

# Doing God's Work

## Lesson Overview

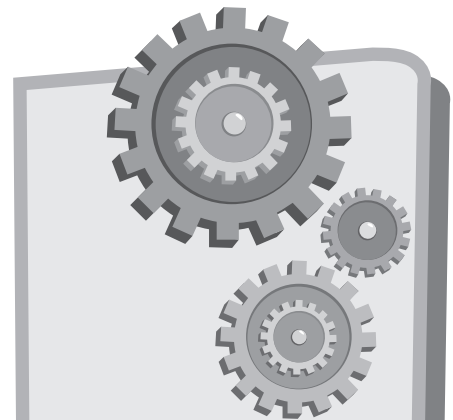
Last week's lesson established the fact that God works us, through the influence and power of the Holy Spirit. This week's lesson leads naturally into actually doing God's work. Children will be challenged to own today's Power Point: ***I will do God's work in our world.***

This is illustrated in the Old Testament story of the Israelites entering into the Promised Land. God had shown the Israelites His mighty power in freeing them from the Egyptians. Now, they were poised to capture the land God had promised Moses. God told Moses to select a leader from each of the 12 tribes and sent them out to spy out the land and the people in the land. They explored for 40 days and returned. All the leaders gave a glowing report about the land, but only two men, Caleb and Joshua, wanted to take the land. The ten others got spooked by what they saw—strong, fortified cities and strong, fighting men, all of “great size.” Because of these ten leaders' lack of faith, the rest of the people completely lost heart, weeping, wailing and complaining to Moses—even to the point of inciting mutiny against Moses and wanting to stone Joshua and Caleb to death! As a result of their grumbling, rebellion against the Lord and lack of faith, God had a mind to turn away from the Israelites right then and there. But Moses prayed an amazing prayer—calling on God to show mercy on the very people who had rejected him, so gaining the greater glory among the nations. So God mercifully allowed the Israelites to wander in the desert for 40 years until a new generation would arise who would inherit the land!

Joshua and Caleb are good examples of the type of people God can use to accomplish His purposes in our world. There are many negative examples kids can be influenced by, even by kids of faith. Use this lesson to help kids stand up, even if it's in the minority, and say boldly, ***“I will do God's work in the world.”***

## Going Deeper

Think about an area in your life where you may be thinking or acting like one of the ten spies. Ask God to show you how you can be like Caleb and Joshua. Keep a journal or some kind of record of the progress you make. Plan to share your experience with others to encourage them in the same way.



## Power Point

I will do God's work in our world.

## Scripture Memory Verse

[Jesus said] “I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me.”

—John 20:21b

## Bible Lesson

Joshua and Caleb spy out the land of Canaan and come back with a good report despite the negative report of the other spies.

—Numbers 13:1-33;  
14:1-35

## Everything You Need

**Note:** For a listing of basic supplies to keep on hand, see page 13.

**Game #1:** Balloons, large plastic bags.

**Game #2:** Equal portions of uncooked rice (divided into 6 small paper cups), 2 two-liter bottles without lids, tarp or large trash bags.

**Praise and Worship:** *Bible & Praise* DVD.

**Lesson Introduction:** Target with bull's-eye (store bought or made), safety-tipped arrows or paper arrows with masking tape on ends to stick to target.

**Scripture Memory Verse:** Lesson 4 Scripture Memory Verse from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM.

**Acting God's Word:** Lesson 4 Acting God's Word script from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM.

**Bible Story:** Bible, bowl of fruit (grapes, pomegranates, figs).

**Object Lesson #1:** Bowl, lump of dough in a bowl, cup of sugar, chef's hat, apron.

**Object Lesson #2:** Several boxes of dominos and small prizes.

**Today's Life Story:** Lesson 4 Today's Life Story from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM.

## Welcome

Start your service with high energy as you welcome the kids and open in prayer. See page 18 in this *Leader's Manual* for helpful welcoming tips.

