

SEPTEMBER 2020

SCHOOL MINISTRY

Mailing



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

School Ministry



Early Childhood Devotions

FOR CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 7



SENT TO SERVE **MATTHEW 20:28**

FOCUS: Freed to Serve. Galatians 5:13

Baby Moses: Rescued to Serve (Exodus 2:1–10)

Scripture makes clear that God intends His children to live lives of service, following the example set by Jesus. The narrative of Moses shows that God, even in the most adverse circumstances, frees His children for service to others. We guide the children we teach to follow God’s loving plan in their own lives, helping them to recognize that each has been chosen to serve a high, noble and biblical calling. May the Spirit of Jesus give us the will and the skill to fulfill this calling.

Welcome/Greeting

Dedicate time to joyfully greet each child by name upon entry into the classroom. Research has shown that

doing so during the first five seconds upon each child’s arrival nurtures a positive outlook for the day.

Tell the Story

YOU WILL NEED: Red construction paper, scissors.

DO: Fold the paper in half.

Dramatically tell this narrative as you gradually cut out a heart shape. As you conclude, unfold the cut-out to reveal the heart.

Pharaoh, the leader of the land of Egypt, did not want more boy babies to be born to God’s people. He was afraid the baby boys would grow up and become his enemies. Moses’ mother loved him very much, so when he was born she hid him. Then, when she couldn’t hide him any longer, she placed baby Moses in a water-proof basket and hid him among the tall plants growing in the nearby Nile River.

Moses’ sister stood nearby watching over him. Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the river to take a bath. Seeing the basket, she sent someone to get it. Opening the basket, she saw the crying baby and felt sorry for him. Pharaoh’s daughter said, “This is one of the Hebrew babies.” Seeing this, Moses’ sister went to her and asked, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to feed the baby for you?” “Yes! Go!” said Pharaoh’s daughter. Moses’ sister went and got her own mother, who was also the mother of



baby Moses. Pharaoh's daughter said to Moses' mother, "Take this baby and feed him for me. I will pay you." So Moses' mother took him home with her. Then, when he grew a little older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter who adopted him as her son and named him Moses, saying, "I took him out of the water."

God loved baby Moses and had a plan for him. Moses was to be the leader of God's people when he grew up. God loves you and has a special plan for each of you to serve God and others right now, AND as you grow older. God loved and rescued Moses to serve God's people. *Unfold and show the heart cut-out.* Because God loves us and sent Jesus to rescue us, we want to serve God and others with our whole hearts.

Pray:

Dear God in heaven,
You have work for me to do:
Serving You and others, too.
Help me tell of Your great love,
Sent to all from heav'n above. Amen.

Remember the Story

BIBLE WORDS TO REMEMBER

Pre-K & K: Grades 1 & 2: "Serve the Lord with all your heart" (1 SAM. 12:20B).

Activities

CREATE: Heart Art. Using tempera paint or other print medium, guide children to make handprints on precut construction paper hearts. Display with the words from 1 Samuel 12:20b.

DO: "Camp Serve." Invite children to think of ways to serve individually, as a class, and with family and friends (community). List these on a chart titled "Camp Serve." Throughout the year engage in acts of service, inviting and encouraging broad-based participation (home, school, congregation, community). Place a heart by each service activity when accomplished. Celebrate! Option: Order adjustable style baseball caps for children and



adults imprinted with the words "Camp Serve." Wear these when engaged in service activities.

SING: "Jesus Wants Me for a Helper," *Little Ones Sing Praise (LOSP)*, p. 33; "God Chose Me," *LOSP*, p. 107.

Sending

YOU WILL NEED: A heart to pass.

Gather children in a "Sending Circle." Review the day. Pray, inviting children to add prayer thoughts as the heart is passed and received by each. Children may choose to silently pass the heart along. Dismiss, saying to each child upon exiting, "Serve the Lord with all your heart."

Live the Story

The sacrificial love of Jesus frees us. Gratitude compels us to serve others in His name. Daily model selfless service, both personally and professionally, inviting others to join along the way.



Rattles & Prattles

A RESOURCE FOR CAREGIVERS OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS



Freed and Chosen to Serve

“...THROUGH LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER” (GAL. 5:13).

September Theme: God chose people long ago to serve.

Bible Story: God chose Moses to be the leader of His people.

Scripture References: Exodus 1:8–22, 2:1–10, 3:1–12

What it teaches us: Throughout the Bible we read stories of people God chose to serve Him. Moses was chosen to free God’s people from slavery in Egypt. The stories of Moses and others all point to Jesus, God’s Son, who would be the Servant Savior. Jesus suffered, died and came alive to save all people. Our love for Jesus moves us to follow His example of service.

Prepare to teach

› **Read** the story in the references; if possible, read in a study Bible.

