**Leader Overview**



**Volume Overview**

**Be Different**

*Christians have long understood that we live and walk a fine line. We are to be in the world—all things to all people, as Paul put it—yet not of the world. God’s people have always been a chosen people, holy and set apart from the world’s ways. To pull it off, to be truly different, means we must each hold fast to the truth, speaking it when needed, all while humbling ourself and faithfully serving others.*

**Session Overview**

**Serve Others**

*In this* **Live** *session, kids will discover that serving others is the best way to lead like Jesus. Jesus explained this principle to James and John, who had hoped to get places of honor in God’s kingdom. The truth is, we become more like Jesus when we serve others. That’s the way we reflect His nature and model what He did for us.*

**Bible Lesson**

James and John Get a Lesson on Greatness

[Matthew 20:20–28](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt20.20-28)

**Faith Fact**

I will help others.

**Faith Verse**

[Romans 12:2](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro12.2) (NLT)

Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

**Preparing for the Session**

**Leader Preparation Time: 20–25 Minutes**

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| ***You Will Need***  ***Large Group***  *• Bible*  *• Worship songs (Song suggestions: “How I Praise” (Lyric Video) by Planetshakers; “I Thank God” (Lyric Video) by Maverick City Music; “Build My Life” (Lyric Video) by Housefires; “Available” (Lyric Video) by Elevation Worship)*  *• For groups not using a phone or tablet only, add:*  *• Projector or TV*  *• Laptop*  *•* ***Countdown60 Video****–60 seconds*  *•* ***Faith Fact Slide***  *•* ***Faith Verse Video*** *or* ***Slide***  *•* ***Bible Lesson Video***  *•* ***Teaching Point Slides 1–3***  *• Box of cereal kids will eat*  *• Milk*  *• Plastic bowls, one per team*  *• Spoons, one per team*  *• Large trash bags, one per volunteer*  *• Plastic tablecloth*  *• Chairs, one per team*  *• Small prize for the winning team*  *• Sports ball*  *• Microphone*  *• Smartphone*  ***Small Group***  *• Card game with multiple colors and numbers (Uno, Phase 10, Skip-Bo, etc.)*  *•* ***Countdown60 Video****–60 seconds*  *• Optional: Smartphone or watch to use as timer*  *• Bibles for kids in the group to share*  *•* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid*  *•* ***Small Group Activity Page Answer Page***  *• Pencils or pens, one per kid*  *To access session content and videos from a computer, visit:* [***BibleEngagementProject.com/downloads***](https://bibleengagementproject.com/downloads) |
| ***Getting Ready***  ***Large Group***  *• Download videos and slides if needed.*  *• Select worship song(s) and have them ready to play.*  *• Read the Bible Lesson Scripture to prepare for Teaching Time.*  *• Cut neck holes and arm holes in the large trash bags.*  *• Set up the chairs on top of the plastic tablecloth.*  ***Small Group***  *• Print copies of the* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid.*  *• Print the* ***Small Group Activity Page Answer Page*** *as needed.*  ***First time leading* Live *for Kids? Check out the*** [**Facilitator Guide**](https://0b769b0ed3569ef9d18b-f88d8272f61086866d50d048b43ef630.ssl.cf2.rackcdn.com/sites/biblengagementproject/Listen_Facilitator_Guide.pdf)**.** |

**Large Group**

**30 Minutes**

*See what’s needed at the beginning of the session.*

**Introduction**

We’re going to have a ton of fun together today! We’ve been talking all about how amazing it is to be different from the rest of the world. The Bible shows us how to truly stand out in the best ways possible. Raise your hand if you want to be a standout person. *(Group response)* I thought so. Me too!

Today our Bible story is about two of Jesus’ disciples named James and John and their mother. She wanted Jesus to think James and John were great or important. Sounds like a good thing, right? *(Group response)* It’s a good thing to want to please Jesus. But James and John didn’t quite understand what greatness meant from Jesus’ way of thinking. So Jesus was about to show them.

