

DAY TWO - FOLLOW JESUS TO CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER

BIBLE REFERENCE: Luke 10:14

Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved to pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robber?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

WORSHIP AS A GLOBAL VILLAGE

1. Bible reading done as skit, use Script 2.
2. Sing-a-long
3. Closing prayers

Script 2:

Choose children to act out the parts of the traveler, robbers (several), the priest, Levite, Samaritan, innkeeper. Have each of the "actors" pantomime the action as you read the story.

Go slow, and encourage the children to act out the story as faithfully as possible.

Narrator: A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho,
and fell into the hands of robbers,
who stripped him,
beat him,
and went away,
leaving him half dead.

Now by chance a priest was going down that road;
and when he saw him,
he passed by on the other side.

So likewise a Levite,
when he came to the place and saw him,
passed by on the other side.

But a Samaritan while traveling
came near him;
and when he saw him, he was moved to pity.

He went to him
and bandaged his wounds,
having poured oil and wine on them.
Then he put him on his own animal,
brought him to an inn,
and took out two denarii,
gave them to the innkeeper,
and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back,

I will repay you whatever more you spend.”

Jesus said, “Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robber?

“The one who showed him mercy.” came the answer.

Jesus said, “Go and do likewise.”

THE GIVING TREE is an excellent book to read to the children no matter what age they are. This is a wonderful stewardship example for children and adults alike. It tells the story of the tree that when it thinks it has no more to give it still has more. Have the children retell the story with the help of a story board. The emphasis should be on what the boy needed and what the tree can give to help him. This is a very valuable lesson to teach our children. Stewardship is a daily way of living, and when we think we have nothing left to give we can always give a little more. This will help to create for the church steward responsible adults. This will help the children better understand the example that Christ has set for them to follow.

THE GREAT WALL OF GOD’S PEOPLE - This is designed to show the children that God is present for all people. The children will cut pictures of different people out of magazines and glue them to the front of cardboard boxes. As each box is covered they are used to build a wall of God’s people near the entry way of the school or church to share with the congregation.

We as teachers reach out to the children in our classrooms so that they will understand that stewardship is not a once a year idea but is part of who we everyday and every hour as followers of Christ. The following are some ideas that have been used over the years. Some you may recognize and others will be new ideas. These are not pick one and do it ideas but rather they are designed to help plan a year long emphasis program. Start your year by having a community meeting and gathering ideas for starting that journey with your class to a life-long stewardship rooted in the example Christ set for us.

COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER - This center begins at the start of the school year by talking with the children about all of the things that God has created for them and the realization that everything they have comes from God. When the children realize that everything they have comes from God they will better be able to see that they should help people who are less fortunate than themselves and that they should work to do what they can to protect God’s creation in their world. Each week the teacher provides the children with opportunities to reach out through the center. This can be through the creation of favors for trays at hospitals or nursing homes to celebrate a holiday, advocacy letters written to government and environmental agencies, paper and materials for making cards for loved ones or shutins from the congregation, or for creating poster for days such as The Great National Smokeout, Fire Prevention Week and the like. The ideas are limitless.

FAMILY CARE BAGS - This is similar to the “Community Action Center” except it is something that goes home with the child to do with members of their family. Create ten bags. Each of the bags contains a “reach and touch someone” assignment. These are all prearranged and set with various agencies in the community. Some ideas here might include; collecting canned goods from your neighbors to take to the local food pantry, advocacy letters, cleaning up a park within your community, making a gift for a nursing home resident who has no family, spending the day enjoying God’s creation at a park

and drawing pictures with your family to share with the class, or doing some yard work around the school or playground. The Family Care Bags then rotate to each family in the classroom. Over the course of the 10 months of school each family should have had the opportunity to achieve each of the recognized outreaches or they may create their own and share it with the class. In the bag put the following items: a detailed description of the task, a report sheet for use at the completion of the task, anything that might be necessary to complete the task (craft supplies), and a family award certificate for at the conclusion of the task.

