



Here to Serve

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON

Theme: Veterans Day

Scripture: Romans 12:3-12

Memory Verse: "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children's Sermon

You'll Need:

- An American flag

Do This:

SAY: This flag reminds me that this week we will celebrate a very important national holiday. How many of you know what holiday we will celebrate? (Pause for response.) We will celebrate Veterans Day. Veterans Day is when we honor all of the men and women who have served in the military.

We enjoy a lot of freedom in this country thanks to the bravery and selflessness of men and women who have fought to defend our freedom. We get to enjoy many freedoms because of their willingness to put others before themselves.

Selfless service reminds me a lot of Jesus. The Son of man came not to be served, but to serve. The Bible says that we are not to think of ourselves as better than

anyone else, but instead serve others so that they can see and experience the love of Jesus.

ASK:

- Do you know anyone who has served in the military?
- What is one way you can put others' needs before your own?
- How did Jesus put others before Himself?

Thanks to the brave men and women that we honor on Veterans Day, we have a lot of freedom. But the greatest freedom that we have is freedom in Christ. The Bible teaches that the penalty for sin is death, but you and I have been set free from this penalty because of Jesus' selflessness.

This week as we celebrate Veterans Day, let us remember to stop and thank God for the brave men and women who fought for our freedom, and for Jesus' selflessness on the cross. May we be reminded to put others before ourselves like Jesus did.

PRAY: Dear God, thank You for the freedom that we enjoy in our country. We are thankful for those who were brave and fought on our behalf, and we thank You for the freedom we have because Jesus was willing to pay the penalty for our sin. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10

You'll Need:

- Bibles - 1 per child

- **Plastic cups - 10 per group**
- **A permanent marker**
- **A serving tray or box that can hold all of the cups**

Get Ready: Before class, write a word or phrase from today's Bible memory verse on each cup with a permanent marker. Create a set of cups for each group of kids.

Do This:

Lead kids in these steps:

- Read Romans 12:10 out loud.
- Form groups of 3 or 4 kids, and give each group a set of cups.
- Explain that one child from each group will be the "server" like at a restaurant. The others will be served cups and each group will have to work to put the cups in order with today's memory verse.
- Do this activity for several rounds so that each child gets to serve their group.
- Invite each group to recite the memory verse together.

ASK:

- **How did it feel to serve your group?**
- **How can we serve others like Jesus?**

SAY: Jesus came to serve others. On Veterans Day we give thanks for the men and women who have served our country. Everyday we give thanks for the freedom that comes from Jesus Christ.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Bibles - 1 per child
- Red and Blue construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Staplers

Do This:

Lead kids in these steps:

- Invite a child to read Romans 12:3-12 out loud to the class.
- Have kids cut the construction paper into strips and invite them to write different acts of service and ways they can serve others on each strip.
- Once kids have written their strips, have them work together to staple the strips into a chain link.
- Place the chain link at the front of the class.

ASK:

- Why is it important to serve one another?
- How can we honor God with our actions?

SAY: Jesus came to show us how to serve others. When we honor people and put their needs ahead of our own, we show them the love that Jesus shows us.

Veterans Day

You'll Need:

- ["Veterans Day"](#) video lesson

- **Something to play the video**

Do This:

Show them the video.

ASK:

- **How can serving others bring honor to God?**
- **Is it always easy to serve others? Why or why not?**

SAY: We have a lot to be thankful for when it comes to the men and women who have served our country. The same is true when it comes to Jesus. He came to serve others and teach us to do the same.

Flags of Service

You'll Need:

- **White string cheese - 1 per child**
- **Mini pepperonis**
- **Blue corn tortilla chips**
- **Pens**
- **Paper plates**
- **Napkins**

Get Ready: Before the snack, have kids wash their hands.

Do This:

Follow these steps to enjoy the “Flags of Service” Snacks:

- Give each child a paper plate and a pen.
- Invite kids to write the name of someone they want to honor or serve on their plate.
- Give each child a String cheese, several mini pepperoni, and blue corn tortilla chips.
- Invite kids to arrange the snack ingredients to make an American flag.
- Have kids share who they’ve chosen to honor as they enjoy their snacks.