Has anyone ever helped you out in a really special way? *(Group response)* Maybe your older brother or sister helped you learn to ride a bike. Or maybe a teacher or coach helped you learn a new skill that made a big difference. People help us in lots of ways.

• *Optional: Tell a story about someone who helped you and the difference they made*.

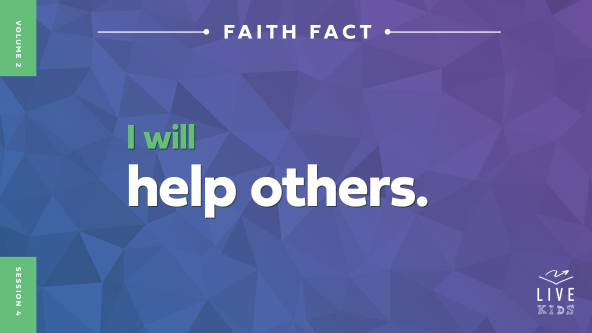
• *Optional*: *If time allows, ask a couple of kids to share examples.*

How do you feel about someone who helps you? *(Allow responses.)* When other people help us, they have a special place in our heart. To us, they become someone great—someone we respect and appreciate.

**Faith Fact**

Helping others is one of the best ways we can make a difference in our world. There are lots of ways to help people. Maybe we help someone learn a skill or do a job they couldn’t have done alone. Maybe we encourage someone who’s sad or pray with someone who’s sick. When we help or serve other people, that’s when Jesus says we are truly great—which reminds me of our Faith Fact! **I will help others.**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide.***



Serving people isn’t always easy. It means helping someone else, even if it’s not easy for you. But it makes a huge difference for the people we serve and for us too. Let’s say our Faith Fact together three times and get a little louder each time. **I will help others. I will help others. I will help others.** Great job!

**Game**

**Cereal Serve**

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| ***You Will Need***  *• Box of cereal kids will eat*  *• Milk*  *• Plastic bowls, one per team*  *• Spoons, one per team*  *• Large trash bags, one per volunteer*  *• Plastic tablecloth*  *• Chairs, one per team*  *• Small prize for the winning team*  ***Getting Ready***  *• Cut neck holes and arm holes in the large trash bags.*  *• Set up the chairs on top of the plastic tablecloth.* |

Our game today is going to be so much fun! I need some brave people who are ready to compete and win. You’re going to play an awesome game called Cereal Serve. Here’s how it works. You and a partner will get a bowl of cereal and a spoon. One of you will be the eater, and one of you will be the helper. The eater will sit and hold the bowl. Then the helper will serve the cereal to the eater. The team that finishes their cereal first are the winners.

• *Choose the volunteers.*

• *Have them put on the large trash bags to cover their clothes.*

• *Fill bowls equally with cereal and milk.*

• *Give bowls to the eaters and spoons to the servers. Play the game.*

Wow! Great helping. Winning a game usually means you need to be faster and play better than anyone else. After all, you’re trying to keep other people from winning.

But the game we just played gives us a clue that Jesus looks at greatness differently. He says that serving others is the way to be great. Helping people makes us more like Jesus! Let’s say the Faith Fact together. **I will help others.**

**Worship**

When I think about how Jesus has helped us and loved us, it makes me want to tell Him, “Thank You!” Let’s do that together as we worship Him by singing.

• *Lead the kids in singing one or two praise songs. See suggestions at the beginning of the session.*

**Bible Lesson**

That was wonderful! Worshipping Jesus helps us remember who He is and how much He loves us. As we grow to love Him more and more, we decide to do everything we can to be more like Him. One way is by helping others. Let’s say our Faith Fact. **I will help others**. In a few minutes, we’ll see what James, John, and the other disciples discovered about greatness and helping others. But first, let’s pray.