CARING HEARTS FOR JESUS is a program usually run during the month of February. This project requires identifying through the ELCA Division for Higher Education and Schools a school that is in need. You will need to contact the principal of the school to discuss the program you would like to accomplish on their behalf. The children talk about what kind of needs a school might have and how their collection could help. Send a note home telling parents about the project. Encourage the parents to have their children do small chores or something where they can earn the money for this project. Put a picture of Jesus on the bulletin board and have a heart cut into puzzle like pieces (the number of pieces is determined by how many days the program will run) placed over the picture of Jesus. Place a placard with the title Hearts For Jesus somewhere on the board. Each morning have the children put their offering into a specific place and remove one of the pieces of the puzzle. At the end of the project review what kinds of things God has given the children in their school and how what they have done might help the school they are sending it to. Write a letter and send it to the principal of the school explaining the contribution being made by your children.

A FOOD TRAIN is a fun way to get children to move forward understanding the types of things that are need everyday for folks to survive in this world. This is a good time to help them understand that not all folks have the items necessary to live day after day. This is a project that the children can do along with their supporting congregation. The children work with cardboard boxes of varying sizes and a variety of art supplies to create train cars. One group of children might work on the engine and another group of children might work on a caboose. When the train is finished label the cars according to the types of items talked about being needed for daily life. Some categories might be; paper products, canned goods, bathroom items, baby supplies, laundry items. It is also good to detail the categories in communication with parents and congregational members. Checking with the local food pantry before you begin this project is a good idea to find out exactly what they will take from your class. Find a place to display your train that will keep the project in the minds of all those participating. Set your time frame and keep the communication solid to make your train a "train of success."

"HAPPY THOUGHTS" books are designed and created by the children to help them understand that they need to care for the wellness of God's people. The cover of the book is made from construction paper and designed by the teacher. This is to insure that the teacher is also included in this classroom stewardship program. The book is heart shaped. There are two ways to proceed with this project. 1. Give each child a sheet of white paper with a large heart drawn in the center. Instruct the children on

drawing a picture of their happy thought. Encourage them to add words at the bottom or the top of the heart. Then make numerous copies for each children. Many books can then be created through the year by coloring in the illustrations. 2. Each book can be unique and written and illustrated as needed inside the white heart. When the hearts have been cut out the teacher assembles them and delivers them to the individual they were created to bring "Happy Thought" to. Remember that personal contact at this point by the teacher, pastor, principal or a parent is better than the mail.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMS are always a good way to involve children and even their families and the members of the sponsoring congregation. Check with your local community park districts, municipals works offices, or Chamber of Commerce. They will be able to help you find projects within your community that are workable with the folks you have for the job. Some possibilities are planting flowers, cleaning up a park, collecting teddy bears for police teddies for tots programs, making puppets for local hospitals to give to children facing surgery, or helping to get a ball field ready for the season of play. This is an excellent way to show your children that stewardship of God's world does not end at the church's front doors but reaches out into their communities and the world. Don't make this a one time effort either!

ADOPT A GRANDPARENT PROGRAMS can be designed by the teacher and the nursing home to fit the classroom needs. This is an ongoing project. The teacher sets up with a nursing home to adopt a resident of the home. This should be someone who has little or no family left to care for them. Please be sure that if you intend to make visits by children and family part of your program check with the social worker at the home to make sure that the person is someone who the children can respond to and that will respond to them. This is project that could also involve the pastor to help the children understand the elderly better. The pastor is also a valuable resource in the event your grandparent dies during the school year. This is a loss you must be ready to deal with. Before beginning this project be sure that parents know what you are doing and the possibility of having to deal with the loss of your grandparent. Appropriate contact with the grandparent could include birthday and holiday gifts made by the children, visits on a Saturday or Sunday to read to them or talk, cards and letters at intervals (You don't want to sent too much.), or Christmas caroling for them and the other residents.

STEWARDSHIP THAT REACHES OUT INTO THE WORLD should also be a part of your emphasis. One such resource that offers a fun way to teach your children about stewardship and global outreach is Heifer Project International. This is an unique project that teaches people from third world countries to grow animals and then share them with their neighbors so they will have food in their villages long term. For more information on this stewardship program contact:

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