## Game # 1

### Sin Stomp

#### Review Questions

*(Ask the following questions. Select one boy and one girl who each answer a question correctly to be participants in Game #1. Each one will select two teammates to make two teams of three each.)*

- ▶ In last weeks' Bible story, what was the name of the blind man who was healed? (*Bartimaeus.*)
- ▶ What did the blind man do after he was healed? (*He followed Jesus.*)

**Props:** Balloons, large plastic bags.

**Participants:** As many children as space permits.

### Playing the Game

Prior to beginning this game, have all children playing form a large circle. Have adult helpers number the children 1-2-3-4-5, 1-2-3-4-5, all around the circle. Encourage the children to remember their number. Place at least 3-5 balloons in the center of the circle.

Explain to the children that we become like those we hang out with. The more time we spend with our Heavenly Father, the more we will love the things He loves and hates the things He hates. Ask the children to name one sin that God hates (*lying*), say, "God wants us to stomp out lying," then call out a number between one and five. Have all of the children who have been assigned that number from around the circle run into the center and try to stomp on a balloon. Pick up the popped balloon pieces and throw them away. Put out three to five more balloons. Next have children call out another thing that God hates, (*jealousy*) say, "God want us to stomp out jealousy." Continue with a different number (1-5) allowing these children to stomp on the balloons. Play until either all of the balloons are gone or all the children have participated.

## Game #2

### Rice Race

#### Review Questions

*(Select one boy and one girl who answer the following review questions correctly to each choose five children to join them as participants in Game #2.)*

- ▶ Who helped us learn our Scripture Memory Verse last week? (*A mime!*)
- ▶ What was last week's Scripture Memory Verse? (*[Jesus said] "I tell you for certain that if you*

*have faith in me, you will do the same things that I am doing.*”—John 14:12a)

**Props:** Equal portions of uncooked rice (divided into 6 small paper cups), 2 two-liter bottles without lids, tarp or large trash bags.

**Participants:** Two relay teams of six players each.

### Playing the Game

Set up two similar destination areas by placing on the floor a tarp or large trash bag. On this protective covering, set up a two-liter bottle without a lid. Have the two relay teams line up facing off. Hand the first person in each line a small paper cup filled with rice.

When you say, “Go,” the first person in each line will run to the designated spot and try to get as much rice as they possibly can into the 2-liter bottle while standing upright (*no stooping down allowed*). (*They may mold their paper cup as necessary to help direct the rice into the opening.*) When most of their rice is either in the bottle (*or on the floor*) have the player return to his line. In the meantime, a volunteer will hand the next players in line a cup of rice. Continue the relay until all players have had a chance to participate. The winner of the race is the team that manages to get the most rice into their 2-liter bottle. Clean up should be easy; simply lift the tarp or large plastic bag and carefully toss into the trashcan.

## Praise & Worship

Lead the children in a powerful time of entering God’s presence using the worship songs from the *Bible & Praise* DVD.

## Lesson Introduction

**Props:** Target with bull’s-eye (store bought or made), safety-tipped arrows or paper arrows with masking tape on ends to stick to target.

### Presentation

Have you ever thrown arrows at a target? (*Allow responses.*) What does it mean to hit a bull’s eye? (*Allow responses.*) It means hitting the arrow right

in the middle of the target, usually in the dark small circle that is in the middle of a larger red circle. (*Demonstrate for the children by tossing an arrow at the target.*)

You know, kids, I think of you as well-aimed arrows in the hands of God. I’m not always able to get a bull’s eye, but God can. It’s God’s will to use you and put you exactly where He wants and needs you. Our Power Point today is ***I will do God’s work in our world.***

We don’t need to worry any more than this arrow has to worry. (*Shoot another arrow at the target.*) God will use you and you can be at peace because God knows what He is doing. God has perfect aim. He will send you exactly where He wants you to go today. (*Shoot another arrow.*) He will give you gifts of His Holy Spirit to give away to others. He will even give you words from His heart to say to others. We only need to be willing to be His arrows. God will do the rest.

## Scripture Memory Verse

**[Jesus said] “I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me.”**

—John 20:21b

**Props:** Lesson 4 Scripture Memory Verse from *Leader Resources* CD-ROM.

### Practice it

(*Divide the room in half. Display the Scripture Memory Verse. Assign one side the first phrase of the verse: “[Jesus said] I am sending you,” and the other side the last phrase: “just as the Father has sent me.” Have the assigned side say their half of the verse, with the other side completing the verse Scripture Memory Verse together a few times. Repeat with sides switching phrases to recite.*)

### Understand it

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He appeared to His disciples. He told them that just as His heavenly Father had sent Him into the world, so also He was sending them out into the world. Think about this for a moment: How did God the Father send Jesus into the world? (What motivated God? What did God want Jesus to do? What did God want

people to see in Jesus?) Now think about this: How is Jesus sending you into the world? (What motivated Jesus? What does Jesus want you to do? What does Jesus want people to see in you?) Do you see? We've been sent on a high mission from God the Father and God the Son; the One who helps us fulfill this mission is God the Holy Spirit.

