

ALLEY LG – Nov 7th/8th

Bible Story: All Hands on Deck (Attitude of Giving to the Poor) • *Deuteronomy 15:7-8, 10*

Bottom Line: Have a good attitude when you lend a hand.

Memory Verse: “Let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.” *Matthew 5:16, NIV*

Life App: Service—lending a hand to help someone else.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: All Hands On Deck

Host enters in his “astronaut” costume. He stomps onto stage and paces with an incredibly bad attitude. He speaks in a sharp/sarcastic tone.

Opener

HOST: “Excuse me for one minute.

Walk backstage and scream as loud as possible.

“AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!”

Return to center stage.

“I. AM. SO. ANGRY. You guys have no idea! I want to give you a great tip that will carry you far in life. Listen closely. Do not trust the (*sarcastic air quotes*) ‘good people’ at Space Camp! They say they exist to inspire future astronauts to the moon and beyond but all they really do is hurl heat-seeking meteorites into your dreams, blowing them ALL THE WAY TO THE MOON ... AND BEYOND!

Pause to catch breath.

“Sorry about that. Maybe I should introduce myself first. My name is Captain [Host’s name], and welcome to the ALLEY. Well ... technically, I’m not a captain YET, but I will have that title soon enough. You see, I had this dream long ago to become an astronaut so I could be the first human to establish a space colony on Mars! I plan on serving mankind by my space exploration because when you serve on the crew of a space shuttle it’s all hands on deck! I guess you could say it’s the best way to lend our future a hand! In fact, that reminds me of our Life App this month.

CG: *Service Slide*

“Service is lending a hand to help someone else. And that is exactly what I TRIED to do at Space Camp when my life was completely ruined!

“Let me explain. I signed up for Space Camp to start taking steps towards achieving my dream. While I was there, the director asked for a volunteer to demonstrate the Enhanced Zero-Gravity Locomotion

Simulator. Who wouldn't want to sign up for that? I mean, think about it! ZEE-ROW GRAVY-TAAY—NO gravity. So, I emphatically raised my hand to volunteer (*demonstrate an over-enthusiastic hand wave*) but—get this—they didn't pick me! Clearly they knew how badly I wanted to participate, but they selected some dude next to me who looked like he didn't even want to do it (*demonstrate a very pathetic wave*). He barely waved his hand. THEN they turned to ME and asked if I wanted to help strap him in ... STRAP HIM IN! It's like eating a candy bar right in front of the kid who's hungry.

"So what could I do? Of course I said yes. But don't think for a minute I had a good attitude. When I took off my giant space gloves, they (*chuckle and use air quotes*) 'accidentally' smacked him in the face. Then I pulled those straps as tight as I possibly could—you know, so he wouldn't slip out. But get this—while I was grumbling to myself and working on the last strap, the Space Camp director asked me to stop helping ... STOP HELPING! I have never been so offended in my life! He said I could start helping again when I quit being so cantankerous ... whatever that means! Uggh! Thanks, Space Camp!

Take a few deep breaths to regain composure.

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: "OK, guys! Today I'm here so that we can take a look at some verses that should help anyone who goes to Space Camp or wherever you go in life. The verses can be found in a book of the Bible called Deuteronomy. That's a weird name, right? For those of you who maybe aren't so familiar with this book of the Bible, in the book of Deuteronomy Moses is reviewing God's instructions, or laws, with a new generation of God's people. So the book reviews all of God's laws.

"Some of these laws might seem a little odd to us today. For example, one law says, 'Don't eat a vulture'. Would any of you consider eating a vulture? Me neither! I think I'll stick with chicken. Or here is another law: 'Don't let an ox and a donkey pull the same plow together.' Tuck that in your back pocket for your next workday in the pasture!

"Now, maybe you don't find those laws very helpful to your daily life, but there are also some pretty important laws about helping people that would be applicable today. Let's read one of those verses now.

