

“Inherit the Kingdom”

Level A

The Parable of the Sheep and Goats

Ages 3-6

Matthew 25:31-46

Series Theme: You shall love the Lord your God, and your neighbor as yourself.

Lesson Focus: The Lord wants us to use our hands to help other people.

Reading Summary: When the Son of Man comes in His glory, all the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, “Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.” Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, “Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?” And the King will answer and say to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”

Lesson 7		Materials Supplied	Materials Needed
1. Welcome Warm-up Activity (2-3 minutes)	Activity	Story Basket Review directions p. 2	basket, items to represent the six ways to help others: food, drink, stranger, clothing, sick, prison (see p. 66 for suggestions)
2. Focus on the Word Use all activities (5-7 minutes)	Read the Word and Talk About It	<i>see Reading Summary above</i> discussion guide p. 2	Bible or copy of Matthew 25:31-46
3. Learn by Doing Choose 1-2 activities (15-20 minutes)	Service Activity conclude a long-term service project or choose a project you can start and finish this week	We Will Serve the Lord directions p. 3 <i>We Will Serve the Lord</i> p. 7	supplies will vary depending on the project you choose
	Make show your willingness to help the Lord by helping other people	A Helping Handprint directions pp. 3-4 <i>Offer Your Neighbors a Helping Hand</i> p. 8	finger paints, trays or dishes with flat bottoms to pour paint into, damp paper towels for cleanup, crayons or markers <i>optional:</i> paper to cover table, cover-up shirts, hairdryer
	Coloring Picture	Do unto Others p. 9	crayons, markers or colored pencils
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 minutes)	Memory Verse introduce the memory verse for the week	Memory Verse <i>Parent Notes</i> p. 10	

1. Welcome Warm-up Activity

Story Basket Review

Supplies needed: basket with an item to represent each of the ways we are to help others: hungry (spoon/plate/bowl), thirsty (cup/bottle of water), stranger (sunglasses/doll/plastic character), naked (clothing), sick (bandage/thermometer), prison (handcuffs/padlock/chain)

Prepare ahead of time: collect items and put them into a basket

Seat the children in a circle.

We have been talking about all of the ways in which the Lord tells us to serve others. Let's see if we can remember all of them! If you are new this week or have missed some activities, you can find out what we have been talking about.

Pull out the items you have gathered one by one, in the order that the ways we are to help others appear in Matthew 25 (hungry, thirsty, stranger, naked, sick, prison). Invite the children to guess how each can be used to help others or to show that someone needs help. Today we are going to read a story from the Word where the Lord talks about all six of these ways to serve others.

2. Focus on the Word

Read: Matthew 25:31-46

Option: Bring in a soft toy lamb or sheep to look at and pass around while you talk about sheep.

What two kinds of animals did the Lord compare people to in this story? Sheep and goats.

Did you notice the sheep would inherit the kingdom of heaven? This means to go to heaven. It is what the Lord wants for each one of us.

What are sheep like? Encourage the children to brainstorm things they know about lambs, e.g. they have soft wool, eat grass, get along well with other lambs, etc. **Lambs are gentle animals. They come when they are called, and they obey the shepherds who care for them.**

The Lord is called the "Lamb of God" because He is gentle, kind and patient. He is the source of all the goodness and kindness there is. People who do what the Lord teaches in His Word are called His "lambs" or "sheep".

Did you notice that the sheep are on the right *hand* of God? Our hands help us with everything we do. What have your hands done today?

When the Lord was in the world He did many wonderful things with His hands. Let's see if we can remember some of things the Lord did. (Review the stories in this series as you discuss how the Lord used His hands.) The Lord fed people who were hungry (feeding of the 5000). He taught a woman about the water of life (woman at the well). He told a story about a man using his hands to help a stranger (the good Samaritan). He told another story about a father reaching out his hands to welcome his son home and giving him a new robe (the prodigal son). He healed a girl who was sick (Jairus's daughter). He freed a man from being imprisoned by evil spirits (casting devils into swine).

The Lord gave us many examples of how we can use our hands for others. This is how the angels use their hands. When we are loving and kind, our hands are like angels' hands, and when we leave this world we will become angels in heaven.

3. Learn by Doing

Choose one or two activities

Choice

We Will Serve the Lord

This activity offers several service alternatives.

If your congregation chose a *Serving Others Project* (see p. 5-6), this is an ideal time to conclude your congregational effort. Involve children in ending the project, e.g. gathering up canned food and putting it into bags. Older children might load cars, etc.

