

9

Following the Leader

Service
Jesus is our example in service.

POWER TEXT

"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

KEY REFERENCES

- Isaiah 53:3-5
- *Prophets and Kings,* chap. 58, pp. 690, 691
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 157-160
- student story on page 102 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 17, Spiritual Gifts and Ministries
- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that Jesus Christ, our loving Savior, suffered on our behalf so that we may be saved.
- **Feel** grateful for Jesus' suffering for them.
- **Respond** by following Jesus' example in serving others.

POWERPOINT

We follow Jesus' example when we serve others.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

When Jesus came to earth, He assumed the role of a humble servant. He left the splendors of heaven and accepted a life of hardship and rejection. Even though those around rejected Him and treated Him badly, Jesus never complained. He was willing to accept this role to save us. Jesus is able to meet our needs and heal our hurts. Jesus calls us to follow His example and serve those around us.

This is a lesson about service.

By serving others we can reflect Jesus' life of service to others. If people despise and reject us, we do not need to be discouraged or disheartened. Jesus has been in the same situation. When we follow His example, He will sustain us.

Teacher Enrichment

"'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.' He gave Him not only to live among men, to bear their sins, and die their sacrifice. He gave Him to the fallen race. Christ was to identify Himself with the interests and needs of humanity. He who was one with God has linked Himself with the children of men by ties that are never to be broken. Jesus is 'not ashamed to call them brethren' (Hebrews 2:11, KJV); He is our Sacrifice, our Advocate, our Brother, bearing our human form before the Father's throne, and through eternal ages one with the race He has redeemed—the Son of man. And all this that man might be uplifted from the ruin and degradation of sin that he might reflect the love of God and share the joy of holiness" (*Steps to Christ,* p. 14).

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. Playing in the Band*	Bible
		B. Shoe Scramble	Bible, variety of shoes
		C. Practicing Empathy	Bible
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 97. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, serving dish or large ladle for offering
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	Bible, art supplies
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*A. Scenarios* *B. List Serve*	paper, pens/pencils
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Happy to Serve You*	stationery, pens/pencils, whiteboard/chalkboard, markers/chalk, footprint (optional)
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	copies of "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal,* no. 567)

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

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

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bible

Playing in the Band

Send a student out of the room. Sit the other students in a circle. Appoint one student as "leader." Say to the group: **You are in a band and are "playing"** (Suggest a well-known song.) **You play by humming the tune. The "leader" will mime an instrument, and everyone must follow the leader's lead, continuing to hum the tune while pretending to play the instrument the "leader" has chosen. The "leader" should change the instrument quite regularly. The person who has been sent out of the room will stand in the middle of the circle and try to decide who the leader is. You must try not to let the person in the middle know who the "leader" is.**

Invite the student to come in and bring them into the middle of the circle. Say: **This is a band. They are going to play for you, and we want you to identify the leader.** Repeat a number of times.

Debriefing

Ask: **How easy was it to discover who was the leader? How easy was it to follow the leader?**

Say: **Every day we are following a leader. Many others do not know who He is, but they can get to know Him through us. Let's find and read our power text, Isaiah 53:5. We will never have to face what Jesus faced in serving us, but we can still follow His example and serve those we meet. Today we are learning that**

We follow Jesus' example when we serve others.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ variety of shoes

Shoe Scramble

Collect a variety of shoes of different sizes and for different occasions. Put them in a pile in the middle of the floor.

Say: **Here is a pile of shoes. When I say "Go," I want you to grab a shoe and go back to your seat.** After each person has a shoe, continue: **Look at your shoe and think who might wear it and what they might do to serve those around them. Who would like to tell us about their shoe?**

Debriefing

Ask: **Was it easy to think how your "shoe" could serve others? Is it easy to put yourself in the place of others? When Jesus came to this earth, He served others. Let's find and read our power text, Isaiah 53:5. Jesus put Himself in the shoes of everyone. He took everyone's punishment and pain. We will not be called to bear what Jesus bore, but He wants us to follow His example. We are learning that**

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Accommodation for students with special needs

Use the Bibles with tabs so that students who don't know all the books of the Bible may become independent in finding them.

