

THE COST OF SERVING ☆

Children identify with John the Baptist, the disciples, and many others who gave up everything to serve Christ.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS:

Disciples, Following Jesus, Obedience, Serving

MATERIALS:

Paper
Crayons or colored markers
Whiteboard
Dry erase marker



DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Write the question, "What will you miss from home?" on the whiteboard. Give each child a piece of paper and crayons or colored markers. Have the students fold their papers in half twice to create four boxes. Children will unfold the paper to reveal four squares. Children will then answer the question on the whiteboard by drawing a picture in each of the four squares.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Let's pretend that all of us will leave home to serve Jesus. As disciples of Jesus, we must trust and obey Him with all of our hearts. We will also go everywhere He tells us to go. We will miss many things from home. Decide which four things you will miss the most and draw a picture of each within one of the squares on your paper.

(Allow the children to share their pictures and discuss what it is they would miss the most.)

The Twelve Disciples, John the Baptist, and many others gave up their comforts, wants, desires, jobs, loved ones, and, for some, even their lives to serve Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. If Jesus came in the room right now and said, "Follow Me," do you think you could do it? *(Allow children to respond.)*
2. Would you be able to leave everything behind, and possibly lose your life to serve and obey Jesus? *(Allow children to respond.)*

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**Love covers over all wrongs.
Proverbs 10:12b NIV**

Sin Cards (Love)

ANGER

Instead of remaining angry with someone, you have chosen to let love in.

Place this card under the heart.

Love covers all wrongs.
Proverbs 10:12b

HATRED

Instead of continually hating a person, you have chosen to let love in.

Place this card under the heart.

Love covers all wrongs.
Proverbs 10:12b

DISCORD

Instead of being disagreeable, you have chosen to let love in.

Place this card under the heart.

Love covers all wrongs.
Proverbs 10:12b

ENVY

Instead of remaining envious of someone, you have chosen to let love in.

Place this card under the heart.

Love covers all wrongs.
Proverbs 10:12b

GREED

Instead of being greedy, you have decided to think of others and let love in.

Place this card under the heart.

Love covers all wrongs.
Proverbs 10:12b

HOSTILITY

Instead of remaining hostile and unfriendly, you have chosen to let love in.

Place this card under the heart.

Love covers all wrongs.
Proverbs 10:12b

Sin Cards (Offend)

JEALOUSY

You have chosen to remain jealous and cause conflict.

Stir the pot and pick a conflict card.

RAGE

You have chosen to remain furious and cause conflict.

Stir the pot and pick a conflict card.

BITTERNESS

You have chosen to stay bitter and cause conflict.

Stir the pot and pick a conflict card.

SLANDOR

You have chosen to continue to slander and cause conflict.

Stir the pot and pick a conflict card.

DISSENSION

You have chosen to remain argumentative and cause conflict.

Stir the pot and pick a conflict card.

PRIDE

You have chosen to remain prideful and cause conflict.

Stir the pot and pick a conflict card.

CONFLICT CARD

Because of your love of conflict, your friends have decided to stop hanging out with you.

CONFLICT CARD

Because of your love of conflict, no one chooses you to be on his or her team.

CONFLICT CARD

Because of your love of conflict, you become filled with sin and it destroys people's trust in you.

CONFLICT CARD

Because of your love of conflict, you become sad and depressed.

CONFLICT CARDS

Because of your love of conflict, you make more enemies than friends.

CONFLICT CARDS

Because of your love of conflict, you cause division in your family.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

LESSON 3: THE COST OF SERVING JESUS ☆

Lessons in this series: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [Overview](#)

In this lesson, children will learn the cost John the Baptist paid to serve Christ. Students will also learn what it means for us to deny ourselves and take up our crosses.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS

Disciples, Following Jesus, John the Baptist, Obedience, Serving

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)

The Cost of Serving (Activity) [Click here](#)

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

MEMORY WORK (5 MINUTES)

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'"
Matthew 16:24 NIV

Read the memory verse together aloud as a class. Have the class imagine being in the presence of Jesus. He is telling us that if we want to be His disciple, we must deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think Jesus meant when He said we will need to deny ourselves? (*Saying no to our fleshly desires, putting the needs of others before ourselves.*)
2. What is meant by taking up our cross? (*No matter the cost, we are committed to Jesus and His purposes, with our time, talent, and resources. We live to serve others as Jesus did.*)

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (15 MINUTES)

Introduction:

Jesus was going from village to village, teaching and performing miracles. Reports about His actions spread quickly. When King Herod heard about Jesus and His miracles, he was terrified. He thought Jesus might have been John the Baptist raised from the dead. In today's lesson, Herod reflects on the terrible things he did to John the Baptist.

Read Mark 6:14-29 (John the Baptist Beheaded)

Discussion Questions:

1. Who did the people think Jesus was? (*John the Baptist raised from the dead; Elijah; or a prophet.*)
2. Who did King Herod think Jesus was? (*John the Baptist, whom he beheaded.*)
3. Why did King Herod lock up John the Baptist in prison? (*His wife, Herodias, didn't like John because he told King Herod that it was wrong for him to marry her because she was Herod's brother's wife.*)
4. Do you think John should have confronted King Herod about his ungodly way of living? Explain. (*Allow for discussion.*)
5. Herodias wanted John dead. What were some of the reasons King Herod didn't kill John immediately? (*He feared John, and he felt John was a holy and righteous man. King Herod also liked listening to John even though he didn't fully understand him.*)
6. King Herod held a banquet for his birthday. Why did he tell Herodias' daughter that he would give her anything she wanted up to half his kingdom? (*She danced and pleased him and his dinner guests.*)
7. After seeking advice from her mother, what did Herodias' daughter ask the King to do? (*Place John the Baptist's head on a platter.*)
8. Do you think the King should or should not have given the daughter what she asked for? Why or why not? (*Allow for discussion.*)
9. Would you say John denied himself and took up his cross to serve Jesus? Explain. (*Allow for discussion.*)

