

CHILDREN'S SABBATH

Family Altar - Service & Mission
Total Child & Family Involvement
Lesson 8 February 18th 2017

What is Children's Church? It is a service that

- Is conducted in the church with specific participation of children in the church.
- Is specifically designed to meet the needs of our children.
- Reaches children's hearts and prepares them to make decisions for Christ.
- Helps children build relationship with Jesus.
- Explains the Scriptures in easy – to – understand language.
- Helps children understand the practicality of God's word
- Teaches Children to memorize texts for recall later as need.
- Helps children to apply biblical principles to their lives.
- Familiarizes children with the doctrines of the church.
- Provides fellowship with other children.
- Teaches stories that contain lessons on moral development.
- Trains children to willingly share the good news with others.



Sinaugoro SDA Church – Kwikila District Central Province

Description: Children's Sabbath Program

1. This is a Children's Sabbath in which children get to participate in Divine Service in the parts of the church program in singing, reading the scripture reading and assisting the preacher. Organize with the [church Pastor/Minister/Volunteer Missionary, Bible worker or Senior Elder] who is ministering in your church to preach on the **Theme which is Total Child & Family Involvement in Mission & Service.**
2. Get the children to practise songs so that they can contribute to the church at worship and feel the importance of using their gifts and talents in church worship.
3. Provide the notes on page 69 to the person who is taking the sermon to read and get some back ground information on the sermon to preach.
4. Promote Children and Family Involvement in Mission and Service acts of service in Quarter 1 and report testimonies and experiences.
5. Make, in advance, letters that spell out the words **TOTAL CHILD & FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN SERVICE AND MISSION** from Styrofoam or hardboard and paint it bright colours. Lay it down on the floor at the front of the church. Before the welcome have a children walk up the front with a pins/blue tack or whatever you will use and begin working on the words. Other children join him/her to help work on the words. While the children continue to work on the letters another child comes up to begin the welcome.

[For these parts, ask the child to speak in whatever language he or she is comfortable to speak in. They can learn the script in English but expressed in pidgin, English or motu.]

6. Praise & Worship Songs

Published by Review and Herald 1985

- All to Jesus I Surrender 309
- I will serve thee because I love Him
- Give of Your Best to the Master 572
- Brighten the corner where you are
- O Master Let Me Walk with Thee 574
- God is so good
- Take My Life and Let it Be 330
- Tis Love That Makes Us Happy 579

Scripture Reading

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:43-45

10:50 Prelude music

11:00 Praise & Worship – Appoint a family to participate in leading out the praise & worship together with the Praise & worship team of your church.

11:09 Welcome/Announcements OR Announcements / Welcome

11:13 offering – Received by deacon's; song – **There shall be showers of blessing/ I will serve thee/ God is so good/ we plough the fields**

Reading of Tithes article for this Sabbath before offering songs are sung.

11:18 Song – Children's song

11:21 Prayer – Three children

11:24 Scripture Reading

11:28 Reader's Theatre

11:31 Sermon

11:35 Sermon

11:41 Sermon

11:45 Sermon

11:49 Sermon

11:55 Sermon

11:59 Closing Song – *Take My Life and let it be*

12:02 Benediction

12:05 Postlude



1. Welcome Script

We are SO glad that you came to our church service today.

EVERYONE involved in this programme today is a child from our congregation.

We'd REALLY like to take this opportunity to welcome you here today and please give a VERY warm welcome to the people sitting near to you.

I'm sure that you can SEE the WORDS going up behind me. They spell out what our theme for today is...we are looking at SERVICE AND MISSION (children put up the last letter) and why it is important to help. After all, we are all God's children so why wouldn't we want to help our neighbours because they are really our brothers and sisters.

2. Offering – select a child to take this part and another child to read the tithe emphasis for this Sabbath.

Deacons of the church will begin receiving the offerings after the prayer is offered while the child reads.

2. Song

Organize four families to lead out in the offering songs and sing together with the praise and worship team of the church.

3. Prayer

Choose three children to pray for the 3 prayer points mentioned in the sermon outline. Give them enough time to look through the prayer points so that they are able to say the prayer during the Divine Service Hour.

Readers Theatre [Select three Children to memorise this Readers Theatre and coach them during the week to read as if they are telling a story. Memorize it by heart and guide them to read well by expressing the lines of each sentence]

Child 1 You are blessed

Child 2 when you have worked up a good appetite for God.

Child 3 His food and drink is the best meal you'll ever eat.

Child 1 You are blessed

Child 2 when you care.

Child 3 At the moment of being care-full you find yourselves cared for.

Child 2 You are here

Child 1 to be salt,

Child 3 the seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth.

