

X-MEN: HOW TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Unit 3: Service

Welcome to Unit 3 of X-MEN: How To Be A Christian. This curriculum is geared for upper elementary children to teach them the basic tenets and disciplines of Christianity. Think of it as Christianity 101 for children. The lessons are a mix of theory and practice best done in small groups or class settings where children can ask questions and participate in discussions.



Fun Fact: The Greek word for Christ is "**ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ**" and the Chi Rho is an early Christian symbol (like today's fish symbol) taken from the first two letters, X and P. If we take that first letter, X, that stood for the C in Christ, you can say we really are X-Men!

There is a Workbook for the children that goes along with this curriculum. I recommend printing one for each child and keeping it in a safe place at church so the children don't have to worry about losing it or remembering to bring it every Sunday.

I also recommend having a Bible for each child, or encouraging or giving them incentives to bring their own every week.

It is my prayer that children will have a basic understanding of Christian beliefs and disciplines that will become a foundation for their spiritual journey. This unit is about service. Service is part of being a Christian. If we claim to want to be like Jesus, we need to remember that Jesus served many people in many places. The whole point of His coming to Earth is to save us, which is a service He did for us.

I also encourage you, leader, not to discount the ability of your children to understand any concepts that seem too big, too hard, or only for adults and big church. Children are more than capable of serving others to glorify God.

-Angela of Kidmin Together

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TOGETHER

UNIT 3: Service

Hebrews 13:16 reminds us, "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

There are many passages in the Bible about service. Jesus, Himself, came to Earth to serve (Matthew 20:28). Service is a Christian discipline that many think is optional, but if we want to be Christ-like, if our goal is to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, service becomes as much a part of our lives as prayer, worship, and reading the Bible.

Unit 3 will introduce children to the Christian discipline of service through theory and practice.

Lesson 1 is the theory of this unit. It will teach children what service is and God's call for us to serve. It will also challenge them to come up with a class service project.

Lesson 2-4 are not actually lessons. These are 3 weeks your class has to complete a service project. You can use this time however you want or need, but be sure your children take the lead in planning, preparing for, and executing the service project.

You can also use Lesson 4 (or week 4) to do have a small class party and time to discuss and reflect with the children about what happened in the service project and how they saw God moved.

Overview

Lesson 1: What is Service?

Lesson 2: Our Class Service Project Week 1

Lesson 3: Our Class Service Project Week 2

Lesson 4: Our Class Service Project Week 3

Lesson 1: What is Service?

Icebreaker

Ask: What is the best thing you've ever done for someone else?

Say: Today we're starting Unit 3 of X-Men: How To Be A Christian. Heroes do the best for other people, and as X-Men for Jesus, God wants us to do the same thing through service.

Ask: What does service mean?

Allow for answers.

Say: Those are great answers! The Bible has a lot to say about service. Here are a few of those things. Refer to your workbook for the Bible verses and fill in the blanks.

1. 1 Peter 4:10 (ICB), "Each of you received a spiritual gift. God has shown you his grace in giving you different gifts. And you are like servants who are responsible for using God's gifts. So be good servants and use your gifts to serve each other."
2. Acts 20:35 (ICB), "I showed you in all things that you should work as I did and help the weak. I taught you to remember the words of Jesus. He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"
3. Proverbs 11:25 (ICB), "A person who gives to others will get richer. Whoever helps others will himself be helped."
4. Hebrews 13:16 (ICB), "Do not forget to do good to others. And share with them what you have. These are the sacrifices that please God."
5. Deuteronomy 15:11 (ICB), "There will always be poor people in the land. So I command you to give freely to your brothers. Give freely to the poor and needy in your land."

Say: Our greatest example of service is Jesus. It says in Matthew 20:28 that Jesus came to serve, not to be served.

Matthew 20:28 (ICB) "So it is with the Son of Man. The Son of Man did not come for other people to serve him. He came to serve others. The Son of Man came to give his life to save many people."

