



God is With Me When I Help

Lesson 4: Learning to help others through simple household chores and cleaning.

Infants and toddlers are largely self-centred. Their first attempts at helping are not altruism but rather stem from mimicking what adults and others around them are doing. Encouraging and praising these actions will help the children develop positive habits that will deepen in meaning and significance as they develop and grow.

Scripture: "Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." Philippians 2:4, ESV

Class Schedule

(45 minutes)

Welcome Time (15 minutes)

On the mat in the soft corner. Time to settle in and free play. Music or singing.

Bible Time and Lesson (20 minutes total)

At the table

- **Bible Time**
- **Lesson:** Lead the children in imaginary play to model helping and service in chores around the family home. Use the laundry room as the base for talking about folding clothes and cleaning. Verbalise how these actions make the recipients and God happy.
- **Craft:** (optional) Any craft about cleaning or folding clothes.
- **Snack:** Healthy fruit, vegetable or cracker.

Closing (10 minutes)

On the mat in the soft corner Quiet activities to settle down. Quiet music or nature sounds.

Teaching Items to Collect

(Some are in the Theme Boxes)

- Small basket to use as laundry basket.
- A variety of small clothing and linens to fold and put in basket.
- Non-toxic cleaning supplies:
 - Spray bottle containing water
 - Soap or bubbles
 - Cleaning cloths or sponges
 - Scrub brush
 - Bowl of warm water
- Small dustpans and brushes.
- Small feather dusters.
- Toy dust-buster.
- Container to use as a rubbish bin. Crumpled paper to collect and put in the bin.



1. Welcome Time

(15 minutes) *On the mat in the soft corner*
Time to Settle in and free play.

Today make a point to notice when the children help pick up toys or are kind to other children. Use phrases such as “helping makes God happy” or “you are kind to help pick up toys”.

- Bubbles/toys/picture books
- Welcome each by name
- Mirrors, Peep Tube, Vehicles
- Bell to indicate class is about to start

2. Bible Time

When you move to the table spend the first 5 minutes in routines that you repeat each week.

- Pat the bible
- Find Jesus picture (sticker) in bible. Take time to talk about Jesus as our friend.
- “Read” - God is with _____. Filling the blank with the child’s name and members of his/her family.
- Sing B-I-B-L-E

Vocabulary:

- Help/helper/helping
- Kind
- Clean

Sensory:

- Warm water
- Fluffy feathers in feather duster
- Course sponge or cleaning cloth

3. Bible Lesson

(15 minutes) *At the table*

Talk about how God is happy when we help each other. Use the language of kindness and be sure and say “thank-you” often. Guide the children in imaginary play to model helping.

- Provide a small basket containing baby clothing and small towels or clothes so the children can help you fold the laundry.
- Scatter the crumpled paper on the table and collect in rubbish container.
- Cleaning a variety of objects using a selection of safe cleaning supplies and tools:
 - Cleaning cloth or sponge to wipe the table.
 - A small bowl of warm soapy water is messy but lots of fun to dip the cloth or sponge in.
 - Spray bottle to spray water on the table or toys before cleaning them.
 - Feather duster to dust the table or dust the toys.
 - Dust pan and brush to clean up little pieces of paper you have scattered on the table.
- Craft (optional): A craft or simple take-home such as using a laundry marker to write “I am a helper” and the child’s name on a cleaning cloth.
- Prayer: Fold hands and close eyes to pray.
- Snack: Any healthy snack will do. Follow this up with leading the children in cleaning up the crumbs, wiping the table and folding the cleaning cloths.

4. Closing

(10 minutes) *On the mat in the soft corner.* Quiet activities to settle down

- Cuddle the baby dolls and “pray with them” as you put them to bed.
- Make a point to pick up toys and put them away together.



Suggested Songs for this Lesson:

Note: Infants and toddlers enjoy the rhythm and melody of song but they are not critics of the teacher's abilities! It's fine if you sing the same tune every time, make up your own tune or even just say the words in a poetic or fun way. Just have fun with it and put the children's needs above your own shyness.