### Live it

God is a missionary God. He wants all peoples everywhere to know Him. He sent Jesus for this purpose. And Jesus sent His disciples for the same purpose. And since we are also Jesus' disciples, we are called to be missionary people – wherever we go! That means being willing to go into the world as a missionary if that is what God wants as well as being willing to go over to our neighbor's house and help with yard work, too. What might be the work God wants you to do? (*Allow responses.*)

## Bible Lesson

**Joshua and Caleb spy out the land of Canaan and come back with a good report despite the negative report of the other spies.**

—Numbers 13:1-33; 14:1-35

### Acting God's Word

Use the Acting God's Word puppet script on the *Leader Resources* CD-ROM before you begin the Bible Story as a visual way to introduce the point of today's lesson. You can act the segment with puppets, use a drama team, or use the CD audio script with either approach.

*A brother and sister are together. Amanda is singing that she is happy because Jesus loves her. She tells Alex that their mom has told her she has a special gift of having a big heart to help others. Alex replies he wants to be a famous football player, and have all the perks of being famous. Amanda tells him that won't make him happy, but Alex counters by saying once he's famous he could tell people about God and that they would listen because he's famous. But Amanda challenges her brother's reasoning, saying he's really only concerned about himself. Finally, Alex realizes his error and asks his mom what special gift he might have.*

Ask the questions below to discuss the puppet segment.

- ▶ Why was Amanda singing? (*She was happy about having a special gift.*)
- ▶ What did Alex say he wanted to be? (*A famous football player.*)
- ▶ What did Amanda tell Alex his problem was? (*He cared more about himself.*)

Amanda helped her brother Alex see that happiness doesn't come from being famous but by being used by God with the gifts He has given him. Today we will explore the story of twelve leaders who were doing God's work. But not all the leaders were showing faith in God. Let's discover their story.

## Bible Story

**Props:** Bible, bowl of fruit (grapes, pomegranates, figs).

**Preparation:** Set up fruit in a bowl ahead of time and hold up the various fruits when they are described in the presentation. (*If you can't find the actual fruit in your grocery store download a picture of the kinds of fruit from the Internet so the children can see what these fruits look like.*)

### Presentation

*(Select 12 volunteers to come forward and help you act out the lesson. Designate one boy to be Joshua and another to be Caleb. Invite the rest of the children to be the Israelites.)*

When Moses and the Israelites came to the edge of the land of Canaan, Moses sent out spies to find out what the land was like. He told them to see if the people were strong or weak, if the soil was good or poor, if the towns had walls. He also told them to try to bring back some fruit from the land. He chose one leader from each tribe of Israel. Joshua and Caleb were among the 12 men. They went through all the land and when they reached the valley of Eshcol they took a single cluster of grapes that was so huge that it took two of them to carry it on a pole. They also got some pomegranates and figs. (*Hold up the various fruits mentioned.*) After forty days of exploring the land, the men returned to the camp.

The spies reported, "It is a land where much food grows. Here is some of its fruit. But the people who live there are strong. Their cities are walled and large." Caleb told the people around Moses to be quiet and said, "We should go up and take the land for ourselves. We can do it." But the men who gave the bad report had a very different opinion. They said, "We can't attack those people. They're bigger and stronger than we are."

The spies' discouraging report quickly spread and soon all the Israelites began crying loudly and railing against Moses and Aaron. They said things like, "Why did you bring us out here in the desert to die? We would have been better off back in Egypt!" They planned to mutiny against Moses and Aaron's leadership—God's chosen leaders! At this—signaling to everyone that the people had rebelled against God himself, not just Moses and Aaron. They stood up and said, "The land we went to explore is very good; it's flowing with milk and honey. If we obey the Lord, he will lead us into that land! The Lord is on our side. The people there won't be able to stand against us, so don't be afraid of them."