› **Think:** God’s people were slaves, forced to make bricks for Pharaoh’s building projects. Threatened by their increasing population, Pharaoh commanded his soldiers to throw the baby boys into the Nile River. Amram and Jochebed hid their baby, first in their home and second in a basket boat they hid in the reeds of the Nile River. God saved their baby from death in a unique way. We’ll share more of Moses’ story next month.

› **Pray:** Dear God, You made, love and save Your people. You sent Moses to save Your people long ago. You sent Jesus to save us. Send Your Spirit to be with and help us show Your love as we love and serve. Amen.



WORSHIP TIME AND BIBLE STORY PRESENTATION



You will also need

- > **Songbook:** *Little Ones Sing Praise* (CPH, 1989)
- > **Bible;** picture of Jesus (do an internet search)
- > **Pictures:** Moses and family, Moses in a basket, Miriam watching him, the princess, Moses as an adult. Reduce sizes to 2"; glue in circle shapes; color; cut out; laminate; cut out and use to make tree cookies (or glove puppets — glue pieces of adhesive Velcro to the back).

Gather for Worship

Sing (use melody “Mulberry Bush”): **Boys and girls, come sit with me... Boys and girls, come sit with me, right here on the floor.**

Invocation: Sing (use melody “Mulberry Bush”): **We gather here in God’s name...Father, Son and Spirit, too.**

Opening Song

Show picture of Jesus. **Jesus loves each of us. We learn about Jesus’ love in the Bible** (show Bible). Sing “Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” (*LOSP*, p. 42).

Bible Story

Chant the following rhyme; use visuals (tree cookies/ glove puppet).

- > Show Moses’ family: **Moses and his family lived a long time ago. God loved and cared for them; the Bible tells us so. Then there was a mean king who told them what to do: “Make me some bricks — lots of them, too.” Then the mean king smiled a mean, mean smile. Told his soldiers: Throw boy babies into the river Nile.**

- > Show Moses in basket: **Mommy made a basket where Moses could hide.**
- > Show Miriam: **Big sister watched — he was safe inside.**
- > Show princess: **The princess found Moses, said, “Stay with me; you’ll be my baby, and safe you will be.”**
- > Show adult Moses: **When Moses grew up, God chose him to be — leader of His people who would set them free — from the mean king and slavery.**

What the Story Teaches: God loved and cared for Moses and his family. God loves and cares for us. He sent His Son, Jesus. He was hurt, died and came alive so we and all people can have life forever with Him.

Song to Sing: “I’m As Happy as Can Be” (*LOSP*, p. 25)

Time to Pray

Thank You, God, for love and care. Help me love and help me care for ALL people, everywhere. Amen.

Closing/Benediction

(Use “Mulberry Bush” tune.) **Now it’s time to say goodbye... Now it’s time to say goodbye; remember God loves and cares for you.**



CURRICULAR MATERIALS //

IDEA STARTERS for integrating the Bible story and theme into STREAMS (curriculum)

S Science and Nutrition

- > God's people made bricks. Make mud and create bricks, etc., and/or have water in the sensory table and items that float.
- > Eat a "brick" (e.g. fudgesicles), or bread and fish (small crackers & goldfish snacks). Wash hands and pray before eating.

T Technology

- > Tools used to make mud, e.g., pails, spoons...

R Reading and Language Arts

- > **Books:** The Berenstain's *New Baby* by Jan and Stan Berenstain. Make a class book with pictures of the children and their families.
- > **Rhyme:** *Rock-a-bye Baby*. Change last 2 lines. Mother will make baby a shawl. God will keep baby, cradle and all.

E Engineering

- > God's people made bricks and built buildings for the king.
- > We can build, too: Use wooden blocks and build towers, etc.

A Arts (art, music and physical education)

- > Use sponges to make prints of brick shapes/rectangles.
- > Invite the children to sit on the floor in hula hoops, pretending they are in little boats (like Moses' basket). Sing, "Row, row, row your boat, gently in the Nile. Merrily, merrily.... God takes care of me."

CONNECT WITH PARENTS in your newsletter

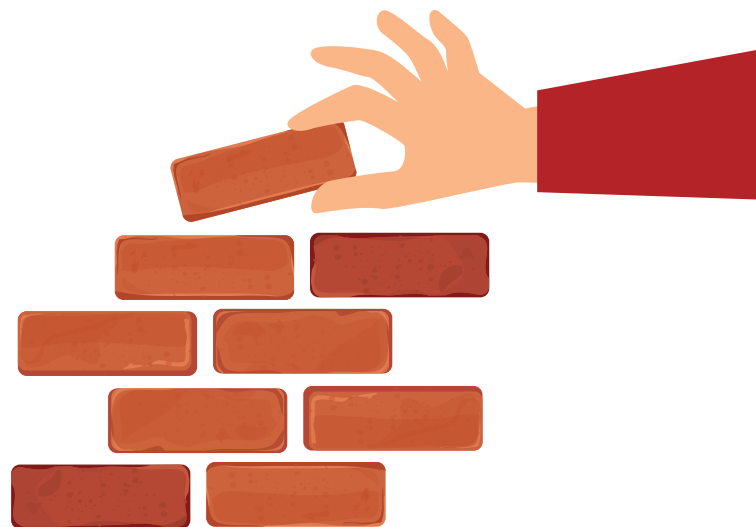
Share information on things the center is doing to keep children safe and healthy, including drop-off, pick up.

