

2.4

Service

*"Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible."
1 Corinthians 9:19*

Objectives:

Recruit

1. Participate in a service project for your church.

Camper

1. Participate in a service project for your church.
2. Participate in a service project for your community.

Frontiersman

1. Participate in a service project for your church.
2. Participate in a service project for your community.
3. Help in the planning of a service project.
4. Teach a subject from *A Boy's Handbook* to a group of Train members.

UNIT 2

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP

CHAPTER 1 - Lutheran Pioneer Structure

CHAPTER 2 - Church Structure

CHAPTER 3 - Citizenship

CHAPTER 4 - Service



*Lutheran Pioneers, Inc.
P.O. Box 66
Burlington, WI 53105*



TIPS TO REMEMBER

Consider: "What is our real purpose here?" Pioneer leaders serve to generate responsible Christian leaders. This is a real opportunity for a leader to live his faith and make a difference in the life of the youth entrusted to his care. Let this direct your decisions and actions as a Pioneer leader.

Applying God's Word to the Lesson

DEVOTION #1

Matthew 25:14-30 ²⁶*“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.’”* (use your Bible for the complete text)

Many years ago, in a remote village in Wales, there was an old woman who was persuaded by the village leaders to install electricity in her humble home. After a while the leaders noticed that she hardly ever used the electricity. When they asked her why, she replied "Oh, but I do use it, I switch it on every night to see when I light my lamps. Then I switch it off." With her house wired for electricity, this woman was still using her oil burning lamps and had no electrical appliances to help her with her household chores.

Wasn't that foolish? She didn't make use of the good thing that she had. We ought to ask ourselves, do we always make use of everything God has given us? Do we always use our divinely given talents?

In the Scripture a man who went on a journey entrusted certain talents to his servants. He expected them to make use of these talents while he was gone. Two of the servants did do that. They worked with their talents and were able to make a profit with them. When the owner returned, he was glad to hear this. One of these servants was afraid to use his talent. He hid it. When the owner returned he could only give the one talent back.

In the same way the Lord God has given each of us certain talents which he expects us to use in his service. These talents are gifts and abilities with which we can serve him in a God-pleasing way. We need to ask ourselves, do we use our talents faithfully?

Sometimes people say, “The reason I don't do much in the Lord's kingdom is because I don't have much ability.” In fact the Lord does give talents to us all. He doesn't always give us the same talents, but he does give talents. Let us not say that we have none. Some can be leaders and officers. Some can sing, some can encourage a friend, some are good at making things that are needed, and some can teach others the good news of the Gospel. There are many talents. Are we using ours, or are we hiding our talents?

We will always remember that God gave his only Son to be our Savior. Yes, God first loved us and gives us the gift of salvation. We will gladly show our love for him, who made us new people and called us to his service. Let us all seek opportunities to serve the Lord. Let us all show our Christian faith by saying, “What can I do for my Savior and my God?”

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, too often we deny our talents and gifts and walk away from opportunities for service that you give us. Help us to recognize the unique talents that you gave to each of us and to seek out chances to use those talents in service to you and others. Amen.

HYMN: 400 (TLH) 469 (CW)

Applying God's Word to the Lesson

DEVOTION #2

TEXT: Luke 2:41-52

THEME: About the Father's Business

When Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem to find their lost son, they found him after three days in God's house talking to the pastors and teachers. Jesus reminded them whose Son he really was and also what his work was. "I must be about my Father's business." His Father is God the Father. His business is to save the world from sin. Even as a twelve year old boy, Jesus knew that he was here to be the a perfect sacrifice for our sins.

You know Jesus not only as a great teacher but also as the Son of God who has won eternal salvation for you. Because God has led you to know and trust in Jesus, salvation is yours.

In our story, we are told of three things which Jesus did as a young person as he went about his Father's business. Jesus loved God's house and learned God's Word. Jesus obeyed his parents, went home with them and minded them. Jesus learned, exercised and grew up to be a strong, intelligent man. In doing these things, he showed us how we should live as God's children.

Jesus knew why he was here. Do you know why you are here? You are here to show love to your Savior and to bring glory to God. You do this as you gladly follow after Jesus. Regularly hear God's Word, visit his house and tell others of Jesus. Obey your parents. Do your homework, so that you will grow up to be intelligent. Exercise, so that you grow up to be strong. This is your business now.

PRAYER: Dear God, teach us to know your Son as our Savior from every sin. Lead us to a great trust in him. Thank you for giving us so many abilities and blessings. Strengthen us so that we use them to your glory. Amen.

HYMN: 408 (TLH) 464 (CW)

DEVOTION #3

TEXT: James 2:14

THEME: With Real Faith, Service is not a Choice

OUTLINE

1. God tells us in his Word the things that please him.
2. We cannot do these things perfectly and earn salvation by them.
3. We are given salvation by grace through faith in Jesus, our Savior.
4. In faith, we are glad to do what God wills.

