

Faithful Finisher

Small Group Lesson



Ages
6-7

Power Point

I will be faithful in serving Jesus.

Scripture Memory Verse

"You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!"
Matthew 25:21b

Bible Lesson

Jesus tells the parable of the talents.
—Matthew 25:14-30

Overview

Jesus told a story about the way God expects us to use the gifts He gives us. Some people call this story the parable of the talents. (In Bible times, a talent was a lot of money.) Three servants were given talents. Two used what they had. But one servant hid his. He was not faithful because he did not use what he had been given. God wants us to be faithful in serving Jesus!

Discussion Questions

1. What did the master give to his servants? (*Talents, a kind of money.*)
2. What did the servants do with the money? (*One buried it, the two others doubled what they were given.*)
3. What did the master tell the first two servants? (*You did a good job! You are faithful. I will give you more things to do. Come and share my happiness!*)
4. What did the master tell the third servant? (*You are not faithful because you did not use what I gave you.*)
5. What things can a kid your age do to faithfully serve Jesus? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Materials: Large, clear container filled with water, expanding foam capsules (usually of sea creatures or dinosaurs; available in toy and variety stores).

Preparation: Set the container where it is easily viewed.

(*Hold one capsule in your closed fist.*) I have something in one of my hands. Can you tell which hand it is in? (*Children guess.*) The thing in my hand must be a very small thing. But can a very small thing become a very large thing? What are some small things that can become large? (*Allow responses.*) How can a small thing become something much bigger? (*Put it in water.*) Some of you guessed correctly! (*Drop capsule in water.*) Let's watch to see it get bigger!

If I had kept it in my hand it would NOT have gotten bigger. Only when I DID something with it did it become much more! In our Bible lesson, we heard about some people who did something with what they had. When we talk about serving Jesus faithfully, we mean that we do something with what He gives us. We don't quit. We keep on doing what we know is right to do—and then we find that just like our little capsule here, what we have done faithfully turns out to be more than we expected!

(*Drop another capsule into the water.*) Then Jesus says that when we have been faithful in one thing, He will give us more to do—and we will see that grow to be more! I want you to think of one way you can serve Jesus right now, today. Tell your idea to another person and have that person tell you their idea. Then ask God together to help you both be faithful to do something with those abilities so that they grow to be more!



The Jesus Factor

He gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us. Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross.

—Philippians 2:7-8

Materials: Large sheet of paper, tape, marker.

Preparation: Post paper where it is easily seen. Draw a series of six stair steps down the paper.

We talked earlier about how we take small steps to be **faithful in serving Jesus**. But let's talk about the steps Jesus took when He came to live on Earth. He took BIG steps. Listen to what the Bible says about Him. (*Read aloud Philippians 2:7-8.*)

Let's write out the steps that Jesus had to take in order to do what God had planned. (*Children tell steps; re-read each phrase from Bible as needed.*) What did Jesus give up? (*Everything. Write "gave up everything" on the first step.*) Then Jesus was born as a baby. (*Write, "became like one of us" on the next step down.*) What did it say He acted like? (*A slave. Write "acted like a slave" on the next step down.*) It says He was humble. He thought of others first. (*Write, "humble—thought of others" on the next step down.*) What does it say next? He obeyed God His Father and died on the cross. (*Write these on the next to last and bottom steps.*)

What if Jesus had not been faithful to do every step? We would not have been able to go to heaven and live forever with God! It was IMPORTANT that He do EXACTLY what God wanted! Jesus did every step because He loves us. We can follow His example, even when it's not easy! When we think about doing things we might not like doing and being **faithful in serving Jesus** by doing them anyway, remember these verses. Let's ask Jesus to help us do every step we need to do to serve Him faithfully. (*Pray aloud.*)

Small Group Activity

Footprint Frenzy!

Materials: Construction paper, pencils, scissors.

We're going to have an unusual relay race. Instead of just running, we are going to have to follow the footsteps of someone. (*Pass out paper, pencils and scissors.*) Our first job is to draw around our shoes and cut out two shoe prints. Write your name on your prints, too. (*Children make prints.*)

This is how the race works: The first person lays down her prints and then returns to tag the next person, who steps onto her prints to lay his prints down beyond hers and so on. Once each person has laid their prints out, then everyone one must go one more time, stepping only on the footprints to reach the goal and come back. If your footprint path isn't long enough, you may scoot on the last two footprints to get to the goal—but your feet must stay on the footprints! Ready? Go! (*Play game.*)

Wow! That was pretty funny to watch! Was it easy or hard to lay out the footprints? To walk on the footprints? (*Allow responses.*) The Bible says we are to follow in Jesus' footprints, to do the things He might do. And our Power Point says **we will be faithful in serving Jesus**. So collect your own footprint shapes. On each shape, write a way on that you can follow in Jesus' footprints this week. (*As kids finish, invite them to share their ideas and then pray, incorporating some of kids' ideas for ways to serve faithfully.*)

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 4 Ages 6-7 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you'll ask them for responses during next week's K.I.D.S. Church service.

