

May Week 1



Overview Card

The Early
Church **Helped**
Each Other



Key Question:
Bottom Line:
Memory Verse:

Who can help others?
I can help others.
“Be kind and loving to each other.”
Ephesians 4:32, NCV

Bible Story:

We can help each other.
The Early Church Helped Each Other
Acts 2:42-47

Coloring Page:

Hungry widows are given food.

Music:

Who Knows Best
Hosanna Rock
Great Big God

Video:

Boz the Bear Video
Thank You God for Friends and Helpers
Part I - Rescue Man to the Rescue!

Service Time:

72 minutes



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ACTIVITY

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Here to There

What You Need: Two laundry baskets, a timer, and several of two different items like blocks and toy cars or toy food items and fabric pieces. Whatever two items you choose, make sure you have several of them.

What You Do:

During the activity: Place the two laundry baskets at one end of the room. Place all of the items in one large pile at the opposite end of the room. Challenge the children to see how quickly they can help each other sort all of the items into the two laundry baskets (e.g., blocks in one basket and cars in the other).

(Option: After the children complete the activity once, put that amount of time on your timer and challenge the children to try and beat their first time before the buzzer sounds.)

What You Say:

Before the activity: "I have a super fun game, but we're going to have to really help each other to make it work. See all of these *(name the two items)*? I need you to get all of them down to those two baskets. I need *(one item)* in one basket and *(second item)* in the other basket. I brought my super cool timer to see just how fast you can do it. Are you ready? *(Pause.)* When I say 'GO!' you can begin helping each other. Three, two, one, GO!"

At the end of the activity: "Yay! *(Announce amount of time it took kids to complete the task.)* Way to go! That's what happens when you help each other. Our Bible story today was about some people who helped each other. Do you remember what happened?"



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We Can Build

What You Need: Any kind of building blocks (LEGOs®, wooden blocks, or large blocks) and masking tape.

What You Do: Divide the children into two teams and have each team line up in a single file line. Place the blocks in a pile (*not stacked*) on the floor next to the first person in line. Use masking tape to make a line on the floor about 10 feet away from the first kids in line. When you say 'GO!' the first person takes one block from the pile and hurries to the line and places the block on the line. That child then returns to his team and tags the next child. The next child picks up another block and hurries to the line and stacks it on top of the first block. Continue to do this until you are out of blocks. Make sure each child has a turn.

What You Say: "WOW! What an amazing building you all have built! The best part is that you all worked together! This wonderful masterpiece would not have been so wonderful if you did not help each other. Everyone turn to your friends and say, 'Good job!' (*Guide the children to congratulate each other.*) Today in our story we learned about other people who worked together and helped each other build a masterpiece too! Do you remember what we learned from our TRUE story from the Bible."



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Memory Verse with Motions

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do: Gather children around you and have them stand up. Stand where everyone can see you and teach the Memory Verse with the motions to the children.

"Be kind (smile really big, tilt your head to the side, and point to your cheeks) and loving (give yourself a great big hug) to (hold up two fingers) each other (point to people with both pointer fingers)," Ephesians 4:32 (open your hands like a book).

What You Say:

During the activity: "Be kind (smile really big, tilt your head to the side, and point to your cheeks) and loving (give yourself a great big hug) to (hold up two fingers) each other (point to people with both pointer fingers),' Ephesians 4:32 (open your hands like a book)." (Repeat as many times as desired.)

At the end of the activity: "Our verse this month tells us that God wants us to be kind to each other. He also wants us to help each other. We can show our love to one another simply by smiling at someone or offering to help them.

Who can help others? *(Pause.) That is right! [Bottom Line] I can help others!"*



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I Can Help

What You Need: "I Can Help 1" and "I Can Help 2" from the Activity Pages on the Web site, white copy paper, red card stock, glue sticks, crayons, and safety scissors.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Make a copy of "I Can Help 1" onto white paper for each child. Make a copy of "I Can Help 2" onto red cardstock for each child.