Prayer and Praise

C

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bible

Practicing Empathy

Ask students to envision the following scenarios and to react as though the situations happened to them personally, using only nonverbal communication tools (i.e., facial expressions):

1. Your parents give you permission to invite your friends over for the weekend.
2. Your father lost his job and your family cannot afford to buy some of the things you really need.
3. Your best friend is diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Debriefing

Ask: **Was it easy for you to communicate through facial expressions and body language how you feel when you identify yourself with such experiences? How may we serve others when we walk "in their shoes"?**

Say: **Walking in other people's shoes means that we place ourselves in the situation that they may be facing. If a friend is hurting or sad, walking in their shoes means that you think of their pain and try to find a solution to help them. Walking in other people's shoes is about empathy, caring, and service.** (We can reflect on how we may help solve some of the problems people may be facing, and we may share the joy of people who are rejoicing.)

Say: **Jesus put Himself in our shoes. He bore all our burdens and took all our punishment. Let's find and read our power text, Isaiah 53:5. We will never be asked to bear all the burdens that Jesus did, but we are asked to follow in His footsteps when it comes to serving others. When Jesus lived on earth, many unfair things happened to Him, but still He served those He met.**

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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

"Seek Ye First" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 83)
"I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 15)
"Soon and Very Soon" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 121)
"In Moments Like These" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 147)
"Touching Heaven, Changing Earth" (*Praise Time,* no. 22)

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

YOU NEED:
- ☐ serving dish OR ladle

Use a serving dish or a large ladle for your offering container.

Say: **Service takes many forms. One way we can follow Jesus' example is by sharing what we have with others. When we give our offerings the money is used to help and serve other people in many different ways.**

Prayer

Say: **There are many different ways of serving those around us. Sometimes it is easy; sometimes it is hard. As we pray this morning I will ask God to impress us with ways that we can serve, and then we will have a time of silence so we can listen to God speaking to us. After that I will say, "We offer our talents to You in service." Again, I will pause, and you can either pray silently or say a word or sentence committing your talents to God.**

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

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **How would you feel if you planned a present for someone and they refused it and said they didn't want it? Or how would you feel if you did something nice for someone and they did not appreciate it? That is just what happened to Jesus. Let's discover more about what happened.**

YOU NEED:
- □ Bibles
- □ art supplies

Experiencing the Story

Read Isaiah 53:3-5 in unison. Say: **This is a prophecy about what would happen to Jesus when He came to earth.** Divide into three groups, distribute Bibles and art supplies, and assign a verse to each group. Ask each group to: (1) rewrite their verse in modern day language, and (2) find some way to present their verse to the other groups (such as: a short skit, a poem, a song, or visual representation).

Allow time for each group to present their interpretations to the rest of the group.

Accommodation for students with special needs
Use the Bibles with tabs so that students who don't know all the books of the Bible may become independent in finding them.

YOU NEED:
- □ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **The prophet Isaiah was prophesying about what Jesus would experience when He came to this earth. Let's look at some texts and see if these prophesies were fulfilled:**

1. John 6:60-71
2. John 7:45-53
3. John 10:22-39

Ask: **Why do you think that the leaders in Jesus' day rejected Him? How do you think the civic and church leadership would react today if Jesus came as a wandering preacher to your town? How did Jesus relate to them even though they rejected Him? He continued to serve them—through His death, He still offered them salvation. We too have an obligation to serve others.**

We follow Jesus' example when we serve others.

4. Matthew 26:36-45
5. Mark 14:43-50
6. Luke 22:54-62

Ask: **How do you think Jesus felt when His friends left Him? Which do you think was hardest for Jesus, that His friends left Him and could not stay awake or that the leaders rejected Him? Even when Jesus' friends left Him, He still loved them and looked for them after His resurrection. Find John 21:1-14 in your Bibles. What did Jesus do to serve His disciples?**

7. John 11:45-47
8. John 19:28-37
9. 1 Peter 1:18-21

Ask: **How do you feel knowing that Jesus died to save you from your sins? What difference does this make to your attitude to those that you meet?**

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Accommodation for students with special needs
Use the Bibles with tabs to help students who don't know all the books of the Bible to become familiarized with them.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

A

Scenarios

Say: **Sometimes serving others is easy; sometimes it seems very hard. How would you relate in the following situations?**

1. One of your classmates is always picking on you. They never miss a chance to tease or make fun of you. You discover that they are having a hard time with math and risk failing the year because they cannot pass math. You are good at math. You know that if you offer to help them, it may be taken as a sign of weakness and only make things worse. How will you respond to the situation? How much should people's responses determine how we choose to act? How much did Jesus let human beings' responses determine what He did for us?

