



fivetalents

GROWING FAITH & TALENT

Sunday School Curriculum ages 9 - 13

Five Lessons:

- What Does God Say About the Poor?
- How to Respond to People in Need
- Discovering Your Talents
- How to Use & Manage Resources Wisely
- Create Your Own Business

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LESSON 2: HOW TO RESPOND TO PEOPLE IN NEED

KEY LESSON:

God calls us to be compassionate and generous to those in need.

SUPPLIES:

- Handout C
- Colored pencils, markers, and/or crayons
- Bibles
- Map (bonus lesson)

ACTIVITY: My Hero Is... (15-20 minutes)

1. Explain to the children that a hero is someone who is admired for having courage. They don't have to be famous or win a lot of awards. A hero can be anyone we look up to with honourable qualities.

2. Ask the children to list off a few honorable qualities. Possible Answers:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| • Honesty | • Kindness |
| • Loyalty | • Generosity |
| • Compassion | • Responsibility |
| • Forgiveness | • Courage |

3. Provide each child with art supplies and Handout C. Give the children 5-10 minutes to draw a picture of their hero and write a sentence or two on the reasons why they chose the person they did.

4. Gather the children together and give each one a few minutes to show their drawing to the class and explain who their hero is. (If you have a large class, allow a handful of children to volunteer.)

Ask them some of the following questions as they present their drawings:

- a. Why did you choose this person to be your hero?
- b. What honourable qualities do they have?
- c. How have they shown courage in their life?
- d. Do you think God is well pleased with them?

5. Encourage the children to give their drawing to their hero and thank them for being a positive influence in their lives!

BIBLE STORY: Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralysed Man (15-20 minutes)

Read the following lesson aloud:

Question: Last week we talked about one woman who caught Jesus' eye. Does anyone remember why?

Allow time for the children to answer.

Answer: The poor widow humbly gave away all her money and trusted that God would provide for her needs.

That's right! Jesus didn't count the amount of money being donated. Instead, it was the widow's generous heart that Jesus noticed. Just like Jesus, we too should take notice and care for people in need. Today, we will hear about four men who used their faith in Jesus to help someone else in need.

BIBLE STORY: (continued)

Read Luke 5:17-20

“One day Jesus was teaching, and Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting there. They had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was with Jesus to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralysed man on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”

Question: Does anyone know what happened next? Allow time for the children to answer.

Answer:

- Jesus healed the paralysed man!
- The man walked out of the house on his own two legs praising God.

Let’s imagine for a second that Jesus is right here speaking to us, when suddenly (look up) we hear a loud noise and debris starts falling onto our heads. (Look around) What is that? Next thing you know, the ceiling opens, the bright sunlight shines into the room, and a man is being lowered down on a mat by ropes. That’s not something you see every day! The four men made a hole in the roof because there was no other way into the crowded house! They were determined to get the paralysed man in front of Jesus because they cared for him that much and wanted to see him healed.

Question: Why didn’t Jesus get angry at the men for destroying the roof? Allow time for the children to answer.

Answer:

- Jesus saw the faith of the four men.
- The men were helping their friend in need.

Jesus performed the miracle, but it was through the faith and the determination of these friends that the paralysed man was healed. These men demonstrated faith, because they went out of their way to help someone in need. These men also demonstrated determination because they never gave up. The paralysed man was helpless on his own, but collectively they put their trust in the only one who could heal him, Jesus.

Now that’s what I call a hero!

MEMORY VERSE:

Practise and encourage the children to memorize Philippians 2:4 this week. (5 minutes)

Philippians 2:4 “Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

TAKE HOME LESSON:

Read the following at the end of class. (2 minutes)

We too should have faith in Jesus! When we put our trust in him, he forgives our sins and makes things right between us and God. Jesus also helps us to use our talents to serve and care for others. We can help others just like the friends who helped the paralysed man.

Think about ways you can put your faith in Jesus and trust him to help you and others. Are you good at maths? You could help tutor another student! Do you enjoy being outside? You could help elderly neighbours by shoveling snow off of their paths or raking leaves! Or you could save up your pocket money to buy items for your local homeless shelter. God is pleased when we trust in him and go out of our way to help others in need.

BONUS LESSON:

Read the story of Natalana Ahok, a Five Talents hero to the class. (10 minutes)

Today I am going to tell you about a hero named, Natalana Ahok. Natalana is a woman from South Sudan, Africa (show the children where South Sudan is on the map). She is the fifth wife of her husband. That's right, the fifth wife! Men don't have multiple wives in our country, but in South Sudan many men do. Because Natalana was the fifth wife, there was no money left over to pay for her five sons' school fees or for food to eat. Natalana was very sad she couldn't provide for her sons' needs, and the other people in her village judged her for it.

Natalana had a dream to start her own business, but she had no education. She didn't even know how to read or write. One day, Natalana heard about a class to learn business skills and how to manage money - she enrolled immediately!

Natalana was overjoyed with everything she learned. Her dream to start a business was finally coming true when she bought a small refrigerator so that she could sell cold drinks. Cold drinks are very popular in South Sudan because it can get as hot as 41 degrees C in the summer. Wow! I know I would want a cold drink in that heat. How about you?

Natalana's cold drink business was going so well that she started two more businesses – a restaurant and a convenience store! With all of the money she had made from her businesses, Natalana was able to send all five of her sons to school, feed them good food, and buy them medicine when they were sick.

Natalana had to have a lot of faith in God and determination to follow her dream.

Ask the children:

- How did the story of Natalana make you feel?
- In what ways is Natalana a hero?

Answer: Natalana used her faith in God and determination to follow her dreams and start her own business. As a result, she now has enough money to provide for her five sons' needs!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, give us faith and determination to be heroes by following You. Help us to be compassionate and generous towards those in need.

