

Kid's Slot – Nov. 13th – 19th, 2011



“Caring For Others”



OVERVIEW: Children will learn that they are called to care for and help others.

PREPARATION: You will need some stick-on name tags, a blindfold, yarn, a few balls of cotton, your NIV Bible and the Children's Prayer Notebook.

BIBLE STORY & VERSE: 2 Corinthians 8:1-9

ICEBREAKER: Write the word “I Care” on all the name tags in advance. Place the name tags face down on the table. Tell the children that they are each going to choose a name tag and whoever's name tag says the words “I Care” will get to help others during the Kid's Slot. The purpose of the icebreaker is to show the children that they ALL can and need to care for others. One at a time, a child will choose a tag and you will stick it on them. Tell them it is a surprise and not to tell each other what their tag says. After everyone has on their tag, let them see that everyone's tag has the words “I Care” written on it.

READ: “God Wants Us to Care for Others.” (on the other side)

LIFE APPLICATION: (Since there is no right or wrong answers, encourage the children to share what's on their hearts.) Ask: “**How can you show you care in your church family, home family or at your school?**” (ex: You can pray for them and with them, look for opportunities to help them without being asked, serve them, let them go first in line, tell them about Jesus, encourage them when they need encouragement, share your lunch if they forget theirs, be a faithful friend, set a Christ-like example...)

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE: “And they gave in a way we did not expect: They first gave themselves to the Lord and to us. This is what God wants.” 2 Corinthians 8:6

ACTIVITY: “TIED UP!”

Choose one brave volunteer in the group. Loosely tie up their hands and feet so that they can't move. Put a blindfold over their eyes so they can't see. Have someone hold their ears so they can't hear.

Ask:

- **What's the only thing this person can do now?** (Just talk)
- **Can they use their hands to help someone in need?** (No)
- **Can they use their eyes to see what the need is?** (No)
- **Can they use their feet to go and help them?** (No)
- **Can they use their ears to hear their call for help?** (No)

Say: **We need the whole body to do the work of God. We need to be the “hands and feet” of Jesus as we go out into our church, neighborhood, school and world ministering to others. We need to be His “eyes and ears” so we can see and hear the needs of others and be ready to be His ministers. God has called us to care for others and do what it takes to help them! Are you ready?**

RETURN: Return to the Life Group and let the children display their “I Care” name tags. Explain that even children are called to care for and about others, too. We all need to be faithful to give our time, talent and tithe. Recite the Memory Verse. The children then join with the adults in prayer and fellowship.



“God Wants Us to Care for Others”

Say: When the church began many years ago, everyone there weren't nice church buildings for everyone to gather together and worship like we have now. There wasn't a Children's Ministry or a Nursery for the babies and toddlers. There wasn't a worship team or bulletins. People met in their homes and had their own “worship” service together. It wasn't fancy, but it was such a wonderful time together. Everyone cared for each other and looked after each other. There weren't many Christians back then, so your friends were friends for life! People were very generous with each other – always making sure that others were taken care of well.

When someone was sick, someone from their group came to stay with them until they got better. When someone needed food, someone from their group brought them food. When someone needed help in their business or in their home, someone from their group came to help. People cared for each other, because they loved Jesus and wanted to follow His example of love. It just wasn't the adults that helped out; even the children looked after each other and shared what they had with everyone else. Helping others brought great joy to everyone! And it also brought great joy to Jesus!

They also gave their tithes and offerings to the church group, so the work of the ministry could continue. It was a sweet time of giving and caring and because it was so special, other people who were not part of the faith yet, saw a difference in the “Christians” and many people were won to faith by just seeing the kind actions of the early believers.

Because of their love of Jesus, people, even children, were willing to sacrifice for others – even if it meant they didn't have much for themselves.

What a great testimony to how Jesus can change lives from the

inside out. Even with our nice churches and nurseries, choir and worship teams, giant screens and comfortable chairs to sit on, we still need to have a heart, like the early believers had....willing to share and care for others. We need to give our time, our talents and our tithes back to the Lord and watch how He blesses us and others when we do.

Note to the adults in the Life Group: There are so many ways we can help children learn to care for others:

Here are some suggestions:

Allow the children to help lead worship in your Life Group, have them pray aloud and/or lay hands on other members of the Life Group, ask them to say the blessing over the meal/dessert, invite them to work alongside of you during your Communities' turn as Greeters or Downtown Helpers, teach them how to help serve others/clean up, assist in making a meal for an ill member, pray for and invite other children to their Life Group, participate in outreach events...the potential is endless. The children are our future interns and leaders and ministers. Let's do all we can to encourage and equip them.