Additional References:

- Deuteronomy 10:12-13
- Deuteronomy 13:4
- Joshua 24:15
- 1 Samuel 12:20,24
- Job 36:11
- Luke 17:10
- John 13:1-7
- Romans 12:9-21
- 2 Corinthians 9:12-13
- Galatians 5:13
- Galatians 5:22-23
- Ephesians 2:10
- Ephesians 6:7-8
- Colossians 3:12
- 1 Timothy 6:2
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Hebrews 9:14
- 1 Peter 4:11

1 Introducing the Lesson

The best way to get your boys interested in service and the material of this lesson is to be a model of service yourself at all times. By showing that you love to serve, you will give service an added appeal for the boys, who are always watching and learning from you.

The most important issue of this lesson is our motivation for living lives of service. Our Savior, the very Son of God, humbled himself and became a servant to all men, dying on the cross to pay the price that we could not pay, so that we have eternal life in heaven with him. In thanks to God for this incredible sacrifice, we want to use the gifts that he has given us, including our time, talents and money, to serve God. Of course, Jesus taught that the way to do this is to serve those around us (Matthew 25:34-40). Be cautious of the What Would Jesus Do (WWJD) thinking. If in the context of gospel-motivated lives of service, it is okay. However, it is too often taken in the context of doing what Jesus would do to please God and earn salvation.

To introduce the lesson, you might also have boys list different ways they have served in their families, church, or community.

CHAPTER 4 - SERVICE

For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith-and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:8-10

As believers who are sinful, we know that there is nothing we can do to save ourselves. We know that it is only because of God's great love in sending His only Son to live and die for us, that we can go to heaven. There is nothing we can do to save ourselves. It is a gift from God. It is GRACE.

Now that we know about this love and the gift of eternal life that is ours, we are filled with a love for God that leads us to want to serve Him. Paul, in his letter to the Ephesians, tells us that "we are God's workmanship." And that we are "created in Christ Jesus to do good works." That is what God wants us to do. He wants us to serve Him by doing good works for others.

AREAS OF SERVICE

There are many places where we can serve God by serving others. The first and easiest for us is in our home. By helping your parents, brothers, sisters and grandparents you are serving them and doing what God wants you to do. You can serve by doing your chores, helping with babysitting and even cleaning your room. Look for ways you can help at home. It is a good way to begin serving others.

page 2-31

Possible Materials for Teaching and Demonstrating this Lesson

Photos of previous service projects done by Pioneers

A large display of the Lutheran Pioneer prayer

Camera or Video Camera

Another area in which you can serve is in your church. Depending on your age you may be able to usher for services, greet visitors or help with child care. You might also be able to help with work around church on a clean-up day or with the cleaning of the inside of the church. You may want to talk to your leaders and see if there is some way your Train can do a service project for your church. Maybe you can take care of some flower beds or a certain part of the church.

There are also opportunities for service in your community. You may want to visit elderly people in nursing homes or in their own home. Maybe there are some chores you can do to help them. You may want to check to see if there are any activities that are going on that need volunteers. It might involve cleaning up after a celebration or helping with some part of the celebration. Another area where you can help is in keeping parks clean. Again, with your leaders help, your Train may be able to adopt a park and help to keep it clean for everyone to enjoy. In some states there is an "adopt a highway" program. In this program you are assigned a section of a highway in your area to keep clean. there is a regular schedule of clean-up times and safety vests and bags are provided. You can contact your state's Department of Transportation for more information. If no highway is available in your area, talk to your county, city or township officials to see if there is a road in the area for you to take care of.

page 2-32

2 Teaching the Lesson

There is actually very little that can be done to teach this lesson outside of actually performing service projects. As a Train, you will want to present numerous opportunities throughout the year for the Pioneers to get involved in serving their families, church, and community. Some projects could be done as a Train on a meeting night. Others might take an afternoon or weekend. Others will be done by the Pioneers individually.

"Expert" Presenters

Here are some "experts" you might ask to help present the material for this lesson.

- A member of the Kiwanis or other local service organization, which has both regular and special service projects, will be able to speak about some of the ways the organization has served the community. There are also chapters of these organizations (such as Key Club & Circle K) in high schools and colleges, which also serve the community in various ways.
- Older Pioneers might be able to speak about service projects they have participated in.
- Members of your congregation or in

PRINCIPLES FOR TESTING

While leaders will not deny that it is important to occasionally check whether Pioneers have achieved a proficient understanding of certain skills, many dread giving tests because they think that it makes Pioneers too much like school and, therefore, uninteresting for the boys. The fact is that tests are not given in education solely for the sake of the teachers to gauge progress. Tests give students of all types an end-point to reach for. Failing

the area who have participated in different volunteer opportunities through the WELS Kingdom Workers (such as Builders for Christ) or other similar groups will be able to speak about their decision to get involved and their experience.

