

Share God's Love

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Mark 9:38-50

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Pentecost 17

Lesson Focus
I can help others.



Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Center Time Kids create a fort, connect themselves within a web of yarn, and color Bible story pictures.	Coloring Pages 	Bell or chime, tablecloth or large piece of cloth, table, large skein of yarn, blank paper, markers or crayons
Circle Time Kids are welcomed with a bell, hear about the church season, and are joined by a puppet.	Leaflets	Bell, puppet, small piece of yarn
Prayer Time Kids practice being still and listening in prayer.	None	Bell

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Share God's Love Storytelling Leader reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible.	Spark Story Bible	None
Warm-Up Kids work together to get the ball to the basket.	None	Yarn, small ball, basket
Lift People Up! Kids learn a class cheer.	Leaflets	None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Pass the Ball Kids reflect on the Warm-Up activity as they place stickers on their leaflets.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	None
I Can Share Kids identify ways they can help.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Markers or crayons
Wrap It Up Kids create gift bags.	Lesson Stickers	White or brown lunch bags, rubber stamps, ink pad, markers or crayons

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids add stones to the class altar.	Leaflets	Quarter-sized polished rocks, dish
Prayer Time Kids build a prayer.	Family Pages 	Bell or chime

 Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 Minutes)

Center Time

You may choose to set up all or some of these learning centers for kids to play in as they arrive in your classroom. Have helpers in each center to help kids with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

When all kids have arrived and have time to participate in at least one center, use a small bell three times to announce the transition time.

Listen to my bell. When I ring it once (ring), it means it's time to clean up. When I ring it twice (ring twice), you should get ready to move. When I ring it three times (ring three times), come and meet your friends in the story circle.

Make a Fort

All kids like forts. Create a simple tent with a table and tablecloth or large sheet of fabric. Invite all to come and sit in the fort. Remind the class that they are a team of God's helpers.

Weave a Web

Help kids sit in a circle. The end of the yarn should be loosely tied around the leader's waist. Toss or hand the yarn to a kid across the circle. Help that kid loop the yarn around her or his back and hand it to another kid. Continue the activity until all kids have been included in the yarn "web." Ask them to scoot backward slightly and look at their web.

We're all connected, aren't we! We're all God's helpers. We're all on God's team! Each one of us can help others know about Jesus' love. We work together!

Coloring Center

Have coloring supplies and copies of the Spark Coloring Page available at a table for the kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Bell or chime

Tablecloth or large piece of cloth

Table

Large skein of yarn

Blank paper

Markers or crayons

Circle Time

Welcome to Sunday school! Let's see who's here today. Ring the bell and say your name. Pass the bell around. Let kids ring the bell and say their name. Encourage the class to say, **"Welcome, _____ (name)!"** after each kid's turn.

Hold the leaflet for the kids to see. Point to the seasonal icon, the leafing tree. **Do you know what season this is?** Accept all answers. **This is "green" time. We call "green" time "Pentecost."** Repeat the word *Pentecost* two times and have kids echo. **What season is this?** (*Green time!*) **What special word do we use for "green time"?** (*Pentecost!*) **Good.**

Pentecost is a time to serve Jesus. It's a time to grow in your faith. Jesus said in today's lesson that little kids can be great by being helpful and serving others. You are growing your faith muscles. Show me your faith muscles! Pump up each arm like a weight lifter.

It's green time! Show left arm muscle. **Pentecost!** Show right arm muscles. **Pump those muscles by helping others!**

Leader: Kids! Today we . . .

Squiggles: Excuse me. (Squiggles has small piece of yarn in his mouth)

Leader: Yes, Squiggles?

Squiggles: I would like to be one of God's helpers, too! I brought my yarn. Could we play that game again where you make a big web and . . .

Leader: But Squiggles . . .

Squiggles: Yes?

Leader: You can't be God's helper . . .

Squiggles: (dropping yarn) I can't?

Leader: You're a caterpillar.

Squiggles: Yes?

Leader: Caterpillars can't . . .

Squiggles: Caterpillars can! We all can . . .

Leader: Can what, Squiggles?

Squiggles: Love Jesus! We can all do that!

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Bell

Puppet

Small piece of yarn

Prayer Time

Ask students to repeat each part of the prayer as you build the prayer one word at a time.

Before we read our Bible story, let's pray and get our hearts quiet to hear God's words. Close your eyes and fold your hands. Let's see how still we can be. Let's listen for God's quiet voice. Ring bell and wait. Allow kids to practice "silence" for as long as they are able.