ASK:

- **Where have you seen acts of service?**
- **How can you honor others through acts of service?**

Virtual Lesson Tip

You can do this activity with the entire family.

Service Charades

You’ll Need:

- **A large playing area**
- **Post-It Notes**
- **A pen**

Get Ready: Before class, write a handful of acts of service on different Post-It notes.

Do This:

Follow these steps to play the “Service Charades” game:

- Invite kids to gather at the front of the class.
- Explain that you're going to play a game of charades, where kids will have to act out the act of service you give to them.
- Choose one child to go first. Give them a Post-It Note and allow them to act out the act of service for the class.
- Invite the class to guess the child's act of service.
- Play several times as time allows.
- Challenge kids by ditching the Post-It Notes and having them come up with their own acts of service to act out.

ASK:

- **How can you use your gifts to serve others?**
- **How can we show love to others through service?**

SAY: Great job displaying your acts of service. When we honor others and love them like Jesus, we are honoring Him!

Honor Wreaths

You'll Need:

- **Red and blue construction paper**
- **Scissors**
- **Pencils**
- **Glue sticks**
- **Rulers**
- **Patriotic stickers**
- [How-to video](#)

Do This:

To make the “Honor Wreath” crafts, have kids follow these steps:

- Give each child their choice of blue or red construction paper.
- Have kids draw a horizontal line across the construction paper ½ inch from the top of the paper and ½ inch from the bottom.
- Invite kids to fold the paper in half long-ways.
- Have kids use the scissors to cut ~20 slits from the folded edge of the paper to the line. Do not cut past the line. This will be the tab for glue.
- Invite kids to write Romans 12:10 or other acts of service on the lines of their wreath.
- Open the paper up and wrap it into a long cylinder, sealing the paper on the solid uncut lines.
- Help kids wrap the tubular paper in a circle to create a wreath. Glue ends together to seal.
- Invite kids to decorate their wreath with stickers.

SAY: Great job making your Honor Wreaths. Take these home as a reminder of Veterans Day, and to honor and serve one another.

Virtual Lesson Tip

You can do this activity with the entire family.

Service Prayers

You'll Need:

- “Acts of Service Chain Link” from the Bible Interactive Experience.

Do This:

Lead kids in these steps for the “Service Prayers”:

- Have kids gather close in a circle with the “Acts of Service Chain Link” in hand.

- Invite kids to look at the link in their hands and thank God for that act of service.
- Have the kids pass the chain link to their right three times, then pray for the act of service in hand.
- Repeat several times.
- Close in prayer.

PRAY: God, thank You for the brave men and women who have fought to defend so many freedoms that we enjoy in our country. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus so that we could have freedom that only comes from a relationship with Him. In Jesus' name, amen.

Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

- **Song:** "I Have the Joy"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)
[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track
- **Song:** "To Be Like Jesus"
[Words and Music](#) (pdf)
[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track

SAY: Jesus came to serve others and show us how to do the same. Let's give Him honor and praise now.

Lead children in singing "I have the Joy" and "To Be Like Jesus."

If You Have Extra Time...

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

- [Word Search](#)
- [Crossword](#)

Complete Supply List

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- Plastic cups - 10 per group
- A serving tray or box that can hold all of the cups
- Bibles - 1 per child
- Red and Blue construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Staplers
- "Veterans Day" video lesson
- Something to play the video
- White string cheese - 1 per child
- Mini pepperonis
- Blue corn tortilla chips
- Pens
- Paper plates
- Napkins
- A large playing area
- Post-It Notes
- A pen
- Pencils

- Glue sticks
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AT HOME LESSON

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Do This:

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Veterans Day

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- Something to play the video

Do This:

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ASK:

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- **Is it always easy to serve others? Why or why not?**

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- **Rulers**
- **Patriotic stickers**

Do This:

To make the "Honor Wreath" crafts, have kids follow these steps:

- Give each child their choice of blue or red construction paper.
- Have kids draw a horizontal line across the construction paper $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the top of the paper and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the bottom.

- Invite kids to fold the paper in half long-ways.
- Have kids use the scissors to cut ~20 slits from the folded edge of the paper to the line. Do not cut past the line. This will be the tab for glue.
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