During the activity: Give each child a copy of "I Can Help 1" and ask them to color the pictures in the squares. Once they are finished, have them cut out each square. Then help the children glue each square onto the "I Can Help 2" Activity Page.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "Today in our Bible story we heard about a special group of people, didn't we? (Pause.) This special group was Jesus' friends that formed the very first church. Do you remember what the most important thing that Jesus talked about with these friends was? (Pause.) It was love, wasn't it? Yes! We are supposed to love God and love others."

"Do you remember how we can show love to others? (Pause.) We can show others love by helping them, right? (Pause.) Right, and the people of the early church most certainly had helping hands and knew how to use them. During our story what did we say? (Pause.) 'Woo HOO! (Raise right arm.) I can help (right thumb to chest) you!' (Point out.) Do it with me! (Pause.) 'Woo HOO! (Raise right arm.) I can help (right thumb to chest) you!' (Point out.) Awesome job! We can use our helping hands just like Jesus' friends in our story, can't we? (Pause.) We sure can!"

During the activity: "This page has pictures of lots of different ways that we can help others. First, we're going to color each of these little pictures (point to the "I Can Help 1" sheet) with our crayons. After we're finished coloring, you will cut those pictures out and then glue them to the red piece of paper (hold up the red paper) that I gave you. Everybody got it? (Pause.) Great! Let's get started!"

At the end of the activity: "Very nice work! Our activity sheets can remind us of ways that we can help each other. You can hang your pictures up to remind you that God wants you to be a helper. **Who can help others?** (Pause.) You got it! **[Bottom Line] I can help others!**"



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Clap It Out

What You Need: No supplies needed.

What You Do: Sit in a circle with the children. Clap your hands and say the Bottom Line together. Keep doing it until you can say one word with each clap in rhythm together. Once you have that down, change it up. Try and slap the tops of your legs while saying the bottom line. Keep changing up the movement for variety. Revisit movements you have success with. (*Suggested Movement Ideas: Stomp feet, pat head, pat tummy, jump in place, and tap toes.*)

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Today we’re learning that **[Bottom Line]** I can help others. You can help others and you can help others and you and you and YOU! **Who can help others?** (Pause.) **[Bottom Line]** I can help others. Let’s say that together while we clap our hands.”

At the end of the activity: “One more time! **Who can help others?** (Pause.) **[Bottom Line]** I can help others! Yay! We can all help others!”



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Feed the Hungry

What You Need: “Feed the Hungry Letter” from the Activity Pages on the Web site, white cardstock, large paper grocery bags (*bags with handles are preferred but any bag will work*), crayons, washable markers, stickers, black permanent marker, and a stapler.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Make a copy of the “Feed the Hungry Letter” from Activity Pages onto white cardstock for each child. Print “I Can Feed the Hungry” on the front of each bag with a permanent marker.

During the activity: Have the children decorate their bags with the washable markers and the stickers. When they are finished, help each child write his or her name after the word “LOVE” on the bottom of the Activity Page. Staple the letter to the front of the bag and send bags home with the children.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Today in our Bible story we talked about how Jesus taught that we need to love God and love others, remember? (*Pause.*) We also learned that one way that we can love others is by helping them. Today we’re going to decorate a bag for you to take home and when you’re all finished, I’ll tell you how you can use it to help others. I have stickers, crayons, and markers for you to use to decorate your bag however you would like.”

At the end of the activity: “Your bags look fantastic! We have made something very special today. We have made a bag that can hold food that can help people who are hungry. Take your bags home and ask your family if you can put some food in your bag. Next week when we see each other again, bring your bag back and we will have lots of food to help people who are hungry. **Who can help others?** (*Pause.*) Absolutely! **[Bottom Line] I can help others!**”



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Memory Verse Picture Frame

What You Need: Picture frames, markers and/or stickers, magnets and memory verse

What You Do: Have the children decorate the picture frame with markers and/or stickers.

What You Say:

“We have a brand new memory verse this month, “Be kind and loving to each other. Ephesians 4:32, NCV.” Our verse reminds us that we need to be helpers to our friends. There are lots of people who help others: doctors, builders, police officers, fire fighters, moms, dads, teachers, coaches ... whew! Helpers are everywhere! In fact, we are going to decorate our frames with helpers. Doesn’t that sound fun?”