2. The teacher tells you that one of the other students in your class has been in an accident and will not be able to come to school for at least a month. It is not someone that you know very well. What can you do for them? How can you be of service?

3. Your parents work. Everyone has jobs to do at home. However, there still seem to be lots of things left over that do not get done. What are the kinds of things that you can do at home to serve the other members of your family?

Debriefing

Ask: **Often our families do not notice or give us recognition for the service we give at home. How do you feel when you serve but no one acknowledges your service? How do you think Jesus must have felt when people did not appreciate His service? What ways can you manage your feelings when family or friends do not respond positively when you serve them? Should recognition affect the way we serve?**

We follow Jesus' example when we serve others.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

List Serve

Divide the class into groups of two or three and distribute paper and pens/pencils to each group. Ask each team to compile two lists. One list should include the people who serve or have served them. The other list should include the people whom they have served or regularly serve.

Once the lists are complete, allow individuals to share who, how, and when they serve.

Debriefing

Ask: **How does it feel to be served? How does it feel to serve? How does it feel when no one acknowledges your service? How important is it for us to keep serving no matter if anyone notices or not? Why?**

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ stationery
- ☐ pens/pencils
- ☐ whiteboard/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk
- ☐ fooprint (optional)

Happy to Serve You

Divide into small groups. Say: **Think of a time someone did something to serve you. Share it with the others in your group and tell them how you felt.**

Say: **Now think of someone you can serve in some way this week. You may want to work something out with the others in your group or do something by yourself. Share your plan with the others in your group.**

Alternate

Make copies of the following, several for each student. It might be printed inside the drawn outline of a footprint:
Serving you as I follow in Jesus' footprints.
Signed _____

Divide into small groups and have them brainstorm ways that they can serve during the next week. Challenge the students to be creative about serving in ways that won't be noticed right away. Ideas might include making a sibling's bed while they are showering. They can then leave a "footprint" note on the pillow or in a prominent location before they leave.

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you feel about being a servant? What is the hardest thing? What is the easiest thing? What difference does it make when you know that Jesus, who made everything, was willing to be a servant?**

We follow Jesus' example when we serve others.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Being a servant is not always easy. Sometimes people regard you as weak or do not appreciate your efforts. Jesus was rejected when He served others, but still He willingly served. Let us ask Jesus to be with us this week and make us aware of opportunities to serve others.**

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: **The disciples prepare for the Passover feast. We serve God with the talents He has given us.**

Note

YOU NEED:
- ☐ *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*

If possible, make a copy of "Have Thine Own Way, Lord," no. 567 in *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal,* for each student to use in their Bible study time this week.

Notes

Student lesson

Following the Leader

Have you ever played Simon says or follow the leader? How easy is it to follow all the time? When Jesus came to this earth, He served others and invited His followers to play follow the leader by following His example.

When Adam and Eve sinned, the consequences of their actions were clear. They had broken the law, so they must die. Jesus was faced with a choice. Either He could just forget about them, abandon them to Satan, or He could conduct the most daring rescue mission the universe would ever see.

Everyone in the universe held their breath to see what Jesus would decide. On the one hand was heaven, where everyone lived in peace and harmony. Everyone loved Jesus and adored Him. There beauty, peace, and happiness surrounded Him. He could enjoy time with the angels and people from other worlds that He had created. On the other hand, He could go down and live on the earth and overcome Satan once and for all. He could reclaim the human race and offer everyone the chance to be restored to God's original plan for them.

But there was a high price to pay. Jesus would have to leave His heavenly home, with all its comfort and joy, and go and live on earth as a human. The earth was no longer the beautiful place He created. It had been damaged by sin. But Jesus knew that the people were even more damaged than the world. They suffered because of sin.

For Jesus the choice was simple. He would go to earth. It would be risky. It would be painful, and there was a chance that all of His pain would be for nothing. There would be people who would not accept Him, who would reject Him in spite of everything He would do for them. But He decided to go ahead with it. Jesus *gladly* chose to suffer for us.

