

ALLEY LG – Oct 31st/Nov 1st

Bible Story: Soul Server (Servant of All/Jesus Came to Serve) • *Mark 10:32-45*

Bottom Line: Serve others because of what Jesus did for us.

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.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

LG Leader enters dressed as an astronaut in what's clearly a homemade costume. He begins speaking in a deep, grandiose voice.

CG: All Hands On Deck

Opener

STORYTELLER : “Greetings, earthlings ... *(cup mouth and pretend to echo)* ... earthlings ... earthlings ... earthlings! My name is Captain [Host's name], and I would like to personally welcome you to OUTER SPACE *(cup mouth and pretend to echo)* ... space ... space ... space!

Walk with big steps as if bouncing on the moon. Then pause after a few steps and look defeated.

“UGH! Who am I kidding?! This is obviously not space; no one here came to church in a rocket ship, nobody's got an oxygen helmet on, and I don't see even ONE moon pie! But just because we aren't floating around in weightlessness right now doesn't stop me from dreaming! You see, for the longest time, I've been a dreamer. A while back I wanted to be a superhero so I could serve all of humanity by ridding earth of evil masterminds—all the ones who laugh like this. *(Do a dark, evil laugh.)* Buuuut I wasn't born with any super powers. That is a problem for anyone wanting to be a superhero ... unless you came from Krypton. Then I dreamed about being a genius so I can serve the world by figuring out ways to end world hunger and stuff through complex mathematical equations. Buuuut my math grades were never very good. However, I've never been one to give up and I've decided to start working toward the only realistic dream I've got left—becoming an astronaut! I've got the suit. I've got the hat. I even have the walk. Check this out.

Poorly and shamelessly demonstrate the moonwalk.

“With my equipment and skills, I plan on serving mankind by exploring space! Speaking of serving, let's read this month's Life App.

CG: Service Slide

“Service is lending a hand to help someone else *(cup mouth and pretend to echo)* ... else ... else ... else! And we will be doing this from OUTER SPACE ... well, from this room, anyway! I think the easiest way to serve mankind is to join the Mars Rover on the Red Planet, commonly referred to as Mars, to establish earth's VERY FIRST SPACE COLONY! I need you all to help me train and prepare for the obstacles ahead, so let's start training right now by playing a little game. Today we will be playing a

game I like to call 'Astronaut Fingers.' In all the pictures of astronauts I've seen they are wearing big, fluffy, obtrusive gloves. If you are not accustomed to working on teensy tiny details in those gloves, it could spell disaster in outer space! To play this game, we will need one Small Group Leader from each group to join me on stage.

Bring SGLs on stage. Give each a foam finger and safety goggles.

"We will be adjusting to life with space gloves by using these foam hands. Each kid will be handed a glow-in-the-dark necklace. From where you are sitting, each of you will have one toss to attempt to make the necklace land on the finger of the foam hand. Make sure you toss very gently with a lot of arch to give you the best chance of scoring and to decrease your chance of maiming your Small Group Leader. Small Groups will toss their necklaces one group at a time. Once all Small Groups have had a chance to toss, we will count the number of necklaces on each Small Group Leader's foam finger. The Small Group with the most necklaces wins! Let's play!

Distribute necklaces to all kids. Make sure necklaces are connected in a hoop so they can be tossed onto the foam fingers. Allow time to play the game.

SFX: Play high-energy music during the game

"Wow! That was incredible! Clearly space gloves would be no trouble for any of you! This only motivates me to work harder toward Mars. I will have to work on it some more next week.

(Take off space helmet and set it aside)

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: You know....I think you're all great people. Who out there agrees? Turn to your neighbor; give him or her a pat on the back, and say, 'You're such a great person!' *(Pause.)* Great! Well, we're talking about a time when Jesus told His disciples how to become great! What He said might surprise you!

"Jesus and some of His disciples were on their way to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Does anyone know what a disciple is? *(Pause for responses.)* For those who don't know, a disciple is someone who follows a leader and tries to learn all he or she can from that person. In this case, these were men who followed Jesus by spending lots of time listening to what He said and watching what He did. They had traveled tons of miles down countless dirt roads walking and talking with Jesus, just as they were doing in this story. The disciples' goal was to live the way Jesus lived.

"On their way to Jerusalem, Jesus started telling His disciples about terrible things that would happen to the Son of Man in Jerusalem. The disciples knew that when Jesus used the words, "Son of Man," He was talking about Himself. It wasn't a pleasant conversation, as Jesus began to explain how the religious leaders were going to arrest Him and sentence Him to death. He said that people would make fun of Him, spit on Him, hit Him, and even kill Him. Pretty rough stuff! BUT He also let them know that He would rise from the dead three days later!"

JAMES AND JOHN ARGUE

STORYTELLER: “Now a couple of the disciples with Jesus were brothers whose names were James and John. Some Bible scholars note that at times they could be loud and outspoken, which is why Jesus gave them a pretty sweet nickname—the ‘Sons of Thunder.’

Take a look at this video that was captured of James and John...

252 Story: Week One Video

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “I imagine there might have been tiny explosions in the heads of the disciples as Jesus finished speaking. Their minds would have been blown because this totally went against everything they thought was true about being great. The disciples had expected Jesus to become a political leader who would conquer the Romans and order people to do exactly what He wanted.

“BUT greatness won’t come from the chair you’re sitting in or the title you may hold. Jesus made it clear: In His kingdom, the greatest people or most important people would be those who set aside what they wanted and helped others instead. Jesus understood this better than anyone. Jesus made serving others important. Jesus served all. He was the ultimate example of someone who set aside their own desires to help others—to serve.

“Jesus not only wanted His disciples to seek out ways to serve others but He also calls us to serve others. Our Bottom Line says it best!

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “**Serve others because of what Jesus did for us.** Jesus served us first by giving His life for us. And in turn, we should serve others with our own lives. Let’s pray.

Pray

HOST: “Dear God, thank You for the love You showed us when You sent Your Son to the cross so we could have a relationship with You. We know without that selfless act, we would be separated from You forever. We ask for Your help in following Your example of serving others. Please help us to live in such a way that others see You in us. We love You and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.