M Mathematics

- > **Rote Counting:** Count number of people in family. Moses had five; how many do you have?

S Social Studies

- > God gave Moses a family/princess who loved and cared for him. Parents take care of us and have other jobs. Moses' dad made bricks and his mom made bread and got fish from the river. Discuss jobs.





Time Out for Directors

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TIPS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER ADMINISTRATORS



Everything Changes ... Or Does It?

Comments in recent months on social media, and in personal conversations, are often filled with phrases like “it’s all changed” or “it will never be the same” or perhaps even “everything is different now.”

With the multiple changes that have occurred worldwide following the arrival of COVID-19, there are certainly parts of the world that are different. As you consider education, it’s true — there are things that have changed. But, ponder for a moment ... has “everything” changed? Is that accurate, or potentially a false narrative?

As you return to in-classroom learning this school year (which many are hoping and praying for), know that there are many modifications that have been implemented for schools of all levels. You may even be wrestling with some of the updates, modifications and requirements that are in front of you. If you are stressing out over these updates, know that you are not alone. Teachers around the world are finding themselves maneuvering through a plethora of “new normals” — at least for a while.

Social distancing for early childhood students, sharing and cleaning of toys, arrival and distancing protocols, and monitoring potential illness symptoms are all part of teacher and administrative responsibilities during this new school year. How you manage these tasks, in cooperation with colleagues, can help your mindset as you embrace the changes that are present. Be sure to collaborate with colleagues about practices so you are all in agreement; this can prevent conflict later on. If you are in an administrative role at your school, be sure to utilize resources available from local school districts, LCMS district education executives, and colleagues from neighboring Lutheran (and



other parochial) schools. Networking and learning from one another is a key aspect of good leadership and learning.

The time you invest in preparing for in-classroom learning with your students will be significant this year. You will need to do much planning and environment setup. These are investments — investments of time for the benefit of your students’ health and safety, and your own. When you and your students are healthy and safe, then strong relationships focused on Christ, and excellent learning, can be fostered.

So, as you spend time preparing, understanding new protocols and making adjustments to what you have done in your classroom for many previous years, reflect on what has and has not changed. You still have a calling in education, you still have a God that loves you, and you still have students who are eager to spend time with you.

As the Apostle Paul writes in Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ



is the same yesterday and today and forever.” Always remember that the love Christ has for you, and your students, still remains strong. His grace, mercy, peace and forgiveness will never depart from you or change; His promises are everlasting.

As an educator and leader in Lutheran schools, you are sent to serve. You are sent to serve in your community, congregation, school and classroom. You serve others because you have already been served by Christ’s death and resurrection. The road traveled by Jesus Christ was not one of perfection; He encountered ridicule, anger and physical harm from others.

What does it really mean to be sent to serve?

As you think about the word “serve,” you probably think about an action taken, perhaps for another person. When you visit a restaurant, a server takes your drink and food order and makes sure you receive it. In tennis, a serve is when the ball is hit from one player to another. Serving is really an important action; but it is not always glamorous or easy. In ministry, serving is an act of giving of one’s self and expecting nothing in return. Serving others is a selfless act that is done out of love, care and gratitude. As a Christian, you serve others because of what God has done for you; your act of love to others shows Christ’s love.

It is easy to become disheartened when you think of the changes that have happened to education during the previous months, as COVID-19 entered into the picture. Community life has changed, home life has changed for many, education has changed and may continue to change for an unknown period of time. Even with these uncertainties, know that Christ continues to care for you and provide you opportunities to reduce stress and anxiety. As Scripture says in Matthew 11:28, “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Christ has already carried the burden — the cross — so that you may live eternally in heaven. What a glorious message this is to carry with you each day as you serve in ministry!

As a leader in educational ministry, you lead others in your words and actions. During this pandemic period, it is important for you to lead with tender care, genuine kindness and strong spiritual guidance. The planning, delivery and relationships you have with others will show others the love of Christ. During this unprecedented time, people need to know His love and care.

May God bless you now and always in your ministry. Be regular in your worship, fervent in your prayer and frequent in your study of Scripture.

Time Out for Directors

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