**Prayer**

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| *Dear Jesus, thank You for always loving us. Help us to see how serving and helping others is truly the best way to be great in Your eyes. We love You. Amen.* |

**Video Intro**

Before we look at the Bible story, let’s check in with Dash and watch this video.

• *Play* ***Bible Lesson Video****.*



**Bible Story**

**James and John Get a Lesson on Greatness**

Dash really helped his mom out, didn’t he? *(Group response)* And not only that, he also learned that being great isn’t about having a cool title or being in charge of stuff. Instead, greatness is about helping others. The Bible talks a lot about this. We know we can trust God’s Word. It’s totally true, and it helps us live for Jesus every day. Let’s find out what the Bible says about greatness.

**Teaching Time**

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| ***You Will Need***  *• Sports ball*  *• Microphone*  *• Smartphone*  *No prep is needed for this activity.* |

In today’s Bible story, James and John really wanted Jesus to treat them like they were great or important. This wasn’t exactly a bad thing. Jesus does think we’re important, and it’s okay to want to make Him happy. But James and John’s idea of how to become great wasn’t quite right. So Jesus showed them what it meant to become great *His* way.

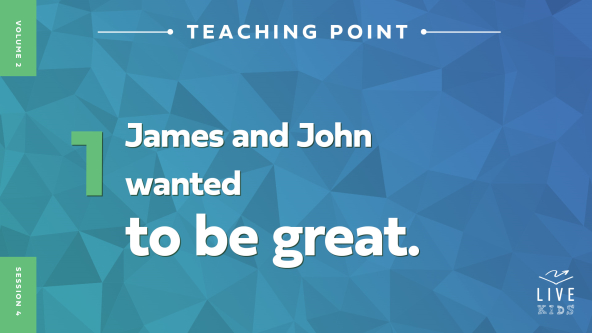
Grab your Bible or pull up a Bible app on your device. Turn to [Matthew 20:20–28](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt20.20-28).

• *In order to keep Large Group time moving along, we recommend that the leader reads the Scripture portions aloud.*

• *Optional: Remind the kids to mark this place with a bookmark, so they can read it on their own at home.*

**1. James and John wanted to be great.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 1 Slide.***



• *Read* [*Matthew 20:20–24*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt20.20-24)*.*

Have you ever fought with your brothers and sisters about who gets the best seat at the dinner table or in the car? *(Group response)* That’s kind of like what James and John’s mom was doing. Only she asked Jesus for something much more important. She wanted her sons to sit next to Jesus in heaven.

Just before these verses, Jesus had told His disciples that He was about to be beaten and killed. After that, He would come back to life. Jesus was going to die so that people could be saved from sin—the greatest sacrifice the world has ever seen. But James and John seemed to just be thinking about themselves. They wanted Jesus to think they were important.

Why do you think James and John wanted to be great? *(Allow responses.)* There’s nothing wrong with wanting Jesus to think you’re special and important. I want Jesus to think that about me! But sometimes our idea of greatness looks very different from Jesus’ idea of greatness.

Think about it like this. Have you ever been asked what you want to be when you grow up? *(Group response)*

• *Pick up the sports ball, microphone, and smartphone.*

A lot of people say they want to be the best at a certain sport, like soccer or basketball. *(Hold up the sports ball.)* Others say they want to be a famous musician or singer. *(Hold up the microphone.)* Maybe they want to be a popular YouTuber or Twitch streamer. *(Hold up the smartphone.)* It’s not wrong to want these things, but a lot of times people care too much about being rich and famous.