Child 1 If you are not salty, how will people taste godliness?
Child 3 You are here
Child 2 to be light,
Child 1 to shine godliness to those around you.
Child 2 Keep your house open and be generous with your lives.
Child 3 By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up to God.
Child 1 If you spend your time feeding the hungry and helping people in need then you will be like a light in the darkness that shines as the noonday sun to those around you.
Child 2 People will be drawn to you like a moth to a flame
All and you will point them to God.
Child 1 Matthew 5:13-16; Isaiah 58:10.

Sermon

Topic: You Are Called To Serve

Introduction

The Bible encourages us to live like Jesus – to live showing love, compassion, generosity, hospitality and tolerance. **“Be devoted to one another in love.”**

Romans 12:10.

Teaching children the skills and habits of being others-oriented and looking beyond themselves can be quite a challenge. It is counter cultural in a world obsessed with self and where what matters most is money, power and self-exaltation.

It will require a lot of time and it works best when children can see it being modelled by adults who love them. Service is not an event or a short term mission project. It is what is happening naturally in everyday lives - a lifestyle. Serving and responding compassionately is successful when children are able to experience it with their families.

As you plan to give your children the experiences they need for life-long faith, have a look at the following checklist and tick off how many practices you do.

Purpose

- To take your children with you as you build friendships with neighbours.
- Provide opportunities and resources for your children to serve others with you home; neighbourhood; church; world.
- Provide opportunities for your children to respond with compassion and generosity.

- Encourage your children to share their faith story and Sabbath School Bible learning.

Issues & Challenges

1. How do we enable our kids to become others oriented instead of consumed with getting everything they want and all the attention?
2. How can we motivate them to set aside the addiction of mobile phones, video games, computer games etc. and actually get involved in the life of a neighbour or an overlooked child?
3. How do we raise children who naturally honour others above themselves?
4. What are some activities we could incorporate into daily life and some traditions we could established that would help us raised selfless kids in a self-centred world?

Prayer Points

Appoint 3 Children to offer the prayers in front and mention the specific prayers on behalf of the congregation.

1. Prayer that the children and families in our church [name of church] will experience a serving culture in our homes, church and community.
2. The children and families in our church [name of church] will be empowered to serve and do ministry for God through acts of service TMI.
3. Parents and the church to model giving generously

Scripture Reading [Appoint two children to memorise these scripture reading to read]

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

In Matthew 5:16 Jesus says "Let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." What does it mean to let your light shine before others? Well, Jesus goes on to explain many times that letting your light shine involves serving others. In fact Jesus talks more about serving other people than any other topic. One of the reasons you were created was to serve God and other people. Today we want you to think about what it means to serve God in your home, your church, your community and world.

Serving is all about putting others ahead of yourself. Jesus summed it up when He said that the first shall be last and the last first. These words sound a bit odd to us. We love to win and have things our way. We think 'me first' and that to be number one we have to get ahead or put others down. Jesus said: "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:43-45. While we might be happy for a little while putting ourselves first, deep down happiness comes from putting other people ahead of ourselves. Just like Jesus puts you and me first – it's incredible to think the God of the Universe came to serve you and me – He asks us to do the same for each other.

How often do you let someone go first in a supermarket line when you're both heading for the same checkout at the same time? When was the last time you helped a neighbour in their yard for no big reason? Closer to home, when was the last time you said "I would love to put the rubbish out", even when it's not your turn, or how do you think your mum would respond if you said "I would be honoured to do the dishes." Jesus said that when we do these kinds of things people will see God reflected through us and glorify him.

Servants think more about others than about themselves. When you have a servant's heart people are more valuable than things. When we stop focusing on our own selfish needs we become aware of the needs around us. The Bible says that Jesus 'emptied himself and took the form of a servant'. This was not because the task was so appealing, it wasn't, but because He loved His children (you and me and every other person) so much. People matter to God and because they matter to Him they must matter to you and me as well. We are to serve others because Jesus served others and asks us to do the same.

If serving is such a great thing then why isn't everyone eager to serve each other? What stops us serving? Simply, we just get too caught up with our own things and thinking about what we want. We think about our own stuff rather than what the world is like for someone else. This way of living can make us very selfish and blind to the needs of people around us. We rush past opportunities to be Jesus' hands. We do not have eyes that seek out the needs of people around us. Being a servant is about looking outside of our own needs to others, not for what they can give us or how they can help us get ahead but because, like us, they are also valuable to God. Like us, they are God's children.

Some people don't serve because they think they may not be appreciated. Well sometimes you won't be appreciated, sometimes you might get taken for granted. However, Jesus tells us to keep on serving anyway. Remember that for Jesus a cup of water for a little child is a big deal.

Maybe we can't be bothered serving – it's just too much hassle.

Maybe we are selfish and want all the glory for ourselves.

Maybe we are too busy thinking about ourselves.

Maybe we don't care about other people and don't take the time to get to know them.

Think about your heart right now and let's do a heart check. Is it a servant's heart? If not, then pray for God to open the eyes of your heart. Think about the people you know and then put their needs over yours.