Faithful Finisher

Small Group Lesson



Ages
8-10

Power Point

I will be faithful in serving Jesus.

Scripture Memory Verse

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—Matthew 25:21b

Bible Lesson

Jesus tells the parable of the talents.
—Matthew 25:14-30

Overview

Jesus told a story about the way God expects us to use the gifts He gives us. Some people call this story the parable of the talents. (In Bible times, a talent was a lot of money.) Three servants were given talents. Two used what they had. But one servant hid his. He was not faithful because he did not use what he had been given. God wants us to be faithful in serving Jesus!

Discussion Questions

1. What did the master give to his servants? (*Talents, a kind of money.*)
2. What did the servants do with the money? (*One buried it, the two others doubled what they were given.*)
3. What did the master tell the first two servants? (*You did a good job! You are faithful. I will give you more things to do. Come and share my happiness!*)
4. What did the master tell the third servant? (*You are not faithful because you did not use what I gave you.*)
5. What things can a kid your age do to faithfully serve Jesus? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Materials: "Moon Landing Photos" from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Preparation: Print copies, one for each group of three to four kids.

Let's group into teams of three or four. (*Distribute one photo page to each team.*) What do you think these photos are about? (*Allow responses.*) That's right! These photos are about the first moon walk. But do you think these four photos show everything that was done to get a person onto the moon? What are steps did it take to get to the point where they took this first picture? (*Allow responses.*) It took hundreds and hundreds of steps! First someone had to imagine, experiment with and test the steps to make a rocket, right? (*Continue getting responses and ideas for other steps between pictures 1 and 2, 2 and 3, and 3 and 4.*)

Walking on the moon was a great accomplishment. But it took many thousands of experiments, tests, and even failures before there was enough knowledge to get a man onto the moon! In our Bible lesson today, what steps do you think the servants might have had to take to double their money? (*Invested it to get interest, used it to buy something to sell, etc.*) Jesus doesn't add those details to His story. But we know that for something BIG to happen, lots of small steps must be taken faithfully. Whether it's walking on the moon or earning money, the key is faithfulness.

Serving Jesus faithfully means we don't give up. We do something with what He gives us and keep on doing what we know is right. Just like the results of the thousands of small steps it took to make a man take one giant step on the moon, being faithful in small things yields BIG results!

What is a way you are able to serve God? Does it seem like a small thing? I'm going to start a prayer asking God to help us be faithful in the small things we are doing right now. When I pause, say the thing you do right now. Then let's all pray together that God will help us be faithful in small things to accomplish greater things for Him!



The Jesus Factor

He gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us. Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross.
—Philippians 2:7-8

Materials: Household ladder.

Preparation: Set up ladder at front of class. You (or someone appropriately dressed) sit on the top with feet on the second step down (step below top step).

We talked earlier about how we take small steps to be **faithful to serve Jesus**. But let's talk about the steps Jesus took when He came to live on Earth. Listen to what the Bible says about Him. (*Ask a volunteer to read aloud Philippians 2:7-8.*)

Let's repeat the steps that Jesus had to take in order to do what God had planned. (*Children tell steps; reread phrases aloud as needed.*) What did Jesus give up? (*Everything.*) Then Jesus was born as a baby. It says He became like one of us. What did it say He acted like? (*A slave. Move to the next step down.*) It says He was humble. He thought of others first. (*Move to the next step down.*) What does it say next? He obeyed God His Father and died on the cross. (*Step onto the bottom step and then onto the floor.*) That was it. He could go no farther down than being a dead slave!

What step might have been the hardest? What if Jesus had not been faithful to do EVERY step? We would not have been able to go to heaven and live forever with God! It was IMPORTANT that He do EXACTLY what God wanted! Jesus did every step because He loves us. We can follow His example, even when it's not easy! When we think about being **faithful to serve Jesus** even if it means doing something we don't like, it will help to remember

these verses. Let's ask Jesus to help us do every step we need to do so we are **faithful to serve Him**. (*Pray aloud.*)

Small Group Activity

Moon Walk

Materials: Markers, "Moon Footprint" from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Preparation: Print one footprint for each child.

We talked earlier about the faithful steps it took to get a man to step on the moon. This is a photo of what the first human footprint on the moon actually looked like! We're going to use these to have a moon race! (*Pass out footprint photos.*) Let's divide into two teams (*with more children, play in several areas, using teams of 8-10*) and work together to lay these down around this area. Put them far enough apart that they will stretch the whole way around. (*Children lay pages.*) Now the first team will go around the room in a clockwise direction. The second team will go around the path in a counterclockwise direction. It's just like a regular relay, except that you must move like you are on the moon! That means you must move like you're kind of floating and put your foot down flat on the paper each time. If you meet a person going the other way, stand on one foot and try to let them pass. Go! (*Children play game; play twice if time allows.*)

That was a challenge! I hope you had fun. Let's each pick up a pattern. Notice that the boot had little grooves across it. Grab a marker and write a note to yourself in those grooves. Write about a way you will serve Jesus faithfully this week. Put the paper in a place where you'll see it and remember that **I will be faithful in serving Jesus**.