It’s a good thing to want to be great at what you do. Some of you might want to be a great doctor, police officer, teacher, boss, or parent one day. These are all super important jobs. We just need to ask ourself two things. *Why do I want to do this? And does it line up with what Jesus wants for me?*

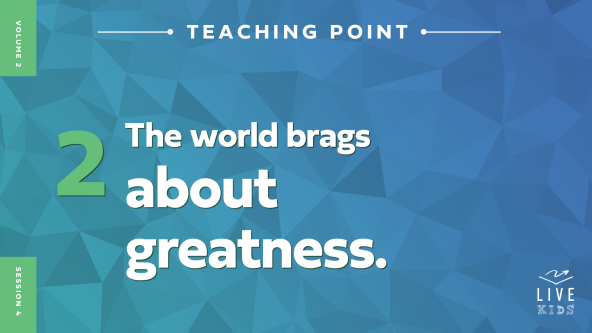
So let’s get back to James and John. When their mom asked Jesus if they could sit by Him in heaven, do you think James and John were thinking about what Jesus wanted for them? Or were they thinking about what they wanted for themselves? Raise your hand if they were thinking about what *Jesus* wanted. *(Group response)* Raise your hand if they were thinking about what *they* wanted. *(Group response)*

James and John had been following Jesus for a while by this point. They knew Jesus was God’s Son. He was special and important, and they wanted Him to think they were special and important too. The trouble was, James and John wanted to be more special and important than the other disciples. Maybe they didn’t realize how selfish that was.

Do you think people can sometimes be selfish without realizing it? *(Group response)* Yeah, I think so too. A lot of times we don’t realize we’re being selfish. We don’t want to act that way, but it can sneak up on us. Then before we know it, the people around us can get hurt by our selfishness. That’s what James and John found out next.

**2. The world brags about greatness.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 2 Slide.***



• *Read* [*Matthew 20:24–25*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt20.24-25)*.*

How did the other disciples react when they heard that James and John wanted to sit next to Jesus in heaven? *(Allow responses.)* The other disciples got angry. Maybe they wanted Jesus to think they were important, too. They could have wanted to take the greatest spot for themselves. So Jesus talked to all of them. He reminded them how kings and rulers used their power to make people do things and to show they were in charge.

Why do you think Jesus started telling the disciples about these rulers? *(Allow responses.)* Maybe Jesus wanted the disciples to see that grabbing power was something rulers in the world would do—but Jesus wanted His followers to be different.

You’ve probably seen this. Sometimes popular or talented people use their greatness to get what they want. They might even put other people down. Raise your hand if you’ve ever seen someone do that. *(Group response)*

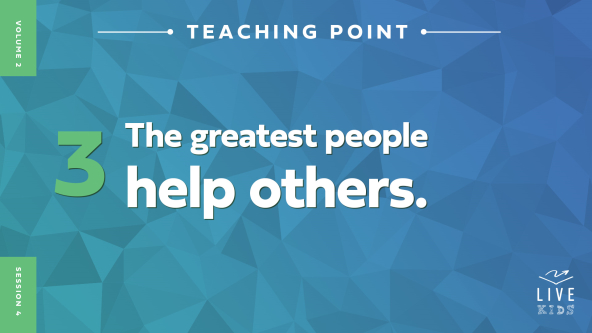
• *Pick up the sports ball, microphone, and smartphone.*

Sometimes great athletes *(point to ball)* and musicians *(point to microphone)* and celebrities *(point to smartphone)* do that too. Some of them use their fame and power to get what they want, and they’re unkind to others. What Jesus said about leaders in the world is still true today.

By now, do you think James and John realized they had hurt their friends? *(Group response)* They didn’t understand yet what it meant to be truly great, but Jesus was about to show them.

**3. The greatest people help others.**

• *Show the* ***Teaching Point 3 Slide.***



• *Read* [*Matthew 20:26–28*](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt20.26-28)*.*

Hold on a second. What Jesus just said sounded like opposites that don’t go together. The leaders are servants? The people in first place are slaves? Do you think that makes sense? *(Group response)* In Bible times, people who were servants weren’t considered important or great at all. So how do you think the disciples felt about what Jesus said? *(Allow responses.)*

They were probably super confused! They knew Jesus was the Messiah. But what He said about himself didn’t match what they’d been taught. They thought the Messiah was going to take over and be their new king. They thought He would show His power and use His strength to put the Jews back in charge of their own country.