Alternatively, you could choose a one-time service activity to use today. Look for a list of activity ideas on *We Will Serve the Lord* (p. 7). You may want to consult with teachers of other age groups and do this project with all of the children.

1. Why is helping others important? (Loving others by serving them can bring us the kind of happiness the angels have in heaven.)
2. Discuss the service activity you have chosen.
3. Tell the children what they should do.
4. Praise the children for their efforts and affirm the contributions they have made!



Choice

A Helping Handprint

The parable of the sheep and the goats gives us six examples of ways we can help the Lord by helping our fellow human beings. While young children likely cannot do these activities literally, they can learn the core message—that the Lord wants us to be loving and helpful to our neighbors.

1. Hand out *Offer Your Neighbors a Helping Hand* (p. 8) to the children and read the title to them. Encourage them to talk about what the pictures show.
2. You can help the Lord by helping other people, too. When you are kind to your friends, or share with your brothers and sisters, or help your mother or father, you are helping the Lord as well!
3. Color the pictures using pencils or crayons.
4. Now show that you want to offer your hand to help by making a

Materials Needed

We Will Serve the Lord p. 7 offers various activity choices. Materials will vary depending on your project selection.

Prepare in Advance

Some projects require more planning than others. Be sure to talk to your refreshment head if you are planning food, and with your Sunday school coordinator or pastor if you choose to prepare for a festival service.

New Church Concept Charity

Anyone who has charity toward the neighbor is moved by an affection for goodness and truth because they come from the Lord, and such a one turns away from evil and falsity because these come from himself.

When he does this, humility is present in him.
Arcana Coelestia 4956

Materials Needed

copy of *Offer Your Neighbors a Helping Hand*, p. 8 for each child, water-based paint, paint trays (plates or Styrofoam trays), wipes or wet paper towels for cleanup, crayons or markers
optional: newspaper to cover table, shirts to protect clothing, hairdryer to speed drying

Prepare in Advance

Pour a thin layer of paint into one or more paint trays.
Optional: cover table with newspaper.



A Helping Handprint *continued*

handprint under the pictures. Help each child place their hand, palm down, in the paint tray. Then make a hand print under the pictures as shown below.

5. Leave the pictures to dry. Use a hairdryer to speed up drying if needed.
6. The children might wish to give the pictures as gifts to their parents to show that they want to be helpful.



Teaching Hint

Having an older helper to give one-on-one help for children to make hand prints and clean their hands will make this project go more smoothly.

New Church Concept The Neighbor

The “hungry,” “thirsty,” “stranger,” “naked,” “sick” and “imprisoned,” represent different kinds of good in the neighbor that we are to love. Every neighbor that we love falls into one of these categories. See *Arcana Coelestia* 3419

Materials Needed

copies of *Do unto Others* p. 9; crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Choice

Coloring Picture: Do unto Others

Hand out copies of *Do unto Others* (p. 9) and invite the children to color them.

4. Wrap It Up

Memory Verse

Review the memory verse. Say or sing the verses and do the actions. To see a video with the song and actions, go to www.bitly.com/ForIWasHungryMV. This sing-along version repeats three times.

For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.

Matthew 25:35-36

Closing

Let's wiggle our fingers! How does the Lord want us to use our fingers? To help others!

Give *Parent Notes* (p. 10) to children as they leave.

Serving Others Projects

These lessons lend themselves well to carrying out a larger-scale service project throughout the series. Consider setting up a project in which children of all ages can participate as leaders and helpers with adult support as needed. Choose whether to

- support students in organizing a fund raising event, the proceeds of which are donated to charity.
- do a project involving direct donations, such as canned food or clothing.

A list of possible fundraising events and suggested charitable causes and organizations is provided (below and on the next page) to help you brainstorm activities for your group.