How did the people respond? Not well! They threatened to kill Joshua and Caleb by stoning them to death! But just then, the glory of the Lord appeared in a cloud over the Tabernacle, reminding the people of the frightening day the Lord appeared in thunder, lightning, a trumpet sound and a thick, billowing cloud when He called Moses to come up to Mount Sinai to give him the Ten Commandments. God was angry with the Israelites and had a mind to turn away from them right then and there.

But Moses prayed an amazing prayer—asking God to show mercy on the very people who had rejected him, and so gaining greater honor among the nations. And God answered Moses' prayer. The adults who had rebelled would not enter the land, but for 40 years would wander in the desert wilderness and die—until the children who had been under twenty years of age had grown up. Of the adults, God promised that only Joshua and Caleb would enter the Promised Land with the younger generation.

Joshua understood our Power Point: ***I will do God's work in our world***, even though it wasn't the popular thing to do. Instead of fearing the fierce people of the land or bowing to the majority of his own Israelite people, Joshua courageously trusted God to lead His people safely into the Promised Land.

## Object Lesson # 1

**Props:** Bowl, lump of dough in a bowl, cup of sugar, chef's hat, apron.

**Preparation:** Set up table with dough and props ahead of class.

### Presentation

*(With clean hands, knead the dough dressed in your chef's hat and apron.)* Boys and girls have you ever heard of "Friendship Bread" or "Monster bread"? *(Invite response.)* This is the way it works, you keep the dough (*show dough*) in your refrigerator and it grows when you "feed" it with sugar (*show sugar*). As a matter of fact, it grows so much you have to bake some of it and give it away. It continues to grow so much that you have to give some away every few weeks, or you have more than you can possibly use.

The dough will also go bad and stop growing if you don't give it away so the giving just keeps on. Everyone you give the dough to then "feeds" his dough with sugar. His lump grows and he also has to give some away. It gets its name, Friendship Bread because it forces you to meet people and give it away and also is called Monster Bread because it's ever-growing and multiplying!

Being a Christian is much like this dough. Like the bread dough that is fed with sugar, when we fellowship with God and spend time in His presence we grow and expand with His love and life. He gives to us first, but as we grow in Him we must give some away in order to receive more. This is one of the ways God has designed us so that His love and life and power can be multiplied in our life and in the lives of others. Daily we need to look for the opportunities our Heavenly Father sends our way.

God doesn't want you to keep His blessings for yourself. If you feel that you're not receiving from God like you have in the past, try giving some of God's love away to others. The more you give, the more you'll receive and the better you can follow today's Power Point: ***I will do God's work in our world.***

## Object Lesson #2

**Props:** Dominos, table, box.

**Preparation:** Set up some dominos in a line (for a domino effect) on a table. Cover with box.

### Presentation

*(Uncover the box and demonstrate the domino effect by pushing over the first domino. Explain that in order for dominos to be effective in a line format, the dominos must fall one at a time, causing the domino in front of it to fall, and so forth until the entire line of dominos falls in an orderly way.)*

Do you think you can be human dominos? *(Invite responses.)* I need ten volunteers. *(Help volunteer children form a line [front to back] and equally space each child so that when she gently falls down, she catches herself with her hands, but also falls close enough to the person in front of her that she can propel her to fall next. Practice with the volunteers to make sure that they understand the domino effect and aren't actually falling on each other, but are falling just short of each other. Once they seem to understand, have the rest of the children do a 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 countdown and yell, "Fall down!" instead of zero. When the volunteers hear this, they should conduct their domino line.)*

We are like these dominos, boys and girls. Our Heavenly Father places us where we can "touch" the lives of others, like we touched each other in our human dominos experience. Let's be like human dominos as ***we do God's work in our world.***

## Today's Life Story

It's time again to join the Newheart family. Today we see how Jenny helps her family help someone in need. Let's join Jenny in her Sunday School class now.

### Jenny Makes a Difference

Illustration 4-1



► Jenny was really excited because her Sunday School class was beginning a service project. The teacher explained that a service project was a planned way of truly caring for others and helping them—not just talking about it in church. In her heart Jenny wanted to really do things to make a difference in the world and truly show the love of Jesus. The teacher asked the students to develop some ideas and bring their suggestions with them to church the following Sunday.