I Live in a House

I live in a house of *wood or rock.
Stand at the door and knock-knock-knock
Inside you will find my family
Right in the middle you'll find ME.

**Substitute another building material instead of wood if appropriate to where the children live.*

Tune: I'm a Little Teapot

Action: (toddlers might join you) Line 1 form your hands like a rooftop. When you say knock-knock-knock rap your knuckles on the table to make the sound. Point to yourself when you say "ME".

We Say Kind Words

In our house we say kind words.
In our family.
In our house we say kind words.
In our family.
With a *thank-you here and a thank-you there.
Thank-you, thank-you everywhere.
In our house we say kind words.
In our family.

**Substitute "excuse me" or "I'm sorry" or "Yes-Please" or "No-thank-you" or phrases appropriate to where you live.*

Tune: Old McDonald Had a Farm

Action: Use this song in various scenarios as the doll family is interacting in the doll house. For example: Mummy says "thank-you" when child sets the table. Child says "excuse me" if parents are talking and child wants to interrupt.

Clean-up Song

Clean-up, clean-up,
Everybody get some toys.
Clean-up, clean-up
All the little girls and boys.
Clean-up, clean-up
Everybody do your share.
Clean-up, clean-up
Everybody, everywhere.

Tune: Listen to a song video on the site where it was originally posted:

<http://busongs.com/songs/cleanup-song.php>

Action: Sing together with the children as they pick up toys or clean up in any way.

Be So Kind and Helpful

*Dust, dust, dust the table
Dust, dust, dust the table
Dust, dust, dust the table
To be so kind and helpful.

Wash, wash, wash the toy
Wash, wash, wash the toy
Wash, wash, wash the toy
To be so kind and helpful.

**Substitute other phrases but always end with the "To be so kind and helpful." Try: "Fold, fold, fold the clothes." Or "Pick up, pick up rubbish."*

Tune: "Skip to my Lou"

Action: Sing as you perform the motions.

Adapted from a hand-washing song at <http://hetv.org/programmes/hand-washing-songs.htm>



This is the Way

This is the way we *clean the table.

Clean the table. Clean the table.

This is the way we clean the table.

To help in bible class.

**Substitute any helping task (set the table, wash the dishes, fold the clothes, etc.)*

Tune: *This is the Way We Wash the Clothes*

Action: *Sing as you and the children do the tasks together.*

A Helper I Will Be

A helper I will be. A helper I will be.

I'll help the teacher *clean the table.

A helper I will be.

**Substitute any helping task (set the table, wash the dishes, fold the clothes, etc.)*

Tune: *Farmer in the Dell*

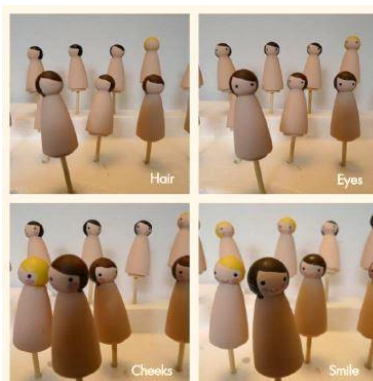
Action: *Sing together as you and the children wipe the table or clean up.*



Items to Use to Teach this Lesson



Doll House: A simple dollhouse with a few rooms and big enough parts to be safe for toddlers. If it is too elaborate it will be confusing. You can easily make your own dollhouse by taping or gluing a few empty boxes and cardboard pieces together.



Doll Family: Any collection of dolls that fit into the dollhouse will work. Purchase or make your own. Even cardboard tubes can be made into suitable dolls.



Shallow tub with a little warm soapy water in it. Use for dipping cleaning cloth or sponge.



Spray Bottle and cloth: Fill with water and use for cleaning the table. Spray table with water then join the children in wiping up with a cloth.



Feather duster.



Dustpan and brush.



Laundry basket, a few clothes and small linen like washcloths.



Wastepaper basket and crumpled paper.