

CHURCH SCHOOL LESSON
NOVEMBER 15, 2020
GIVING SERVICE TO GOD

This week in our Bible lesson we are going to learn how Solomon served God successfully. A few years ago some people got together and decided the Saturday before Thanksgiving should be called **Family Volunteer Day**. On Family Volunteer Day, families volunteer together in their communities. The idea is that a group of people working together can get much more done than just one person. And it was also meant to be a way to spend time with your family.

Why do you suppose Family Volunteer Day is the Saturday before Thanksgiving?

Why do people volunteer?

Have you ever done any volunteer projects? How do you decide what sort of projects to do?

What are some groups that you can volunteer with?

How do you feel about volunteering? Have you enjoyed it?

Taking on jobs to serve without pay is a way to honor God. King Solomon honored God in this way too,

I am going to attach the map that we used a few weeks ago. Can you find Jerusalem on the map? This will help us understand our lesson.

King Solomon has asked God for, and was given, the gift of great wisdom. He knew he would need wisdom to be able to rule his people well. Solomon used his great wisdom to build up the kingdom of Israel. He ruled over a peaceful and prosperous kingdom that his father had left for him.

Solomon's father, David, had wanted to build the temple, but God chose Solomon to do this. Solomon received David's plans for building a temple for the Lord. Solomon built good relationships with the neighboring cities, which allowed him to use the best building materials from those countries. Solomon spared no expense when he built the temple. He oversaw the construction, using the plans God had given David. He wanted the temple to please and honor God. The temple took several years to complete.

Read 1 Kings 5:3-5.

Why did Solomon, rather than David, build the temple?

How did God prepare Solomon to build the temple?

I am also attaching a picture of Solomon's Temple. Here are some facts about the temple. It was not a huge building. It was 90 feet long, 10 feet wide and 45 feet high. It was a magnificent building made of stone and wood overlaid with gold and jewels. It took seven years of labor by thousands of people to complete.

God was pleased with Solomon's desire to serve him. He blessed Solomon with wisdom, but he also blessed him with great wealth. He was more wealthy than all the other kings of the earth.

Why do you think God blessed Solomon with such riches?

Does God bless everyone who serves him as he blessed Solomon?

What are some other ways God blesses His servants?

Solomon's fame spread and many rulers came to visit him or sent people to hear Solomon's great wisdom. The queen of Sheba came to Solomon and asked him many hard questions, which Solomon answered easily and wisely. She was so overwhelmed by all Solomon had done that she praised Solomon and his God.

Read 1 Kings 10:6-9.

Notice how the queen honored Solomon's God, our Lord, not her gods. Why do you think she did this?

Read 1 Kings 10:23-25.

How could a person in Solomon's position serve God?

Solomon had been given the wisdom to do what God wanted him to do – to oversee the building of God's temple and to be a successful ruler over his nation, Israel. By being ready and willing to serve Solomon brought honor to God.

Even though we may not have all of Solomon's resources, God still gives us what we need to serve Him. We can serve God in many, many ways. And God is honored when we serve Him.

How can we serve God?

If you were the queen of Sheba, which one of Solomon's achievements would have made you praise God the most?

In our Bible lesson we learned about Solomon's great accomplishments and how God was glorified in Solomon's service. Let's explore some ways that we can honor God through service.

The Christian Chronicle interviewed some people who quietly serve without praise or recognition so that He is honored. The first interview is with Lee. He is a funeral director. Here is what he had to say.

What my wife and I do is more than a job – it's a ministry. We can help people at the time of their deepest need. I talk with them and help them focus on what needs to be done. Sometimes it means helping people deal with great pain, even when their world is falling apart. We can start to work through the problems together. We try to honor God in all that we do.

The next interview was with Mary who is a church custodian. Here is what she said.

When I'm cleaning the church building, I feel like I'm closer to the Lord. I can speak with him freely and in peace. It's nice to think that people of my church appreciate me for what I can do. I do my very best so that God is honored by what I do.

The last interview is with Kim, who is a Sunday School teacher and a signer for the hearing impaired. Here is what she had to say.

Teaching three and four year olds in Sunday School is quite a task. At that age, sometimes you wonder if they understand what you're saying. Then there is a moment when a child repeats something you taught weeks ago. God has given me the chance to watch young children follow him! Also, when I sign for someone, I know I can help them know about Jesus. I want God to be honored by the things I do for him.

What are some ways that young people can serve God and others?

What motivates these people to serve God?

I want you to think about a job that you could do that would honor God. Now I want you to write up a resume for yourself telling about your abilities and skills and interests that would make this a job that is well suited for you to do. How does your "job" honor God?

If we were meeting all together, we could honor God is by making a no-sew fleece blanket. It would be fun to all work together to complete a warm blanket to give to the Rescue Mission for someone who needs a warm blanket this winter. We will have to save this project for the time when we can all meet together again.

We've talked about ways we can honor God through our service. You may feel that because you are young you can't serve others. But that isn't true! There are lots of ways to serve others, such as helping with chores at home, or doing kind things for older neighbors.

Do you know what a **PLEDGE** is? A pledge is a serious official promise to do something.

When do people make pledges?

Here is a service pledge that will give you the opportunity to decide how you might want to serve God and then make a commitment to do that.

This week I will honor God by serving Him faithfully in this way:	
Time:	
Place:	
I will do this because:	
I will ask God to:	
In His honor.	

We need God to help us carry out our pledges of service. Let's pray about that now.

Heavenly Father, help us to honor you. We are ready and willing to honor you. Guide us this week in ways to serve you by helping others. Keep us safe this week at home and in our school studies. Amen.