Yes, Jesus would be King—but a different kind of King than they expected. He didn’t come to earth to live in a fancy palace and have people take care of Him all day. Jesus came to help people. He came to give His life so we could live forever with Him.

When the disciples heard Jesus say He came to be servant, do you think they liked this news? Or do you think they had a hard time understanding it? Raise your hand if you think they liked it. *(Group response)* Raise your hand if you think they had a hard time understanding it. *(Group response)* It was probably a little of both. Jesus had just told them that greatness was totally different from what they thought. It was all about serving others, which probably didn’t seem that special or powerful to them yet.

Remember the dream jobs we talked about? *(Hold up the sports ball, microphone, and smartphone.)* Sometimes we look at famous people and think, *Wow! They’re so great!* But if serving others is the most important thing, then what kind of jobs are truly great? *(Allow responses.)* Maybe janitors, waiters, nurses, teachers, or garbage truck drivers have the greatest jobs. They’re all about serving others.

Does this mean that you shouldn’t want to be an athlete or singer or social media star? Not at all. Whatever dream God has placed in your heart, just make sure you use it to serve others.

Serving isn’t easy. It means putting other people first. It means helping even when it isn’t easy. It means giving up what we want for someone else’s good. But this is exactly what Jesus did! He gave up so much—even His life—so people could be with Him forever. Jesus knew we could never pay Him back, but He served us anyway because He loves us. That’s what true greatness looks like. It looks like Jesus.

Following Jesus means serving like Jesus did. Remember our Faith Fact today: **I will help others**. Helping others makes you stand out and shows you’re different in amazing ways that honor God.

**Prayer and Response**

*Consider playing a worship song softly in the background while kids pray.*

Jesus said true greatness comes from serving and helping others. This takes a lot of practice because it’s easier to think of ourself first.

As we get ready to pray, let’s ask Jesus a couple of questions. “Who do You want me to help? How do You want me to help them?” I believe Jesus will answer our questions. He will show you someone who needs your help. And He will show you a way you can help them this week.

Maybe Jesus wants you to help your parents around the house like Dash did in our video. Maybe Jesus wants you to pick up trash at school or in a park. Maybe Jesus wants you to help raise money for missionaries and give it to Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge/BGMC ([bgmc.ag.org](http://bgmc.ag.org/)). Listen carefully to the thoughts in your mind and your heart when we pray. That is one way the Holy Spirit speaks to us!

• *Allow time for prayer response.*

**Prayer**

*Optional: Have the kids repeat phrases of the prayer after you.*

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| *Dear Jesus, thank You for giving Your life and showing us how to serve people. Help us to put others first, so we become truly great like You. In Your name we pray. Amen.* |

**Faith Verse**

Our Faith Verse is all about being different from the world. We can stand out when we let God change how we think!

• *Play* ***Faith Verse Video****.*



[Romans 12:2](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro12.2) (NLT)

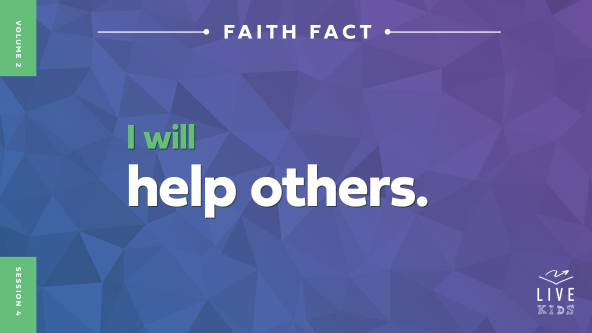
Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

Let’s say that verse one more time, all together! *(Group response)*

**Faith Fact**

Before we move on, let’s take a look at our Faith Fact again. **I will help others.**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide****.*



