

Created to Serve

Lesson 1

Objective:

Children will discover their unique spiritual gifts and abilities and how to use them to serve God and others.

Scripture:

Genesis 1:26-31; 2:20-23

Memory Verse:

As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10).

Faith Questions:

Who created you? (God created me.)

Why did God create you? (God created me for His own glory.)

Why should you glorify God? (I should glorify God because He made me and takes care of me.)

Planning:

Materials Needed:

Opening: Children's music CD, "All About Me" activity from "Finding New Truths," pencils

Introduction: Skeleton from Teacher Resource Packet Lesson 1 (To be used in Bible Story and Review also), brads

Learning God's Word: Six word strips from Teacher's Resource Packet Lesson 1, blindfold scarf

Review: "Finding New Truths" page 3

Loving God's Word: Four half sheets of paper, colorful markers

Craft: "My Gifts Plaque" from "Finding New Truths," large craft sticks, glue, markers, magnets

Snack: Grapes, cheese, sandwich bags, juice boxes, and napkins

For Extra Time: Spiritual Gifts Maze, page 4 of "Finding New Truths," pencils

Before Class:

Introduction: Cut skeleton out and put together with brads. You may want to use a nail or an ice pick to start the hole.

Bible Learning: Cut out word strips.

Loving God's Word: On one sheet of paper print, "As every man hath received the gift." Second sheet: "even so minister the same one to another." Third: "as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." Fourth: "1 Peter 4:10."

Snack: Bag grapes and cheese cubes in separate sandwich bags.

Teacher's Devotional . . .

Did you ever play church when you were a child? We would turn the footstool on its end for a pulpit so my brother could preach. My sister got the "church" all set up, and I would tell the preacher what to preach about.

Even then our spiritual gifts were evident. My sister, with the gift of hospitality, made sure everything looked beautiful. I, already loving word choices, told my brother how to preach.

God looks into the tiny seed that He himself has formed, and sees wrapped within it the beautiful flower, the shrub, or the lofty, wide-spreading tree. So does He see the possibilities in every human being. We are here for a purpose. God has given us His plan for our lives, and He desires us to reach the highest standard of development.

— Ellen White

And my brother, who is now a pastor, used exaggerated gestures to get his point across.

Using the gifts God gave us brings Him joy. Too often we say yes to activities outside of our gifting which only increases our stress levels. Polish up your "no" and say "yes" to God's gifting. In that "yes" you will experience joy, increased creativity, and energy. God created us to serve — let's serve.

Focusing

Opening

Play music as the children gather. Greet each child and direct them to the art table. Instruct them to fill out the blanks on their "All About Me" box. Tell the children to find someone who shares favorites with them.

Prayer and Song Time

Say, **Did you get the lines on your "All About Me" filled in? (Jordan), what is your favorite food?** Ask the children if his answer is the same as theirs. Discuss favorite colors and seasons. Pray, **Thank you, Creator God, for making each child unique and special. Thank you for the plan you have for each of them. Help them to trust you to fulfill your plan. Amen.** Sing the theme song while you worship together.

Introduction

Say, **Usually when we see skeletons we think of Halloween and scary things.** (Hold up skeleton.) Ask if they know why God made their skeleton. **God made our amazing skeletons to provide framework to support the body and to protect delicate and important parts in our body such as the cranium that protects the brain and the vertebral column that protects the spinal cord.** Encourage them to say with you, **Our Creator God is Amazing!**





LEARNING GOD'S WORD

Say, Our story today is in the first book in the Bible — Genesis. Why do you think God named the book Genesis? Listen to answers then say, Genesis means beginnings. This is the beginning of the Bible and tells the story of the beginning of the world. The Bible tells us that in the beginning there was no world. Can you imagine it? God created our world in six days. He made light, water, sky, all the plant life, creature life, and animal life. He created all these things just by speaking.

God looked at everything He made and was happy. But God wanted someone who would be made in His image — someone who could walk and talk with Him. So God took some dirt from the ground and formed it into a man. This man's name was Adam. On the seventh day God rested — just like we do on Sundays. But God wasn't finished creating. He wanted a woman to share Adam's life.

Hold up skeleton. Say, This is what Adam's bones looked like when God created him. But God wanted to make someone to help Adam so he took one of his ribs and formed a woman.

Some wonder if all men are missing a rib. We are genetically pre-programmed in our DNA at the cellular level to reproduce exact replicas of ourselves. If you have a finger amputated, the children you produce will not be born without a finger. Men have the same amount of ribs as women — twelve pair.

God had a plan for creation. He made the world and all that's in it first so there would be a safe place when He created man and woman. God created man and woman to glorify God. Just like God had a plan for creation, He has a plan for your life, too. We can trust God to help us fulfill His plan. We should glorify God because He made us and takes

care of us. (Hold up *God made me* and *God cares for me* word strips.) How can we glorify God? We glorify God when we enjoy His creation. (Hold up *enjoy* strip.) We glorify God when we trust Him with all the scary things in our lives. (Hold up *trust* strip.) We glorify God when we thank Him for all the good things He gives us. (Hold up *thank* strip.) And we glorify God when we obey His commands. (Hold up *obey* strip.)

God Made Me

God Cares for Me

Enjoy

Trust

Thank

Obey

God's creation is amazing — each of you is His creation. Glorify God and serve others.

Lesson Review

Ask the children to look at the skeleton on page 3 of "Finding New Truths." Hold up skeleton. Ask, Which bone did God use to create Eve? (rib) Discuss the other labeled bones and ways they help us serve God. (Patella for prayer, tibia for taking out the trash, phalanges for writing encouraging notes, skull for protecting our brain so we can choose to love God and help others, radius for raking or sweeping.) Have the children write the words by the correct bone. If time permits, remove the brads from the skeleton. Blindfold a child and see if he can reconstruct the skeleton. Allow each child a turn as time permits. Say, God gives us all different gifts. Each one of us has an important part in the body of Christ and its ministry in serving others. Remind the children of the skeleton on their handout. Explain that they can cut their skeleton apart to play the game at home.