- If you have a specific organization or project with which you would like your train to get involved (e.g., American Red Cross, Special Olympics), you might have a representative of the organization come in to explain their work and how your Train can get involved.

Field Trips

Although you may travel to participate in various service projects, there are really no other places to visit as a Train for this chapter.

Other Resources

There are other resources available to help you learn about service opportunities before you present the lesson. These might give you new ideas or tools to use for your presentation.

- Local Kiwanis or other service clubs will provide insight and information about service opportunities.
- Local charities and non-profit organizations can provide information about their work; be sure to research

PLANNING A SERVICE PROJECT

There are many service projects that you can be a part of. At times, however, it may be necessary for you to plan some type of project. Here are some steps you can follow so that your project will be successful.

Step 1: Choose a project. that would seem obvious, but sometimes it takes looking around to find something that needs to be done. You may want to talk to your leaders and you certainly will want to talk to whomever you are doing the service for. Be sure everyone knows what you want to do and how you plan to do it.

Step 2: Set up a schedule. Plan out what needs to be done and how much time it will take. Allow extra time in case something unplanned occurs. Share the schedule with your leaders, those who will help you and the people for whom you are doing the service.

Step 3: Gather all the necessary materials you will need. This may also include some money if you need to purchase items. Talk to your leaders if funding is needed. They may be able to give you the names of people you can talk to for donations to pay for the project.

Step 4: Carry out the project. Do the work that needs to be done. If you have others helping you make sure they know what they should be doing and encourage them in their work. Serving someone else should be enjoyable.

page 2-33

to provide some means for the boys to see that they have acquired a useful knowledge of information or a mastery of a practical skill can leave them without a sense of accomplishment and make them bored, despite the most fascinating teaching. If a boy does not pass a test, some one-on-one attention is necessary to help him master the information and skills. You will not want to hold the boys back, but you will want to test them to give them something to shoot for.

Step 5: Evaluate the project. Take some time to think about what you did. Look for ways you can improve the next time you do something like this. This is a very important part of the process.

In the Lutheran Pioneer prayer we talk about service. We begin with the words "*Jesus help our eyes to see, our salvation earned by thee.*" That is most important. We need to know that our salvation comes from our Lord not from ourselves.

The next lines point out our lives of service; "*Jesus help our ears to hear, calls for help from far and near. Jesus help our feet to go, in the way that Thou wouldst show. Jesus help our hands to do, all things loving kind and true.*" As Christians, we hear the cries for help, we go to serve and we then do the work needed.

Finally, the Lutheran Pioneer prayer finishes off with the goal we should have as Christians, trying to serve our Lord; "*Jesus may we helpful be, growing every day like thee.*" As we grow older we will want to become more Christ-like in our lives. We pray that God will help us to do that.

page 2-34

their work to be sure it is God-pleasing before beginning.

- WELS Kingdom Workers can describe their work and opportunities for lay people to get involved.

Projects & Activities

Getting the boys involved in service will help them to see how enjoyable it can be and begin a lifetime of service for them. Here are a few ideas for teaching *Service* and for a few simple service projects.

- Using the Pioneer prayer, go through different gifts (eyes, ears, hands, feet) God has given us to serve our neighbor.
- Clean a part of the church (e.g., bathrooms) for a period of time.
- Tend to church flower bed.
- Assist regularly with church snow removal.
- Rake leaves on church property or for church members (e.g., elderly).
- Volunteer your Train to serve as ushers for a church service (once or on a regular basis).
- Care for a community flower bed. Contact your parks department for details.
- Paint local fire hydrants. Contact your fire department for details.

- Remove snow from fire hydrants.
- Participate in an Adopt-a-Highway program. Contact your state's Department of Transportation for details.
- Paint or repair school or church property or someone's house.
- Help provide a community meal for the poor or homeless.
- Hold a car wash to raise money for a charity or mission.
- Collect gifts to give to a needy family for Christmas or "Back-to-School."

- Participate in institutional ministries pen-pal program.
- Photograph or videotape your service project(s) so that you have examples for future Pioneers.

3 **Practicing and Testing the Material**

There is very little to test in this lesson. You might have the boys discuss and explain in small groups why we, as Christians, want to be models of service in our families, churches and communities.

Naturally, to complete this lesson, all Pioneers should participate in some kind of service project, and the objectives for this lesson define reasonable expectations for the different groups of boys.

Be sure to let the older boys assist with the planning for the service projects to help them see that they can do projects on their own, even after they are no longer active in Pioneers.

NOTES

Expanding the Lesson—Logging your Service

If you are looking for ways to expand this lesson either for Troopers who have already completed their Frontiersman requirements or simply to mix it up and give your boys more opportunities for service, you might consider beginning service logs. The boys can set a goal for the number of hours they would like to log each month in service projects and then keep track of their hours as they serve. In addition to this, your Train can set a goal for service hours to be logged each month and possibly even challenge nearby Trains to participate in a “Service War.” With any of these exercises, it is important to remember the true motivation for serving.