CLASS EXERCISE (5 MINUTES)

In the River Jordan (Song) [Click here](#)

ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (10 MINUTES)

Stir the Pot or Cover It Up? (Activity) [Click here](#)

APPLICATION (4 MINUTES)

Many people have been persecuted or even martyred for serving Jesus. They died standing up for the Truth. Some places imprison or even execute followers of Christ. Is the cost of following Jesus worth it to you? At your age, you may not leave your family to travel the world to share the Good News with others, but you might when you are older. However, there are still things that you can do right now to stand up for Christ. Just because you are young doesn't mean you can't do big things for God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways you can show that you are a servant of Christ? (*Allow for discussion.*)
2. Have you denied yourself and taken up your cross? If so, explain how. (*Allow for discussion.*)

NEXT WEEK

Select another exciting lesson from Kids Sunday School Place.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

TAKE HOME PAGE

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home. Click here for [NIV](#) or [KJV](#) [PDF]

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In the River Jordan



G C G
John the Baptist, in the River Jordan.
D G A7 D
What you doing, in the River Jordan?

G
I see the people coming,
C G
You lead them to the deep end.
D G D
Then there they go, from head to toe,
G D G
Under water and out again!

John the Baptist, eating honey and bugs.
John the Baptist, wearing a camel rug.
Last night I asked my big brother,
What's cooking at the river?
But he said go, and ask the man,
Who's back in the River Jordan!

So I went there, to speak to John the Baptist.
What he told me, made my eyes fill with mist.
He said God's Kingdom is coming,
Prepare yourself and repent.
So I did go, from head to toe,
Under water and out again!

IN THE RIVER JORDAN ☆

A mildly humorous song about John the Baptist at the River Jordan. Sung to tune of "Bicycle Built for Two."

TOPICS:

Baptism, John the Baptist, Kingdom of God,
Preparedness

MATERIALS:

Song sheet [PDF] [Click here](#)

DURATION:

Approximately 5 minutes



VERSE 1

John the Baptist, in the River Jordan.
What you doing, in the River Jordan?
I see the people coming,
You lead them to the deep end.
Then there they go, from head to toe,
Under water and out again!

VERSE 2

John the Baptist, eating honey and bugs.
John the Baptist, wearing a camel rug.
Last night I asked my big brother,
What's cooking at the river?
But he said go, and ask the man,
Who's back in the River Jordan!

VERSE 3

So I went to speak with John the Baptist.
What he told me, made my eyes fill with mist.
He said God's Kingdom is coming,
Prepare yourself and repent.
So I did go, from head to toe,
Under water and out again!

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STIR THE POT, OR COVER IT WITH LOVE? ☆

Children learn that it is better to show others love, rather than stir up conflict.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS:

Behavior, Grace, Sin

MATERIALS:

Cooking pot, bowl, scissors
Medium card stock
Whiteboard and dry erase marker
Heart and cards [PDF] [Click here](#)



DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION:

Before class, print and cut out the heart and cards. Place the conflict cards in the cooking pot and all the sin cards in the bowl. Write Proverbs 10:12 on the whiteboard.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Children take turns choosing a sin card from the bowl and then follow the instructions on the card. The cards will instruct students to cover the sin on the card with love or stir the pot and choose a conflict card.

WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

(Have the children read the verse on the whiteboard together as a class.) It is always better to show love to each other than it is to stir up conflict. Those who choose to cause conflict will end up paying the consequences.

Each of you will take turns drawing a sin card from the bowl, read the card aloud, and then follow the instructions on the card. The card will tell you if you are going to cover the wrong with love, or stir up conflict. If your card says that you chose to let love in, place your card under the heart and recite Proverbs 10:12b, which is printed on the heart, aloud to the class. If you select a card that tells you that you have chosen to cause conflict, you will need to pick a conflict card from the pot and read it aloud to the class.

Discussion Questions:

1. According to scripture, what stirs up conflict? (*Hatred.*)
2. According to scripture, what does love cover? (*All wrongs.*)
3. What happens to people who continually stir up conflict? (*Allow for discussion.*)
4. Can you name any characters in the Bible who allowed love to rule their lives? (*Allow for discussion.*)
5. Can you name any characters in the Bible who allowed conflict to rule their lives? (*Allow for discussion.*)

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SUNDAY SCHOOL TAKE HOME PAGE

To parents:

This page lets you know what your child learned in Sunday school today. In addition, you will find this week's memory verse, a suggested activity, and a short prayer to reinforce the lesson. Being involved and interacting with your child can be very rewarding for both of you.



What we learned:

Today, your child learned that John the Baptist choose to deny himself and take up his cross to serve Christ. Your child also learned how love covers a multitude of sins. (Scripture used: Mark 6:14-29)



Memory Verse:

"Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'" Matthew 16:24 NIV

Practice this verse several times with your child during the week. This will help him or her remember the verse and it will also help to reinforce what he or she learned during class.



Suggested Parent/Child Activity:

As a family, discuss what it means to deny oneself. During the next week, help your child research a modern day disciple of Christ who has denied him or herself to serve Jesus. Once the research is complete, talk about how this person can be a role model for your family.



Daily Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank You for sending Your Son. He is the Ultimate Leader. Teach me how to follow Him, deny myself, and take up my cross. May Your glory be in me. Help me choose to love and may that love cover a multitude of sins. Amen.