed for each Jewish family. Because of its blood on their doorposts, the angel of death had passed over their homes (see Exodus 12:7, 27). The day after the Passover was the Feast of the Unleavened Bread. It was a reminder of the same time, when there had been no time to leaven the dough because of the haste (see Exodus 13:3-10).

"Where do You want us to make preparations for You to eat the Passover?" the disciples asked, anticipating the celebration.

This Passover will not be like any of the others we have celebrated before, Jesus thought with sadness in His heart. The scenes of His trial and death crossed His mind.

Jesus had a plan for this special occasion. He sent Peter and John, to make the preparations, saying: "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?'"

"He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."

Peter and John hurried off to the city as instructed by Jesus. As they stood by the side of the gate, waiting, Peter was the first to break the silence.

"John, let's divide up the tasks we have to do," Peter suggested.

"Sure. I don't see any problem with that. Since you know the best place to get good, unfermented wine, why don't you take care of buying it for this service?" John asked, getting into the plan.

"OK, John. You are great with people. You could probably get someone to bake the unleavened bread. So why don't you take charge of that?" Peter asked.

"That's fine with me."

Just then a man with a pitcher on his right shoulder walked around the corner.

The disciples remembered Jesus' words and hurried their pace keeping in sight the man with the pitcher.

They followed their guide as he walked briskly down the alley, turning left and winding to the right on through the city. Peter and John watched him closely. When they arrived at the house, the disciples told him about Jesus' request.

"Just wait here for a moment and I will get my master," the man instructed.

Before long the owner arrived.

"My Master would like to know where the room is you have prepared for Him to have His Passover celebration," Peter said respectfully.

"Let me show you the room. It's upstairs," the owner replied.

Peter and John followed the owner into a spacious upper room. It was clean and comfortable, and there was plenty of room for all the disciples to eat this special Passover meal with their Master. Peter and John had a good start on making the preparations Jesus had sent them to make.

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 26:17-19
- Luke 22:10-12
- *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 71, p. 642
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 55-60 ("Feet Jesus Washed")
- Our Beliefs, nos. 21, 17, 14

POWER TEXT

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10).

POWER POINT

We serve God best when we use the gifts He has given us.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 75.

Sunday

READ Read Luke 22:10-12 and this week's story, "Getting Ready."

SAY Say the power text, 1 Peter 4:10, five times out loud to yourself.

PRAY Ask Jesus to show you where and when to share His grace with others.

Monday

READ Read Matthew 26:17–19.

TALK If you do not know someone who has been a missionary, ask an adult if there are any in your area.

DO If possible, talk with an adult, such as a missionary, who has made very special preparation to serve others. How do they feel God prepared them to serve?

PRAY Thank God that He will prepare us to work for Him.

Tuesday

READ Read 1 Corinthians 12:1–11.

REFLECT Jesus knew His disciples would be able to carry out the tasks He assigned them. By choosing Peter and John for this important task, Jesus recognized that they had special gifts and abilities. When we discover our spiritual gifts, we can serve the Lord more effectively.

CHART Begin making a chart of the spiritual gifts listed in your reading for today.

PRAY Ask God to teach you through His Spirit.

Wednesday

READ Read Romans 12:3–8.

CHART Add to your chart the spiritual gifts you discover in the Bible verses listed above.

DRAW Create a symbol for each of the gifts. Illustrate your chart or draw the symbols in your Bible study journal.

PRAY Ask God to get you ready to use your gifts and talents to serve Him.

Thursday

READ Read Ephesians 4:10–13.

CHART Find new spiritual gifts in today's Bible passage and add them to your chart.

LIST In your Bible study journal, list five Bible characters. Use your spiritual gifts chart to identify the gifts of each character, and write those beside their names.

PRAY Praise God for preparing people with the gifts they need to do what He asks them to do. Sing a praise song.

Friday

READ Read Mark 14:12–16.

NOTICE Notice that Jesus gave specific directions to His two disciples to follow in obtaining the upper room for the Passover.

WRITE Write in your journal how you would have felt if you were given the important task of making the preparations for the Passover meal for Jesus and His disciples. What would you have done?

SHARE Share your thoughts with your family tonight for worship.

PRAY Thank God together for all His gifts and blessings.