



Kid's Slot – Jan. 29th – Feb. 4th, 2012

“Do Something for the Kingdom of God!”

OVERVIEW: Children will learn that everyone can and needs to serve the body of Christ at their church.

PREPARATION: You will need a snack (cookies, pretzels or candy, etc. for every child) a blindfold, paper and pencil, your NIV Bible

BIBLE STORY & VERSE: 1 Corinthians 12:7

ICEBREAKER: Ask: **What is your favorite restaurant – a real restaurant with a waitress or waiter – not McDonald's or Taco Bell? How does it feel when someone brings you your food?**

READ: “May I Serve You?” (on the other side)

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

- 1. Where did Tracey work and what did she do?** (She was a waitress at a busy restaurant called Webster's Grill)
- 2. Why were Bethany and Jeremy so amazed at Tracey, their mom?** (because she worked so hard at work and still had the time, energy and desire to volunteer at church on Sundays)
- 3. What did Mrs. Helen do to bless that young mom that day?** (she took care of the mom's little girl, so the mom could attend church)
- 4. And because that young mom attended church that day, what happened?** (She gave her heart to Jesus and decided she would help volunteer in the nursery for other moms like herself!)
- 5. Why was Bethany and Jeremy so surprised at that story?** (Because they found out that the tired young mom in the story was actually their own mom, Tracey)
- 6. What did Bethany Jeremy decide to do?** (The decided to volunteer too...like their mom)

Bible Memory Verse: “A spiritual gift has been given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.” 1 Corinthians 12:7

ACTIVITY: “LISTEN UP”

Choose a child to close his eyes or you can use a blindfold. Place one of the snacks somewhere in the room. Choose another child to direct that child to where the treat is, just by giving verbal directions. When the child locates the snack, he can take off the blindfold, enjoy the snack; the game can be repeated until everyone has had a turn.

Say: Just like following someone's directions to find your snack, God has given all of us directions in the Bible about serving others...God said it is more blessed to give than to receive. God said we need to serve in the kingdom of God by serving and volunteering at church.

At Celebration Church, we have lots and lots and lots of volunteers that serve others. Make a list of all the volunteer spots you've noticed at church. Think about what would happen if those people suddenly stopped volunteering and serving – what would happen to our church? We definitely need and appreciate greatly every volunteer that serves at church – no matter where they serve!

Say a blessing over the many, many people who “do something for the Kingdom of God” by serving others.

RETURN: Return to the Life Group and have the children share their Bible memory verse. Choose two children to play the game “Listen Up” again, explaining that when we listen to God, He has great blessings for us because of our obedience. God wants and the church needs volunteers to bless others by using the gifts God has blessed them with to serve others. The children then join in the prayer and fellowship time.



May I Serve You?

Bethany's mom worked hard. She got up early every morning, spent some time reading her Bible and praying for her husband, who worked nights, and her children and then her busy day began; fixing breakfast for Bethany and Jeremy and the making their lunches before getting them off to catch the school bus. After they got on the school bus, their mom, Tracey headed off to work at a local restaurant called Webster's Grill. She got there just in time for the morning breakfast crowd and worked hard waiting tables and carrying heavy trays of delicious eggs and waffles to some of her favorite customers. Everyone loved Tracey. She was always smiling and cheering even the grumpiest of customers up in the morning by being such a great waitress. She usually stayed on to work the lunch crowd, too. Webster's was right across from the business district in a busy part of town. And Webster's food was so good, that there was always a line of people outside, waiting to get a table. Tracey worked as a waitress ever since Bethany was born. She loved to help others – but not just at Webster's - she loved helping at church, too. Every Sunday, you would find her in the Children's Ministry, caring for the little children, teaching them about Jesus.

Bethany and Jeremy wondered where their mom got all her energy. How could she work all day serving people at the restaurant and then work again on the weekend, serving at church? They tried to tell her to take a break but she wouldn't hear of it! She loved the Lord so much and loved serving Him at church that she looked forward every Sunday to volunteering with the little children, so their parents could attend the service and know their children were in good hands.

She explained to her children one Sunday after church that the reason she loved serving so much was out of her love for Jesus. And if Jesus could serve others, so could she! In fact, volunteering at church was one of the highlights of her week. Many times, a young mom or dad would come in with their small toddler and Tracey would scoop up that child into her arms and reassure the parents that he was safe and sound – and tell them to go to the worship service and enjoy the message. When that mom or dad left, Tracey worked extra hard to make sure that child felt her love and the love of Jesus.

Mom began to cry as she shared the story one day of a young mom who looked very tired and a bit hesitant to drop off her little girl in the nursery one Sunday. The nursery worker, Mrs. Helen, insisted

she go to the worship service and be encouraged by the message and promised to take care of her precious little girl. The mom left in tears and after service was over, she was still crying – but this time, it was tears of joy. That day, that young mom gave her heart to Jesus. And...her life was never the same since.

“Wow, that's funny, Mom...we have a Mrs. Helen in our nursery, too!” said Bethany. “What a coincidence!”

“No coincidence, sweetie...you see - that tired and teary-eyed young mom who brought her little girl to the nursery that day to Mrs. Helen to care for was *me!!!* And *you* were that sweet little girl!”

“ME? I didn't know that, Mom” said Bethany. “Me neither” said Jeremy. “Tell us the rest of the story!”

“Well, your dad was working nights, like he does now, and I used to come home from Webster's so tired – too tired to even go to church. But your dad said it would do me some good to hear about Jesus and get refreshed before I started another week. Refreshed? How could I get refreshed when I was so tired to start with...but God knew what He was doing when I walked into that church that day! I saw the place buzzing with volunteers – someone helped show me where to park; someone else opened the door for me when I came in and made me feel welcomed; someone showed me where I could get a nice hot cup of coffee; someone else walked me over to the nursery where I could bring my daughter – I was amazed at what I saw...it was like a beehive – people busily serving the Lord together...I saw musicians on the stage, people in the choir and sound booth, folks serving in the café and bookstore; people telling me about Life Groups; people helping with the Lord's Supper and praying with me after I accepted Christ. I was overwhelmed by the loving people of that church – *the same church we attend today* – that I made a commitment right then and there that I wanted to help young moms like me feel loved and welcomed – and if I did my part – and everyone else did their part – we could really turn this city and the kingdom of God upside down by serving others!”

Bethany and Jeremy just smiled...really proud of their mom and so blessed by her story. “Hey Mom...do you think you could use a few extra hands in the nursery this Sunday?” “Always...who do you have in mind” she asked. “Us” said Bethany and Jeremy. “We want to do our part too, and what better place to start that through your example of serving.”