In Deuteronomy 15:7-8, it says (*open Bible and read*), 'Suppose someone is poor among you. And suppose they live in one of the towns in the land the Lord your God is giving you. Then don't be mean to them. They are poor. So don't hold back money from them. Instead, open your hands and lend them what they need. Do it freely.' (*NirV*)

"This verse specifically talks about helping the poor. You may not feel like you know a lot of people who fit this description. But, as we'll see, the intention of this verse—why God gave the law in the first place—is that we should be willing to lend a hand to anyone in need and to have a good attitude when we do it. Let me show you what I'm talking about. I'm going to give you a few scenarios to help illustrate ways we can serve others and hopefully you will see how your attitude matters. I will be calling on the help of some awesome volunteers."

But these can't be just any volunteers, they have to be good actors and actresses. Let's have a casting call. Anyone who is interested in being my first volunteer, show me how you act when you are really mad...

Walk through the crowd and pick 1 person. Tell them they are volunteer #1 and to stay in their seat

Now, I need to see how you would act if you were really excited! Like you just found out you won a million dollars!

Walk through and pick one person. Tell them they are Volunteer #2 and to stay in their seat

Now for my last actor I need to see your sweetest and most loving face.

Walk through and pick 1 person. Tell them they are volunteer #3

Call up Volunteer #1 from the audience and give him/ her a spoon

FEEDING YOUR BABY BROTHER

STORYTELLER: Ok _____ You are going to act out my story in your best acting ability as I tell it. "It's pizza night, and you are starving. Your stomach is grumbling like a grizzly bear surrounded by raw meat (*Volunteer pats stomach and looks really, really hungry.*) Right before you dig into your pepperoni pizza with extra pepperoni AND a cheesy crust, your parents ask you to feed your baby brother, Timmy. (*Volunteer crosses arms, stomps foot, and looks angry.*) You are appalled by the blatant disregard of your obvious hunger!

"You grab the spoon off of the counter, and you stare at your little brother with your craziest look. (*Volunteer gives crazy look.*) I mean a really crazy look. (*Volunteer gives an even crazier look.*) A look that could only be described as a rabid wolf who just got slapped in the face. You begin shoveling the green goop into Timmy's mouth. (*Volunteer starts spooning imaginary food into her imaginary brother's mouth.*) But you're so upset your parents have asked you to do this that you're not paying much attention. Much of the food isn't making it into Timmy's mouth. (*Volunteer looks away angrily but keeps spooning food.*) It's on the side of his face, his forehead, and it even ends up in his nose. Then he starts spitting out what little food is in his mouth all over the place. (*Volunteer looks shocked in a disgusted way.*) Some of it shoots straight into your mouth. Timmy starts to cry ... you start to cry ... (*Volunteer starts to fake cry and spit vomit out of mouth*) ... and your parents have the NERVE to give you that 'I'm really disappointed in you' face. Can you believe them?! (*Volunteer looks incredulous.*)

(*To audience*) "What do you all think? Did our volunteer serve gladly? (*Pause for responses.*) Why was she so angry?" (*Pause for responses.*)

Send the first volunteer back to her seat, and bring up volunteer #2

HELPING YOREN FORLORENSEN

STORYTELLER: "How about this next scenario? It's Monday, your least favorite day of the week, and you show up to school already wishing that it was Friday. (*Volunteer looks dejected and downcast.*) The bell rings and you are only halfway to your class when you accidentally step in someone's spilled can of soda and now it's all over the bottom of your shoe. (*Volunteer is annoyed while looking at the bottom of his shoes.*) As you walk to class your shoes are sticking to the floor and making sounds similar to 'shokt floop, shokt floop.' When you arrive to class there is a really tall, blond-haired, muscular kid wearing

lederhosen sitting in your seat. *(Volunteer gives a lame wave and a nasty look.)* As he sits there, he is humming a song that could only be played by an accordion. You find your way to the back of the class ... shokt floop, shokt floop.

