

Alley SG - February 23-24, 2019

Bible Story: Secret Service (Give in Secret) • *Matthew 6:1-4*

Key Question: What would happen if you never got credit for serving?

Bottom Line: Serve others without looking for applause.

Memory Verse: Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.” *Mark 9:35 (NIV)*

1. Get Your Head in the Game

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask** everyone to form a circle, kneel, and place both of their hands on the floor in front of them (or sit around a table).
- **Tell** each person to cross his or her left hand over the right hand of the person next sitting to the left of him or her.
- **Explain** that you will designate a direction (left or right) then you'll slap the floor with one of your hands. The hand closest to your slapping hand must then slap his or her hand, then the next closest, and so on.
- **Rules** are as follows:
 - A single slap keeps the slaps going in the correct direction.
 - A double slap sends the slap in the opposite direction.
 - If someone slaps the floor out of turn, he/she must remove that hand. All other hands stay where they are.
 - When both of someone's hands are out, that person is out of the game.
- **Play** with increasing speed until there are only two people left.

What You Say:

“You should give yourselves a round of applause for that game. No, wait. That's probably not a good idea. Because, as we learned today, it's not all about us! We should always be on the lookout for ways to applaud others more than ourselves.”

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Plastic Coins (10 per group), blindfold (1 per group), Bible

What You Do:

- **Sit** in a circle.
- **Give** each student a coin.
- **Choose** one person to sit in the middle of the circle and put on a blindfold.
- **Let** the students take turns silently placing their coins on the floor near the person in the center. If the blindfolded student thinks he hears someone and points in the right direction, that person is caught.
- **Switch** places and **repeat** several times.
- When finished, **talk** about the game while directing students back to the principles found in today's lesson: serve without looking for applause.
 - How did it feel to go unnoticed in the game?
 - When do you *like* to be noticed? Why?

- Why do we get upset when no one notices something good we've done? Is that okay? Why or why not?
- **Invite** one or two students to read Matthew 6:1-4 aloud to review the lesson.
 - What can you do to watch out for your motives and attitude when serving others?
 - What does it mean to not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing?
 - Based on what Jesus said in these verses, is it wrong to serve when you just want credit for doing something nice? Explain.
 - If you are applauded and recognized for something you did, what is the best way to respond? What should your response be if your good work goes completely unnoticed?
- **Challenge** the students to think of ways they can serve others this week and do so as quietly and unnoticed as they were when they moved the coins earlier in the game.

3. Discussion Questions

- What is an example of someone doing something just to get a pat on the back or a round of applause? It can be a true story (no names) or one you come up with.
- On the other hand, what is an example of someone doing something but not getting attention or praise for it? Again, it can be a true or imaginary story.
- Why do you think we enjoy applause so much?
- Why is receiving applause and recognition a bad motive for doing anything?
- What are some fun ways you can serve others without them ever knowing it?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bible, markers

What You Do:

- **Sit** in a circle then **spread** the markers across the floor within everyone's reach.
- **Talk** about the way colors often express a mood or feeling. Dark colors generally represent a more serious mood than lighter colors.
- **Explain** that you will read a verse then you'll ask them to choose a marker color that represents how they feel about it. They can choose their colors based on an attitude they have, a memory of a situation that comes to mind, a person who did or didn't live out the verse, or a way the verse challenges them in some way.
- **Allow** each person time to select a color after you read each verse, then **ask** them to share why they chose the colors they did.
- **Include** yourself in the activity by choosing a marker and using it to open further discussion about the meaning of the verse and how to apply it.
- **Read aloud:**
 - Ephesians 6:7
 - Romans 12:3
 - Matthew 25:23
 - Colossians 3:23a
- **Use** the following questions as needed to open up discussion and help students understand how to live out the principles in each verse.
 - What type of situation would be a good time to remember this verse?
 - What do you find encouraging about this verse?
 - How can you overcome the challenges that make this verse hard to live out?
 - What are some benefits of living out this verse?

5. Make it Personal with Prayer

What You Need: “Service with a Smile” Activity Page (precut into cards, one card per student), markers

What You Do:

- **Give** each student a “Service with a Smile” card and set out the markers.
- **Explain** that the cards are for them to take with them as a reminder of the things they learned this month.
- **Encourage** them to do an act of service for someone without being noticed then leave the card behind for that person to pass along with another act of kindness.
- **Invite** them to color the cards if they would like and share some ideas they have for ways they will use the cards this week.
- **Pray** over the “Service with a Smile” cards, asking God to use their service to encourage others and not for applause.

What You Say:

“Dear God, help us to serve You with all that we have—not so people will compliment or applaud us but because we just want to show our love to You and to others. You have shown us by Your example how to serve unselfishly. Open our eyes to the gifts You’ve given us and help us use them to meet the needs of others wherever we can. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

BEFORE DISMISSAL: AT “COMMUNION CALL”

HAND OUT “GOD TIME” CARDS TO EACH STUDENT BEFORE DISMISSING AND ALLOW THEM TIME TO BEGIN WORKING ON THE WEEKLY ACTIVITY

IF STUDENTS BRING THEM BACK THE FOLLOWING WEEK, THEY RECEIVE \$3 IN ALLEY CASH!