What Does God Want?

Lay the six word strips on the middle of the table. Instruct children to fold their hands as if in prayer. Explain that you are going to read a sentence about how we are to glorify God. The one who gets the correct word first will stand and read the strip. Play several times, mixing up the sentences.

We should glorify God because _____ and _____. (God Made Me and God Cares for Me word strips.)

God wants us to _____ His creation. (Enjoy)

God wants us to _____ Him with the scary things in our lives. (*Trust*)

God wants us to _____ Him for all our blessings. (*Thank*)

God wants us to _____ Him. (*Obey*)



LOVING GOD'S WORD

Say the verse: ***As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Peter 4:10).*** Say, **A steward is one who looks after something left in his**

Manifold: many or various

care. God wants us to take care of the gifts He has given us. An-

other way to say this verse is, "Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God."

Divide the class in three groups. Give one verse card to each group. Instruct each group to say their part of the verse. Hold up the verse reference and have them say it in unison. Ask the groups to exchange verse parts and repeat the verse. Continue reading and exchanging verse cards, going faster and faster.

Say, **Did you hear the word every? It is telling us we have all received a gift from God and are responsible to use our gift to help others as we tell them about God.**



LIVING GOD'S WORD

Craft: Spiritual Gifts Plaque

Use the spiritual discerner below to help children find their spiritual gift. Instruct the children to cut out the plaque on page 2 of "Find-



ing New Truths." Then allow them to write their spiritual gift on the plaque's line. Instruct them to glue the craft sticks where indicated. They may add stripes, dots or squiggly lines to the sticks with markers. Apply magnet to back of top stick.

Ask the children to listen closely to the questions below. When finished ask, **Did you see yourself in any of the spiritual gifts? What is your favorite way to serve others?** (Encourage children to choose the way that best describes them.) Listen carefully for answers. They may need guidance, so if you have observed a gift, gently lead them to the answer. The students may wish you to reread one or more of them or ask questions to clarify. One way to discern a spiritual gift is to ask what they like to do or how they help or interact with others.

- 1. Do you like to comfort others; feel bad when others are hurt; and are gentle with others' feelings? Are you attracted to people who are hurting? Your spiritual gift may be mercy.**
- 2. Do you like to help others even if nobody notices? Are you the first one to volunteer to do the behind-the-scenes work? Do you like to fix broken toys for your siblings? Do you ever sneak in and make your parents' bed or surprise your mother by sweeping or dusting? Your spiritual gift may be acts of service.**
- 3. When you get your allowance or birthday money, do you want to give some of it to help others? Are there times you give or share your possessions to those who don't have as much as you do? Does it make you happy to give to people in need? Your spiritual gift may be giving.**
- 4. Do you like to tell others about Jesus? Do you talk about Jesus to your unsaved friends? Do you get excited about leading someone to Christ? Your spiritual gift may be evangelism.**
- 5. Do you like to write encouraging notes to your friends or teachers? Do you like to give small gifts like a candy bar or new pen to your friend or sibling? Do you like to bake cookies and take some to your**

neighbor? Do you like to make crafts and projects for gifts? Your spiritual gift may be encouragement.

6. Do you like to explain the Bible to your friends? Do you like to share new information you learn? Do you like to show those younger than you how to do things? Your spiritual gift may be teaching.

Snack

Explain that the children will have a chance to serve each other. Divide the children in groups of two. If there is an odd number, pair yourself with a child. Instruct the children to ask their partner to choose between grapes or cheese cubes. Ask them to serve their partner their choice of food, a juice carton, and a napkin. Choose a child to thank God for the food. While the children are eating, ask, **How did it make you feel to serve your friend?** (Allow time for answers.) **God didn't create us to be selfish and uncaring, but to serve.**

Teacher's Tip

If you suspect the children didn't eat breakfast, you could move the snack to near the beginning of class. Just as Jesus fed those who came to hear Him teach, we can feed those in our care. Not only do they need it physically, but it adds fuel for their brains, too.

Closing

Say, **Thank you for coming to class today. Who can tell me who made you? (God) Why did God create you? (to glorify Him) Why should you glorify God? (because He made me and takes care of me) Who would like to thank God for creating us to glorify God and serve others with our spiritual gifts?** Choose a child who volunteers.

For Extra Time

Spiritual Gift Maze

Have the children turn to the back of the hand-out. Ask a volunteer to read about Landon. Give the children time to find the money Landon wanted to give. Continue until the maze is complete.

Charades

Say, **Even though God has given us spiritual gifts, we need to practice them to make us the best we can be. If you have the gift of music, then you need to practice your instrument. If you have the gift of service, then practice helping by washing dishes for your mother or picking up sticks in a neighbor's yard.** Explain that they will be playing charades. Each child will act out something they could do to practice their unique gift. (Example: playing a trombone, mixing up cookies, cheering a sad friend, etc.)

Bible Activity:

What Did Jesus Do?

Say, **Jesus was an example for all of us in the way He served God and those around Him. Let's find these verses in the Bible to see how He served.** Encourage the children to find the verses in their Bibles and then discuss which spiritual gift Jesus used.

1. Matthew 20:34 (Mercy)
2. John 2:7-10 (Acts of Service)
3. Matthew 5:1, 2 (Teaching)
4. John 3:3 (Evangelism)
5. Matthew 6:25 (Encouragement)
6. Mark 10:45 (Giving)