"The teacher then begins class by saying, 'Today is national party day! To celebrate, all class long we will be eating candy, drinking soda, and playing video games!' You realize that your day has just changed. *(Volunteer does a fist pump.)* Things are definitely looking up for you. *(Volunteer pretends to high five people.)* Then your teacher adds, 'Today you may have noticed that we have a new student with us. He is an exchange student from Oompapa-land and his name is Yoren Forlorensen. I would love it if someone volunteered to show him around the school instead of staying here in class.' She then looks directly at you and says, 'Thanks so much for volunteering to help Yoren.' *(Volunteer throws hands up in disbelief.)*

"She hands you and Yoren a hall pass and shoos you out the door. Yoren takes one look at you and slaps you on the back and says, 'Voonda jergen morsen floogen,' and laughs really hard. *(Volunteer reacts as if just slapped in the back.)* You can't believe that you've been stuck with Yoren! You show him around the school but it is obvious that you are mad and really don't want to be around him. *(Volunteer crosses arms and turns a cold shoulder.)*

(To audience) "Was this the right way to serve? *(Pause for responses.)* Our volunteer may have helped Yoren out, but what did he do wrong?" *(Pause for responses.)*

Send the second volunteer back to his seat, and bring up volunteer #3

HELPING GRANDMA

STORYTELLER: "How about this last scenario? Your parents have had you doing chores around the house ALL DAY. *(Volunteer looks tired by wiping her forehead and has hands on hips.)* You've done everything from washing dishes to shoveling the dog's business in the backyard. It has not been a great day. Just thinking about doing ONE MORE CHORE makes you want to hop up and down and flail your arms around in the air like a crazy person! *(Volunteer jumps around.)* I said ... it makes you want to hop up and down and flail your arms like a crazy person. *(Volunteer jumps around even crazier.)* That's when your dear sweet grandmother asks you to wash her car. So you stomp over to the side of the house like Godzilla stomping on a small city and grab the water hose. *(Volunteer stomps around stage.)*

"As you stomp through the yard, you take a look at your grandmother. She is grinning from ear to ear. *(Volunteer changes from angry to caring demeanor.)* I mean, you've never seen somebody smile so big ... or so sweetly. It gives you the energy to do the job. Not only that, but your heart is so filled with love for your grandmother that you are dancing as you wash her car. *(Volunteer starts dancing while pretending to scrub car.)* You are pulling dance moves that you've never done before. *(Volunteer dances erratically.)* Grandma then comes out of the house, gives you a bear hug, and compliments your great attitude. *(Volunteer smiles with pride.)*

(To audience) "Was this the right way to serve? *(Pause for responses.)* What did our volunteer do correctly?" *(Pause for responses.)*

Send the volunteer back to her seat.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Each of these scenarios demonstrated people in need. Although everyone was helped, not everyone was helped with a great attitude. Let’s go back to the verses we read earlier.

(Open Bible and read Deuteronomy 15:7-8.) ‘Suppose someone is poor among you. And suppose they live in one of the towns in the land the Lord your God is giving you. Then don’t be mean to them. They are poor. So don’t hold back money from them. Instead, open your hands and lend them what they need. Do it freely.’ *(NirV)* God gives to those in need and He loves it when we help! However, this verse points out the need for us to serve others with a good attitude. We must be willing to give up our own plans to do something for someone else.

Take a look at this...

Video: One Thing

“Although you may not know many people around you who have no money, no house, or no friends, I guarantee you know people with needs. It could be someone from Oompapa-land sitting alone at lunch, your grandmother after a long road trip to your house, or even one of your siblings who hasn’t mastered the art of feeding themselves. You have the ability to serve others who need help every day. However, God doesn’t want you to help people with a bad attitude. He wants you to serve with joy! It’s like our Bottom Line says ...

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Have a good attitude when you lend a hand.

“Wait a minute, I see that I was wrong. I was pretty mean while helping that guy get into the Enhanced Zero-Gravity Locomotion Simulator at Space Camp. Our attitude matters when we are lending a hand to someone in need. It doesn’t matter what is happening around us. Our job when we are helping others is to reflect Jesus. And clearly I messed up a great opportunity to serve with joy. Man now I feel really bad!

I think I need a lot of work on this. Luckily there is someone who can help me. Let’s pray and ask God for help with this.”

Pray

HOST: “Dear God, we know having a good attitude when we lend a hand isn’t always the easiest for us to do. However, we also know You want us to serve with joy. This is why we need Your help. Please give us the correct attitude we heard about in Deuteronomy. We pray that people see You in us when we serve. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.