Jesus . . . *(Jesus)*

Jesus we . . . *(repeat)*

Jesus we thank . . . *(repeat)*

Jesus we thank you . . . *(repeat)*

Jesus we thank you that you love . . . *(repeat)*

Jesus we thank you that you love us all. *(repeat)*

Amen. *(Amen)*

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Bell

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Share God's Love Storytelling

Sometimes Jesus' friends wanted to make a "club" and keep people out. Jesus said, "No way! Everyone can be my helper!" Listen as Jesus helps his friends act more loving toward others.

Take out your Spark Story Bible and open to Share God's Love on page 326. Read the story out loud and point to the corresponding pictures. Look for Squiggles the caterpillar in each picture. Ask kids what they think Squiggles is feeling or doing. Encourage them to make a face like Squiggles.

Ask the following questions, allowing time for kids to answer.

Were Jesus' friends glad, mad, or sad? *(mad)* **Why were they so mad?** *(Someone else was teaching people about Jesus.)*

How many people do you think can be Jesus' helper? Accept all answers.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bible

Supplies

None

Warm Up

Create a yarn trail and place each kid somewhere on the trail. Put a basket at the end of the trail. **Everyone needs help sometimes, and we share God's love when we help each other. Let's all work together to get the ball into the basket.** Give the ball to the first kid. Kids pass the ball one to another to get it to the basket. Shout "good job" when the ball goes in! Switch kids around on the line and repeat a few times.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Yarn
Small ball
Basket

Lift People Up!

Invite everyone to gather around a table. Give each kid a leaflet. Point to the picture on the front of the leaflet. **Jesus told his disciples that everyone could share God's love. Let's learn a cheer to help us remember to share God's love.**

Stand in a circle. Demonstrate the cheer and actions. Pump your palms toward the sky for "up." Bend knees and pump palms downward for "down." Practice cheering together.

Lift people UP! Don't put people down! (Repeat three times.)

Go team!

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

None

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Pass the Ball

Have kids turn over their leaflet. **Everyone can share God's love. We do that when we help others. I see a boy doing the same thing we just did—but it looks like he needs help! He doesn't have a team to help him get the ball into the basket. Let's help him by adding some kids to the team.**

Hand out two kid stickers and help kids put the stickers along the line on their leaflet. **Good job team!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

I Can Share

Hand out markers or crayons. **Jesus said that everyone is on his team. That means that you can help to share God's love. Look at your leaflet. What is this kid doing?** Point to one of the kids sharing God's love on the leaflet. **What about this one? What's happening here?** Talk about each scenario. **Circle something you can do for others. What are some other things you do to help?** Give kids the star stickers. **Here's a star for you. You've been Jesus' helper today!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Markers or crayons

Wrap It Up

Provide in-class art supplies and the Jesus heart sticker for kids to use in decorating gift bags. Recall the story while kids are decorating. **Who is on God's team? (everyone) What do we do on God's team? (Share God's love, help others. Accept all answers.)** Write kids' names and the words "God's Helper" on their bag. Bags may be used to carry home their leaflets and other papers from the day.

Spark Resources

Lesson Stickers

Supplies

White or brown lunch bags
Rubber stamps
Ink pads
Markers or crayons

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Have kids sit in a circle and thank them for coming. Place the dish on the table. **This week we are building and growing a class altar. As stones are added, our "altar" grows. When I give you a stone, place it in the dish.** Hand each kid a stone and say, _____ (name), you are growing with God.

Hold up the leaflet and point to Faith on the Go! on the back. **Be sure to take your leaflet home because it has one more fun activity you can do with your family. You can help others in your family, and your family members can help you. When you are at home, ask a grown-up to help you create an "I Helped" chart for every member of your family. You can add stars every time you see someone in your family help someone else. We can all work together to be God's helpers. Remember to take your gift bag—you can use it the next time you have a small gift to give to a family member.**

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Quarter-sized polished rocks
Dish

Prayer Time

End the lesson as you began it—with a simple build-a-prayer.

Before we leave today, let's pray and thank God. Close your eyes and fold your hands. Let's see how still we can be. Let's listen for God's quiet voice. (Ring bell and wait. Allow kids to practice silence for as long as they are able. Remind them to repeat your words as you build this prayer.)

Jesus . . . (*Jesus*)

Jesus we . . . (*repeat*)

Jesus we thank . . . (*repeat*)

Jesus we thank you . . . (*repeat*)

Jesus we thank you that you love . . . (*repeat*)

Jesus we thank you that you love us all. (*repeat*)

Amen. (*Amen*)

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids, dismissing them as appropriate.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

Bell or chime