Fundraising Events	Activities
Empty Bowls Event	Host a simple soup and bread meal and charge a fixed price. All proceeds go a food charity. Make ceramic bowls which people can purchase (see “Food” section on next page).
Talent Night	Organize a talent night. Charge admission, solicit donations of food or raffle items, and sell refreshments.
Car Wash	Host a car wash. Generate more funding by asking sponsors to make additional donations for meeting targeted fundraising goals.
Cake Auction	Everyone bakes a cake, using a cake mix, and decorates it creatively. Hold a cake auction during which people bid on cakes via a silent auction (everyone walks past all cakes in the room three times and bids via bidding sheets) <i>or</i> host a live auction using paper plates as number paddles.
Pancake Breakfast	Host breakfast before church or on a Saturday and charge a fixed fee or ask for donations.
Pasta Dinner	Host a pasta dinner and charge a fixed price.
Art Auction	Students create pieces of art work and auction them off. May be held in conjunction with a breakfast or dinner event.
Bike-a-thon	Solicit sponsorship for a bike-a-thon.
Run-a-thon	Solicit sponsorship for a run-a-thon.
Rocking-Chair-a-thon	Solicit sponsorship for an indoor rock-a-thon. Youth get paid to keep a rocking chair rocking by the minute, quarter hour, or half hour. Teams of three might keep the chair rocking for up to twenty-four hours.
Babysitting Morning/Evening	Provide drop-off babysitting at the church or encourage youth to donate their babysitting takings from a church-held event.
Raffle	Solicit donations and hold a raffle.
Lemonade Stand	Set up a lemonade stand after church.
Baked Goods Sale	Bake goods and sell them after church or in conjunction with another event.
Youth Auction	Have youth auction themselves off to church members to do yard work, pet sitting, babysitting, house cleaning, etc.
Dessert and Coffee Fundraiser	Bake desserts and host a social evening.

Charitable Organizations

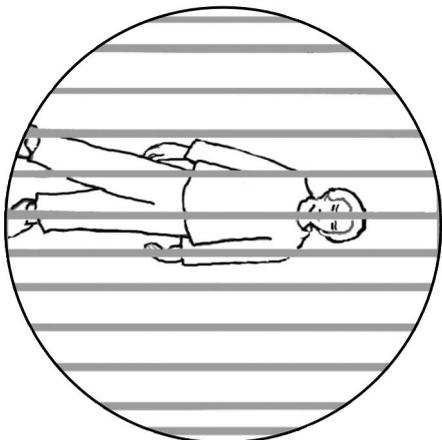
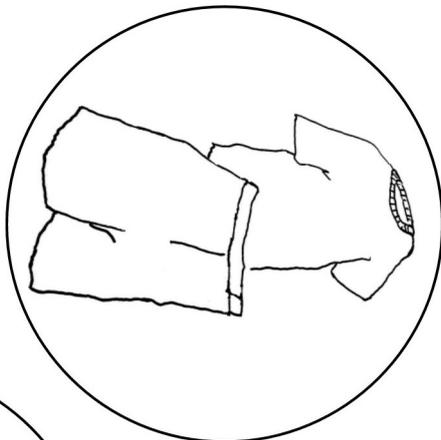
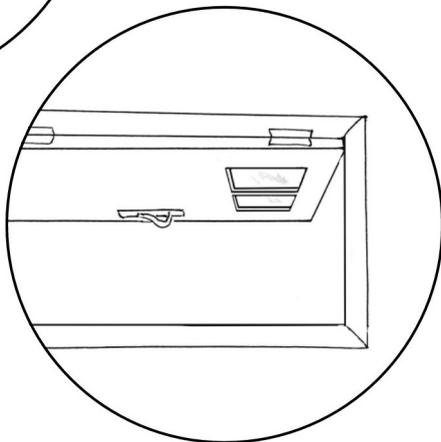
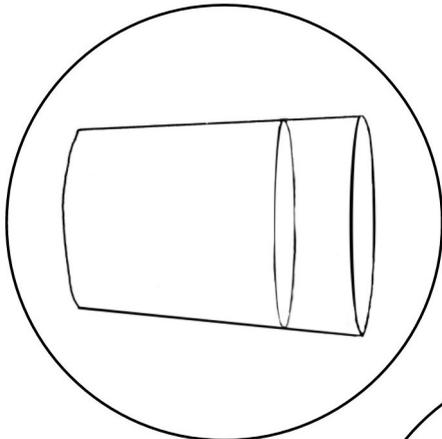
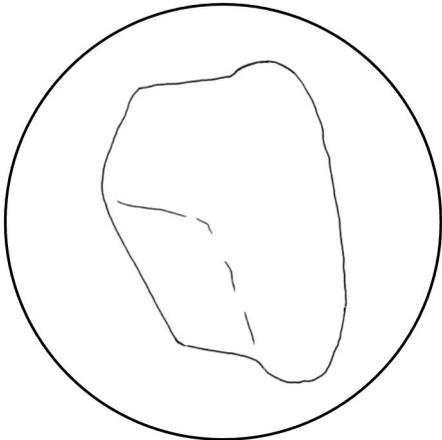
Focus	Charity	Mission
Orphanages	Helping Children in Crisis http://helpingchildrenincrisis.com/	The General Church Sacred Care orphanage is run by the Rev. Samson Abuga in Etoro, Kenya, in conjunction with the General Church Sacred Care Board. Funding is needed for a dormitory and dining hall, as well as ongoing support for educating, feeding, and providing for the needs of twenty orphans.
	Loving Arms Mission http://lamchildren.org	Loving Arms Mission is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Bryn Athyn, USA. It provides care to orphaned, abandoned and at risk children in Nepal—physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. The children’s homes are well-run by dedicated staff to provide the best possible care.
Food	Local food banks	Local food banks welcome donations at any time of year.
	Host an “Empty Bowls” event to raise funds and donate them to the food charity of your choice http://www.emptybowls.net/	Potters and other craftspeople work with the community to create handcrafted bowls. Guests are invited to a simple meal of soup and bread. In exchange for a cash donation, guests keep a bowl as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. The money raised is donated to an organization working to end hunger and food insecurity.
	International charities, e.g. Heifer International http://www.heifer.org	Heifer International helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a history of poverty. Donors fund animals that provide food and reliable income through agricultural products that can be traded or sold. This sustainable income brings new opportunities for building schools, creating agricultural cooperatives, forming community savings, and funding small businesses.
Water	Many organizations sponsor well drilling and rain barrels for areas in need of fresh water. e.g. US Peace corps https://donate.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=donate.contribute.projDetail&projdesc=SPF-WAT	The very basic needs of clean water and accessible sanitation are absent from many communities around the world. This often leads to severe community health problems. Volunteers work with communities to design locally appropriate solutions to provide safe, affordable, and sustainable water and sanitation. Contributions help volunteer and community projects—such as latrines, aqueducts and wells—and basic sanitation training.
Clothing	Coat drive http://onewarmcoat.org/	Volunteer leaders organize a coat drive and collect coats. Donors clean out their closets and give coats. Social service agency volunteers and staff distribute the coats to those in need.
	Shoe drive http://soles4souls.org	Soles4souls collects new and used shoes and clothes and distributes them directly to people in need. By provisioning qualified micro-enterprise programs, jobs are created in poor and disadvantaged communities.
Hospitalized Children	Many hospitals welcome donations of books and toys for patients.	
	Ronald McDonald House Charities http://www.rmhc.org	Ronald McDonald House Charities provide resources for keeping families close to their hospitalized children.