Say: There are three things we have that we can use to serve others. They are:

1. Talents: these are our gifts or skills. These are things we know how to do. It can be a talent like singing or dancing. It can be a skill like public speaking or planning things. It can be whatever we're able to do.
2. Time: We can use our time to serve others. Even if we think we don't have any talents, we have time to do what others need us to do like pass out bread in a soup kitchen or listen to someone who's going through a problem.
3. Treasures: these are things we have. It can be money or it can be things. We can donate money or things to those who need them more.

Our talents, time, and treasures overlap when we serve others. We're always using time, right? We use our time when we donate our treasures or use our talents to raise money to donate to the needy.

Did you know that when we serve others, we're also serving God?

Matthew 25:40 (NIV), "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

Say: We're going to use our talents, time, and treasures to serve others. We're going to come up with a class service project. A service project is a project we'll come up together that will serve other people. Turn to your Service Project page in your workbooks.

Leader/Teacher Notes:

Give time for children to fill out the Service Project page. Then discuss and come up with a class service project together.

1. *What are the most common talents & time & treasures children in your class have?*
2. *What are the most common needs your children have come up with?*
3. *What are the most common service project ideas your children came up with?*
4. *Which service project ideas fit into your timeline?*

Tips:

- 1. You can bring up an immediate need as the service project. For example: community needs, natural disaster, need from a missionary your church supports. There are many needs within your church, but be challenged to focus outward instead of inward. Pick a need outside of the walls of your church, serving people who may never attend a service or accept Jesus as their Savior. Remember, Jesus served a lot of people and not everyone followed Him (some of His followers even stopped following Him!).*
- 2. You don't need to pick a big service project. You can start small and simple.*
- 3. Let the children take the lead. What are they excited about? What are they willing to do? Don't squash their enthusiasm and dreams, but guide them to consider the logistics of the service project (do you have the money or donations or volunteers or resources or time to complete the project) to figure out if it's possible to pull off.*
- 4. Don't overthink it! Pick a service project and go!*

When your class has picked a service project, plan it by giving the children responsibilities and due dates. For example: Did your children decide to donate their toys? When will they bring the toys to church? Where are you going to donate the toys? Are any of the children able to go with you to drop off the donation?

Alert their parents!

Let parents know what the service project is and what the children will be doing. You will need their support and permission.

Alert your leader!

Let your ministry leader know what you're doing! You will need his/her support and permission, especially in communicating with other church pastors and leaders what you and your children are up to and why.

Remind, remind, remind!

You need to keep reminding children and parents about the service project. Remind them what they're supposed to do and by when. Remind them of the reason they're doing this service project: who is served, how it helps others, how it honors God, etc.

Cheer on your children!

Encourage your children to keep going. Cheer them on. Rally behind them. Get the whole church to cheer them on. Serving others isn't about getting praise for us, but remember that most children won't be serving in the first place. They are pulled towards the comfortable and things that don't ask them for a sacrifice. Cheering them on will keep them on track and keep their passion for the service project alive. Think of how adults need so much motivation to reach our goals. Children need even more of motivation and encouragement.

Lessons 2-4: Service Project Weeks

There are no Lessons 2-4. Use this time to help your children execute the service project. If you have new children, bring them on board! If the children forgot to do as task, remind them of the *why* of their service project. Fuel the passion and excitement they first had.

Be prepared.

Just because there's no lesson, it doesn't mean you come unprepared. What are some to-do tasks for the service project that your class can work on? Can you use this time to let the children plan some more, make signs for the church, or do other preparations?

Don't do it all yourself.

Remember, this is your children's service project. Let them take the lead. Let them plan and prepare. Let them get their hands dirty.

Celebrate and reflect.

After your service project is completed, take a Sunday to celebrate and reflect. You can bring in cupcakes or pizza for a small class party. Use the discussion questions below to reflect on the service project with your children (these are the Reflection Questions in the children's workbook).

Reflection Questions

1. What did you feel when you were doing the service project?
2. What challenges did you face?
3. What did you like most about this experience?
4. Did you talk to anyone about God? What did they say?
5. What did God show or tell you through this experience?
6. How can you serve others in the future?