**Illustration 4-2**



► Jenny had a passion about this project and when she got home she took out some books and encyclopedias. Jenny started reading about different foreign countries. She was dreaming what it would be like to serve God in a far-off land—a country with really different people and culture.

The pictures intrigued Jenny; maybe they could send Bibles to China or Africa. She heard there was a draught in Africa and they desperately needed help. Maybe her class could send money or food. In the newspaper that evening Jenny noticed an article about the orphanage and poor people in Romania. “With so many hurting people, how can we help?” questioned Jenny.

**Illustration 4-3**



► Jenny watched the evening news and learned about a horrible flood in South American—people were losing their lives and thousands were now homeless. The land was being hit really hard and all the

food crops were being destroyed. “What are these people going to live on?” Jenny questioned aloud. “Maybe we can help these people somehow,” she said.

**Illustration 4-4**



► The next day, in school, Jenny was very preoccupied with thoughts about her Sunday school project and caring for others. Her heart was being flooded with the many needs in the world. She thought, “there are so many problems, how can we help? Father God, I ask you, what good can we do?”

She no more than thought that prayer, when she noticed Jimmy McCarrigle sitting in the corner of the lunchroom. He was eating a chocolate bar someone had given him. It looked like that’s all he had for lunch! Jenny was seeing Jimmy with her heart instead of her eyes—Jimmy’s family was in need.

**Illustration 4-5**



► Jenny went shopping with her mom that evening and she spotted Jimmy's family. Mrs. McCarrigle was comparing prices on canned goods while her children waited patiently. The grocery cart was filled with needy kids instead of food. It was real obvious what God was saying to Jenny—she knew exactly what her project was and she knew that God was truly leading her.

**Illustration 4-6**



► Sunday morning came and Jenny was bursting with excitement. She'd had a plan to present to her Sunday school class. She would ask her class to purchase groceries for the McCarrigle family. Maybe they could buy clothes too—or donate some of their really good clothes—this wasn't going to be an excuse to get rid of old clothes. This was a project about caring for others and really giving your best. Jenny was confident her class would want to make this their servant project.

**Illustration 4-7**



► Jenny's class thought her plan was a wonderful idea and everyone donated bags of groceries and really nice clothes. Some people even bought toys and new school supplies for the kids.

Mrs. McCarrigle was overwhelmed as she discovered the gifts on her porch. "My goodness", she cried out "who did this for me and my family?" She found a note on one of the bags. Her hands were shaking as she read the note, written by the Sunday school class, "God loves you and your family and so do we" Love from the children of Celebration City Church.

**Illustration 4-8**



► Mrs. McCarrigle knew whom to thank first. She got on her knees and thanked God. She remembered her Grandma's voice in her ears as a child telling her how much her heavenly Father loved her and how He would supply her needs. "Thank You God" she prayed "I have been away from you so



long, I need you in my life and so do my children, please forgive me". God's peace immediately washed over her as she talked to God. At that moment she purposed in her heart to take her family to the church that had show her the love of God.

Boys and girls, whenever we have experienced the love of God, let's make sure that we care enough to give that love away to others.

## Closing Prayer

Today's Power Point ***I will do God's work in our world*** pretty much sums up our responsibilities as Christians. Being willing...doing God's work...and going out into the world. Emphasize today's subject matter by bringing it down to earth. What can I do today or this week to do God's work? What impact can I personally have on my world? As children ask these questions they will better be able to apply today's lesson.

Heavenly Father,

As You develop our understanding of how much You love us, help us to reach out and love others. Give us your heart of love. Let us feel and understand how things hurt your heart, and how other things make your heart happy. Help us to do what You are doing. Help us to be a blessing. We welcome You to show us what You want us to do in our world.

*(Have the children repeat this prayer after you.)*  
I am available for you to use. Use me, Lord, I pray.  
***I will do God's work in our world.***

In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Small Group Lesson

Using the *God Encounters Small Group Lessons* (see page 10 in this *Leader's Manual*), divide your children into one of three elementary-age groups: ages 6-7, ages 8-10, ages 11-12. These groups allow deeper exploration of the Power Point and life application.

Instruct small-group leaders to hand out this week's Take-Home Challenge.