Now say the Faith Fact in a funny voice. Ready? **I will help others.** Point to your heart, and let’s say it again. **I will help others.**

• *Dismiss kids to Small Group time or to go home if your group time ends here.*

**Small Group**

**30 Minutes**

*This section can be done in conjunction with the large group or on its own if you do small groups with your kids. During Small Group time, the goal is to connect the kids with the Word of God and to each other. All activities are led by the small group leader.*

**Group Connection**

**The Sorting Speed Challenge**

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| ***You Will Need***  *• Card game with multiple colors and numbers (Uno, Phase 10, Skip-Bo, etc.)*  *•* ***Countdown60 Video****–60 seconds*  *• Optional: Smartphone or watch to use as timer*  *No prep is needed for this activity.* |

In our Bible story today, we talked about how helping others is very important for us to do. When we serve, we share Jesus’ love with the world! Today, we’re going to see what a difference it can make when we help others. Who’s ready for a speed challenge? *(Group response)* Here’s how it works. *(Show the cards.)* You can see these cards are different colors. Our first challenge is to see how fast we can sort and organize the cards by their color.

First, let’s see how quickly we can sort the cards with just one person sorting at a time. I’ll choose a volunteer, and that kid will have 60 seconds to sort all the cards by color. If that kid hasn’t finished when the time is up, I’ll choose another person to take over. Then that kid will sort for 60 seconds. We’ll keep doing that until all the cards are sorted. Let’s see how many people it takes!

• *Optional: Have kids guess a number between 1 and 100 to see who goes first.*

• *Play* ***Countdown60 Video–60 seconds*** *to time each person.*



Thanks for playing. Do you think we can sort faster if everyone helps? *(Group response)* Let’s see what happens if we work together.

• *Shuffle the cards.*

• *Time the group to see how fast they can sort the cards by color when they all work together.*

Great job, everyone! The job goes so much faster when we help each other, and it can be fun too!

**Bible Lesson Recap**

• *If small group activities are not immediately following large group time, you may want to read the Bible story passage before the discussion.*

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| ***You Will Need***  *• Bibles for kids in the group to share*  *No prep is needed for this activity.* |

**Bible Story Review: James and John Get a Lesson on Greatness** [**Matthew 20:20–28**](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Mt20.20-28)

What was the most interesting thing about today’s Bible story? *(Allow responses.)* Those are great answers! To review, James and John’s mom asked for them to sit next to Jesus in His kingdom. But Jesus said their idea of greatness was totally wrong. He told them that true greatness comes from serving and helping others.

• *Optional: Give each kid a Bible and read the Bible story together.*

**Group Discussion**

*Feel free to use all or just a few questions as a jumping-off place for good discussion. Questions marked with \* are designed for more conversation. Adjust the questions based on the age or maturity of your group. Typically, older kids will be able to dive a little deeper than younger ones.*

**Questions**

Why do you think James, John, and their mom thought sitting next to Jesus in His kingdom was a big deal?

How did Jesus say kings and rulers in the world use their power?

What is true greatness?

How is Jesus’ idea of greatness different from the world’s idea of greatness?

\* Do you think it was easy for James, John, and the other disciples to serve and help others? Why or why not?

\* Can you share about a time when someone helped you?

\* What are some ways we can help others every day?

\* When is it hard for you to help others?

\* How can serving others show that we’re different from the rest of the world?

**Live It**

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| *No prep is needed for this activity.* |

**Faith Fact**

Our Faith Fact today is **I will help others.** Jesus said that He came to serve others, not to be served. And we want to be like Jesus! It can be easy to care more about our own needs than other people’s needs. But if we practice thinking about others, it can become a good habit that we do more easily. Let’s see how many ways of serving that we can name right now. *(Allow responses.)*

**Challenge**

Great job, everyone! The challenge for this week is simply to help others. I want you to ask people, “How can I help you?” Keep asking until you’ve helped people three times. Try to help different people each day. You’ll see how it makes them smile and it shows them Jesus’ love!