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 4 Ages 8-10 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you'll ask them for responses during next week's K.I.D.S. Church service.

Faithful Finisher

Small Group Lesson



Ages
11-12

Power Point

I will be faithful in serving Jesus.

Scripture Memory Verse

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—Matthew 25:21b

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Discussion Questions

1. What did the master give to his servants? (*Talents, a kind of money.*)
2. What did the servants who had five and two talents do with the money? (*They used the money to make more talents.*)
3. Why did the third servant hide his one talent? (*He didn't think his master deserved to get more from him.*)
4. What did the master tell the first two servants? (*You did a good job! You are faithful. I will give you more things to do. Come and share my happiness!*)
5. What did the master tell the third servant? (*You are not faithful because you did not use what I gave you.*)
6. What things can a kid your age do to faithfully serve Jesus? (*Allow responses.*)

God Encounter

Materials: Baseball card or photo of a professional baseball player.

(*Show baseball card or photo.*) Do you know who this is? (*Allow responses.*) What do you think it would take to become a professional baseball player, beginning as a little kid? (*Allow responses.*)

What steps did baseball players have to take before playing tee ball? (*Allow responses.*) You had to learn to throw, to catch the ball, to wear a glove and to hit the ball off the tee! No matter what we do, it takes many smaller steps, done faithfully over and over, to become able to do that thing well. (*Give an example from your own life.*)

In our Bible lesson, what steps do you think the servants might have had to take to double their money? (*Invested it to get interest, used it to buy something to sell, etc.*) Jesus doesn't add those details to His story. But we know that for something BIG to happen, lots of small steps must be taken faithfully. It's what takes a three-year-old from playing catch in the front yard to playing pro ball. And it's what turns less money into more: The key is faithfulness.

Serving Jesus faithfully means we do something over and over with what He gives us. We don't give up or quit. We keep on doing what we know is right to do. Let's each think of a way we can serve God right now. Tell your idea to the person on your right. You two can pray together and ask God to help you be faithful in doing what you're already doing so that He can make it more!



The Jesus Factor

He gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us. Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross.

—Philippians 2:7-8

Materials: Costume items to represent a crown, a royal robe, a scepter, a throne.

Preparation: Ahead of time, outline the activity below to a volunteer. Volunteer will dress in the items above and wait outside the door.

We've talked about the steps it would take to become a professional baseball player and what it might take to faithfully serve Jesus. But what did Jesus faithfully do for us? What BIG steps did He have to take in order to make it possible for us to live forever in heaven with Him? (*Kids share ideas. Bring out volunteer and seat him on the throne.*)

This isn't Jesus, but our volunteer has agreed to help us think about what Jesus did. (*Read Philippians 2:5-8.*) At one time, Jesus was in heaven with God. The Bible says He is God. But He did not try to remain equal with God. (*Take scepter and crown from volunteer.*) A scepter and crown are signs of authority. He gave up His authority. It says He gave up everything. (*Take robe from volunteer.*) Then it says He left heaven and became like one of us. (*Volunteer moves away from throne and stands near the others.*) Not only that, it says He became a slave. (*Volunteer pretends to wash feet of several other kids.*) Not only did He come to serve but it says He obeyed God even though it meant He had to die on the cross. (*Volunteer leaves room.*)

What would have happened if Jesus had stopped at some point? (*Allow responses.*) The Bible also tells us that He has left us an example to follow in His steps. When we think of every step He had to take so that we could be saved, it can help us remember that even doing things we don't like to do, when we're doing them to serve Him, are important. God will use every single thing we do, whether we see the result or not!

Small Group Activity

Moon Boot Shuffle

Materials: Markers, "Moon Footprint" from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Preparation: Print one footprint for each child.

This page actually shows what the first human footprint on the moon looked like! (*Distribute footprints, one per child.*) When the first man walked on the moon, it didn't just happen. It took thousands and thousands of experiments and tests and even failures, to get the knowledge and the skills to get him there. It was a case of many people working faithfully on one project, often over the course of their whole lives!

That's kind of like what we talked about today, isn't it? When we choose to **be faithful in serving Jesus**, it means we're looking at the big picture. We realize that we have to keep on doing what is right. On your moon boot, write down one thing you can do this week that will be a way to faithfully serve Jesus. (*Students write.*)

Now we're going to put these boot prints in a pile and shuffle them around. (*Collect and shuffle papers.*) Each of you may take a turn to pick up one, but it can't be your own. You have thirty seconds. Go! (*Students take papers.*)

I'd like for each of you to read the words on the paper you have in your hand. (*Kids read papers.*) Those are some great ideas! Now, let's shuffle the papers again. You have 30 seconds to find your own paper. (*Kids find own papers.*) Put your name on your paper. Then let's pray. (*Pray, asking God to help kids be faithful in the ways they wrote about, including some of their ideas in your prayer.*)

Take-Home Challenge

Materials: Lesson 4 Ages 11-12 Take-Home Challenge from *Take-Home Challenges* CD-ROM.

Hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge and encourage kids to complete the activities with their families. Remind kids that you'll ask them for responses during next week's K.I.D.S. Church service.