

RI.C4. NAC Worldwide

Galatians 5:13; Matthew 20:28; 1 Peter 4:10

Learning Objectives

1. The children will explore about the worldwide spread of the New Apostolic Church and its organizational structure.
2. The children will be able to explain what it means to serve others, and recognize that it is something they need to practice each day.

Memory Verse: *“I said, ‘Here I am. Send me!’” --Isaiah 6:8 (NIRV)*

Getting Started

“A Lesson in Serving”

Set up your room quite differently for today’s class. Make it seem extra special. If it is winter, each student who enters will have their coat “checked” and taken to a seat. If you don’t usually have food, provide some. Even if you do, make it a point to serve the students their food. Bring in some adult volunteers. If possible, dress them up like butlers and maids. The idea is to surprise the children with how well they are being served. Then ask them the following questions and discuss them together:

- How does it make you feel when you are waited on hand and foot?
- Let’s brainstorm together; how many ways are you served each day?
- By how many different people? (Parents, siblings, teachers, sponsors, friends, restaurant employees.)
- How often do you take their service for granted?
- How much time do you spend serving those same people?
- Do you think when we serve others it makes them feel the same way we feel when we are served?
- What is the goal of service, then?

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions and Activities

Message: *Find a way to serve others.*

Original Intentions of Missionaries:

- Teach others about Christianity (God, Jesus, etc.)
- Help others with their daily living (food, water, shelter.)

Today, our Apostles, brothers and sisters, and other ministers are still doing missionary work in many countries all over the world. Because of the work done by missionaries in the past hundreds of years:

- People are already familiar with God, Jesus and the basic beliefs of Christianity.
- Bibles have become available in many different languages for the inhabitants of the countries to be able to read and learn independently.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions and Activities - Continued

Our Apostles as missionaries are able to:

- Baptize souls with water and dispense the Holy Spirit through Holy Sealing.
- Offer help when necessary with their daily living (food, water, shelter, etc.)
- Work to prepare the people for the return of the Lord Jesus.

(Background Information is from God's Ways – Book 3)

Since the children will have this information in their “Parent Lesson”, when revisiting it in class, do so by asking questions. For example:

1. Why did people long ago originally go to other countries as ministries? *(To teach others about Christianity, and help them if they needed food, water, etc.)*
2. How does what missionaries from long ago did help our Apostles and ministers today as they travel to other countries? *(People already know about God and they may have access to a Bible that is in their language.)*
3. What do our Apostles do today when they go as missionaries to other countries? *(Baptize souls with water and the Holy Spirit, help the people with daily needs, and prepare their souls for the return of the Lord Jesus.)*

Read Isaiah 6:8 together in class:

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord. He said, “Who will I send? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me!”

Tell the children:

“Isaiah, as written in this verse is ready for action. His response, “Here am I! Send me!” shows his willingness to serve God, almost like a little child when he is so excited about something. Isaiah was called to serve God. God has also called you to do something. Some of those things are not unique because they are things that all Christians should do. Other things are specific to who you are and what your spiritual gifts are.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some obvious things that all Christians should make it a priority to do? *(Tell others about God and what He does in our lives; help those in need, etc.)*
2. What are some things you are spiritually and uniquely gifted to do that you need to step up and volunteer for? *(Discuss together. Have some ideas specific to each child just in case!)*

Today, God still needs people to go be missionaries and tell others about Him in other nations, go to places in our own country where the Church is not, or be a part of helping those in need, such as the homeless, orphans, and widows. He’s waiting for volunteers. He’s waiting for you and I to step up and say, “Hey! I’m here! I’ll go!”

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions and Activities – Continued

“Service” ~ A Closer Look

Let’s look at some passages of scripture that talk about service: (NOTE: Practice looking up the passages....have a “contest” or competition and see who is able to find the verse quickly! Have fun!)

Galatians 5:13

“You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.” (NIRV)

Matthew 20:28

“Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (NIRV)

1 Peter 4:10

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.” (NIRV)

Discussion Questions:

1. What do these passages have to say about service? (NOTE: Make a list on the board.)
(We are called to serve, Jesus served us, there are a variety of ways we can serve, etc.)
2. What does the Matthew passage say is the main way Jesus served us? *(By giving his life.)*
3. How might that resemble the way we should serve? Should it be partial or temporary? *(We need to give our ALL in serving God through serving others. Discuss together.)*

(Some materials used for this lesson are adapted from www.teensundayschool.com)

Application to Real Life

For the “application” of this lesson, consider finding somewhere locally that you as a group (recruit other willing volunteers too) could go serve and use this lesson as a way of introducing that opportunity (a nursing home, hospital, etc.).

Below are some ways in which an individual or a group can serve others. In most cases you can do them absolutely free and in as little as an hour.

1. Go to a nursing home and visit the residents there. Just talk to them or prepare a small gift to give them.
2. Get a rack, some yard waste bags, and head off some fall and rake as many leaves as you can for elderly or disabled individuals in your community. If it’s winter shovel snow. If it’s summer mow their grass.
3. Go to a grocery store and be a volunteer cart pusher. Watch for people putting groceries in their cars and ask if you can take their carts for them.
4. Go to a local gas station as a group and offer to pump peoples’ gas and wash their windows. They’ll look at you like your crazy, but they might just let you do it.
5. Have a totally free car wash. Don’t accept donations. Don’t charge a dime. Just wash cars. It’ll bless others and be fun, too.
6. Get together with some friends and go grocery shopping for a needy family. Pitch in a few dollars each and see how far you can stretch the money. This is a great idea around Thanksgiving or Christmas too.

Application to Real Life - Continued

7. Have a date night for parents in your congregation and provide babysitting at no cost. Prepare games, crafts, and activities for the kids. Give parents at least 3 or 4 hours to go out together and enjoy some fellowship without their children.
8. Go to a children's hospital in your area and visit the kids there. Many places would let you put on a small program (games, skits, etc.). Those who are sick really need a boost and this is a great way to do it. Don't wait for a holiday—do it any time!

Decide as a group what “act of service” you would like to do together. You, the teacher, has to help make it happen!! Pick a date; coordinate with the children and parents all the details. Don't wait!

Also, challenge each of your children to find one way to serve someone else before the day ends. Maybe that means doing something at home, or just asking someone what you can do to help them. Don't forget that it might be hard work—but God has told us to serve others. Find a way to serve others. (Message Statement)

Memory Work Suggestions

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Pick a fruit of the spirit – ask the children to explain what it means and give an example.
4. Play a game to review an article of faith (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
5. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Journal Reflection Questions

- Why do you think it is so hard today to get into the habit of serving people? Write about it.
- What are some ways YOU can serve people...even today? Write about it.
- If God asked you to do something that would not bring you notoriety, success, or wealth, how inclined would you be to do it? What should your motivation be to serve the Lord?

Homework Ideas

- Read the lesson titled: “**Tolerance and Conformity**” as well as Daniel 3:1-29 and Daniel 6:1-28.
- Learn the memory verse: “...live together in peace. Be understanding. Love one another like members of the same family. Be kind and tender.”
--1 Peter 3:8 (NIRV)
- Work on memorizing Article of Faith #_____.
- Look up in the dictionary the words “tolerance” and “conformity”. Then write in your own words what these words mean. Bring it to class.