**Prayer**

*Finish group discussion by sharing prayer requests and praise reports. Keep track of your small group’s prayer requests and review them each time you meet.*

• *Have kids share and pray for each other’s prayer requests.*

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| *Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us what serving others looks like. We want to love people by helping them. Help us to become more like You by putting others first. In Your name we pray. Amen.* |

**Faith Verse Review**

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| *No prep is needed for this activity.* |

Our Faith Verse is [Romans 12:2](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro12.2). When we ask Him, God will change the way we think, and then our actions will change too. He gives us the strength to be different from the world and to honor Him.

• *Show* ***Faith Verse Video****.*



[Romans 12:2](https://ref.ly/logosref/Bible.Ro12.2) (NLT)

Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.

**Faith Verse Fun**

**Say It Silly**

All right, now it’s time to test our knowledge of the Faith Verse. Let’s take turns picking silly ways to say the Faith Verse. First, show how you want us to say the verse. Then we’ll say it that way together!

• *Examples of fun ways to say the Faith Verse: fast, slow, loud, quiet, cowboy, pirate, robot, singing, opera, with hiccups, like a movie/TV character.*

Great job, everyone! Learning God’s Word will help to change the way you think, just like this verse says. That will help you serve others more.

**Activity Page**

**Word Search**

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| ***You Will Need***  *•* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid*  *•* ***Small Group Activity Page Answer Page***  *• Pencils or pens, one per kid*  ***Getting Ready***  *• Print copies of the* ***Small Group Activity Page****, one per kid.*  *• Print the* ***Small Group Activity Page Answer Page*** *as needed.* |

Our Faith Fact today is **I will help others.** We talked about ideas for doing that this week.

• *Hand out a copy of the* ***Small Group******Activity Page*** *and pencil or pen to each kid.*

Now let’s find as many words as we can about helping. There are words about our Bible story and people we can help. But instead of doing the page on your own, we’re going to help each other. So put your name on your page. *(Pause while kids write their names.)* Here’s how you’ll help. Find one word on your page, circle it, and cross it off the list. Then say our Faith Fact. **I will help others.** As soon as someone else has found a word too, trade papers and find a word on their page. Keep going until all the pages are done. Let’s see how long it takes us to find all the words!

• *Give kids time to complete the* ***Small Group******Activity Page****.*

**Dismissal**

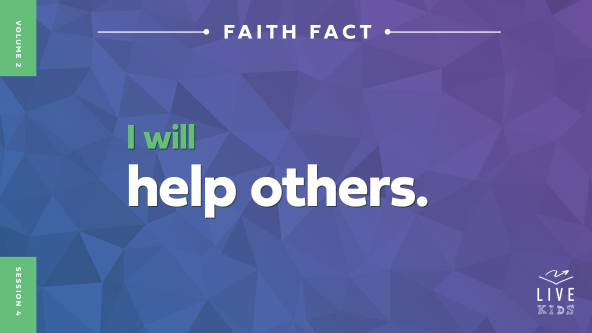
Remember, Jesus wants us to be different from the rest of the world. When we serve and help others like He did, we’ll stand out in the best way possible!

**Prayer**

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| *Dear Jesus, please help us serve others every day. Help us show people Your love. Give us a chance this week to tell someone how You helped us most—by giving Your life so we could live forever in heaven with You. Amen.* |

**Faith Fact Recap**

• *Show the* ***Faith Fact Slide****.*



Jesus doesn’t want just me or someone else to be different for Him. He wants *you* to stand out in amazing ways for Him too! Remember the Faith Fact, and let’s say it together! **I will help others.** I’m so glad you came today. I can’t wait to see you next time.

• *Send home the* ***Small Group Activity Page.***

• *Remind parents that there are* ***Family Devotions*** *available on the app to do with their kid.*

• *Tell everyone the date and time for the next session.*