We Will Serve the Lord

Conclude this series of lessons by providing service opportunities for children of all ages. Use an idea from the chart below or encourage the children to think of a way they can make a difference to their church community. Organize the project so that children of all ages can participate.

	Young Children	Older Children	Teens
Provide food after church	Arrange prepared snacks on a plate, put out napkins or cups.	Prepare snacks (e.g. clean and cut up fruit or vegetables, put cheese on crackers, bake, etc.).	Plan and purchase snacks. Prepare and serve them, or supervise younger children doing this task. Clean up afterwards.
Be a junior usher	Light or snuff candles.	Hand out programs. Light and snuff candles.	Distribute programs. Welcome and assist newcomers. Carry up the offertory basket.
Provide music for the service	Practice, “I was hungry...” (www.bitly.com/ForIWasHungryMV). Sing the song for the congregation at the end of the service or during refreshment time.	Practice, “I was hungry...” (www.bitly.com/ForIWasHungryMV or www.bitly.com/ForIWasHungry). Sing the song for the congregation.	Practice, “I was hungry...” (www.bitly.com/ForIWasHungry). Sing the song for the congregation at the end of the service or during refreshment time.
Clean and tidy a toy or supply closet	Tidy up the nursery after babies have used it, or do a deep “tidy” of the toy bins and shelves. Identify and remove broken toys.	Tidy up the nursery after babies have used it, or do a deep “tidy” of the toy bins and shelves. Identify and remove broken toys.	Organize a supply closet. Sort crayons and markers and throw away supplies that no longer work.
Prepare decorations for a festival service	Look for a repetitive job that is easy to master, e.g. putting candles in cardboard holders for a Christmas Eve service.	Prepare signs for a harvest or Thanksgiving food drive.	Design festival decorations for your church’s newsletter or sanctuary or pews.
Prepare thank-you gifts for small group leaders or Sunday school teachers	Make thank-you pictures.	Plant bulbs or flowers.	Make gift labels or tags for teacher gifts, e.g. candle in a jar, candy in a jar, etc.

Offer Your Neighbors a Helping Hand





Do unto Others

Parent Notes

Make a copy for each child. Hand out as children leave.

PARENT NOTE

Dear Parents,

Today we finished our series of lessons on serving others. We hope you have enjoyed the journey with us.

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