During His life on earth Jesus experienced pain and rejection. At one time the people of His hometown tried to get rid of Him. They drove Him out of the town and tried to push Him over a cliff. His own family had a tough time accepting His work. They questioned if He really was the Son of God. His friends left Him when things got rough and He needed them the most. He supported them in all their problems, but when He asked them to pray with Him, they fell asleep.

It was one of Jesus' friends who tipped off the authorities so they could capture Him secretly. He traded his Friend for a bag of money. And then our innocent Jesus was treated like the worst kind of criminal. He was scourged, beaten with a whip that had tiny pieces of metal embedded in it to cut the victim's back with every lash. Many times the person being scourged died right then. The authorities had determined that 40 scourges was enough to kill a person, so victims were often given 39. Jesus endured that twice, along with a crown of thorns and a heavy cross roughly placed on His bleeding back.

Once Jesus told the disciples, "Look, there are many people here who don't like Me. So be prepared! If they don't like Me, they're not going to like you either when you act like Me. But I want you to stand firm! I have overcome the world" (see John 15:18; John 16:33). Then Jesus kept on serving by loving, healing, and forgiving even those people who treated Him so badly. His actions weren't guided by whether someone liked Him. His kindness wasn't reserved just for people who were kind to Him. He *gladly* suffered for us because He loves us. He died for the sins of everyone.

Today Jesus asks us to follow His example. We can show kindness to those around us or encourage someone who is struggling. We can share with them that Jesus suffered all that pain and rejection because of our sins. He is a friend who *really understands* when we suffer in any way.

And because of His suffering, our hearts can be healed. How about you? What can you do, right where you are, to serve those around you? Why not ask Jesus to show you today how you can follow His example?

KEY REFERENCES

- Isaiah 53:3-5
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 58, pp. 690, 691
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 10, pp. 157-160 ("Keep Up Your Courage!")
- Our Beliefs, nos. 11, 17, 10

POWER TEXT

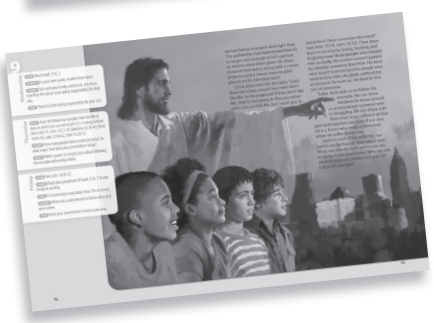
"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).

POWER POINT

We follow Jesus' example when we serve others.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 74.

Sunday

READ Read 2 Peter 2:9 and this week's story, "Following the Leader."

WRITE Write out the power text, Isaiah 53:5, and pin it up so you can see it.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you find ways to serve this week.

Monday

READ Read Isaiah 53:3.

MAKE Create a collage of the "despised and rejected" of the world. Place Jesus in the center of the picture.

THINK Do you know anyone who is rejected or friendless?

PRAY Begin to pray for someone who is on the edge of society. Ask God how He wants you to serve that person.

Tuesday

READ Read Isaiah 53:4.

PLAN Plan to do a special service for someone today, and do it.

CREATE Draw or create a cross.

LIST List any weaknesses or sorrows you have and pin them to the cross to remind you that Jesus carries them for you.

PRAY Thank God for carrying all your weaknesses and sorrows.

Wednesday

READ Read Isaiah 53:6, 7.

REWRITE In your own words, rewrite these verses.

SURVEY Talk with your family and friends. Ask them how they feel about Jesus taking responsibility for their sins.

PRAY Thank God for taking responsibility for your sins.

Thursday

READ Read the following examples from the life of Jesus in which you can see Isaiah 53:3-5 being fulfilled: John 6:60-71; John 10:22-39; Matthew 26:36-45; Mark 14:43-50; Luke 22:54-62; John 19:28-37.

COUNT How many people have served you today? In what ways? How many ways have you served others today?

WRITE Write a poem or song to Jesus about following His example and serving others.

Friday

READ Read John 19:28-37.

READ Read your paraphrase of Isaiah 53:6, 7 to your family at worship.

SING Find and sing a song about Jesus' life of service.

COMMIT Write out a commitment to follow Jesus and serve others.

PRAY Read the commitment to God in prayer.