Sometimes people will take advantage of our servant's heart or be unappreciative, however Jesus says to serve anyway as through you they might see Him. For the most part however, what relationships most need is someone willing to take the first step, climb off the high horse and serve. It can transform whole homes, churches and communities.

Paul says in Romans 12:1, "In view of what God has done for you, offer yourselves as a 'living sacrifice.' This is about dying to self and serving God. God wants to use you to make a difference in the world. He wants to work through you to serve others. What's stopping you?"

Conclusion

- 1. One of the reasons you were created was to serve God and other people.***
- 2. Serving is all about putting others ahead of yourself.***
- 3. When you have a servant's heart people are more valuable than things.***
- 4. Being a servant is about looking outside of our own needs to others, not for what they can give us or how they can help us get ahead but because, like us, they are also valuable to God. Like us, they are God's children.***
- 5. Sometimes people will take advantage of our servant's heart or be unappreciative, however Jesus says to serve anyway as through you they might see Him.***

Benediction

Background Reading for Children Ministry Leaders or the person preaching the sermon.

[Children Ministry leader can photocopy these background notes and distribute to families in the church for them to read and take home after the Divine Service.]

Shaping Life Long Faith through Service & Mission

By: Julie Weslake

Former Director Children's Ministries South Pacific Division Seventh-day Adventist Church

"If we lose a generation of young people in the church, it won't be because we didn't entertain them, but because we didn't dare do something meaningful with the gospel, in the light of the world that we live in."

Shane Claiborne in Csinos and Beckwith, *Children's Ministry in the Way of Jesus*.

Biblical Values:

Jesus said "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (a) ... Love your neighbour as yourself." (Matthew 22:37, 39 (a) Deuteronomy 6:5.) "Be devoted to one another in love." (Romans 12:10) "Deny Yourself." (Matthew 16:24)

"Submit yourself to one another." (Ephesians 5:21) "Live at peace with one another." (Romans 12:18) "**Ought.**" (Romans 12:13)

"Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the cause of the widow." (Isaiah 1:17)

Why Service Matters:

An unhealthy focus on your child will make life more difficult for the child. Habitually giving your child whatever they want is more likely to lead to selfishness rather than service. An upbringing filled with indulgences but not boundaries, creates insecurity instead of contentment. A child centred home weakens your marriage .A child will rarely, on his/her own, stop thinking of themselves and begin to focus on others. To be serving and compassionate will require:

- Intentional teaching
- Frequent modelling
- And a lot more time

Others Matter More than Me:

"What we are, teaches our children far more than what we say, so we must be what we want our children to become." (Joseph Chilton Pearce)

"Your children will never move toward honouring others until they genuinely believe that YOU value people over things." (Dave Stone, *How to Raise Selfless Kids in a Self-centred World*)

Plant seeds of service by modelling caring behaviour in everyday life:

- Use please and thank you with your child
- Listen attentively, Don't interrupt
- Never laugh at your child
- Don't use name calling or put downs
- Don't yell or scream
- Share and take turns
- Be generous
- Look for the good in everyone
- Say sorry and will you forgive me

SHINE – Serve Him IN Everything

"Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourself." (Philippians 2:3)

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." (Matthew 7:12)

How?

In the morning, encourage your children to look for someone who they could help that day. To help someone feel like a winner. This is a critical step in transforming a person from a consumer to a contributor – someone who has compassion for others and does something about it.

Time & Talent:

Show and teach children that time spent helping someone is time well spent.

"The measure of true greatness is not the number of people you have; it's the number of people you serve." (Dave Stone, p. 41)

Motive Matters:

If you serve when no one is watching

If there is no benefit to you

If the one you are serving isn't appreciative

If you sacrifice what you'd like to be and what you'd like to be doing in order to keep a commitment to serve"

Thankfulness:

Make a list of all the things that you are thankful for

Appreciate those who serve you

Teach your children to notice those who sacrifice for them

Teach children to say __thank you

Children who practised thankfulness daily reported higher levels of alertness, enthusiasm, determination, __attentiveness and energy (David Staal, *Lessons kids need to Learn, p.41*)

Generosity:

God has done so much for us, out of appreciation we should want to give to Him and to others. Lifelong habits are easily developed in early years. So start teaching your kids the principles of generosity early.

Giving 10% - Saving10% - Spending 80%

God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7). When God's people are in trouble, be ready to help (Romans 12:13). It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).

Lead by example and talk about generosity with your kids often. Involve them in your giving. The Faith Shaper Guide to **Service & Mission** - Page 7

"If your life screams that you live in the acquisition mode, then your children will be less apt to be in the relinquishing mode. We never look more like God than when we give." (Dave Stone, p.85)

Hospitality:

"It doesn't matter what your house looks like, how humble, how opulent. What matters is how you treat people, how valued they feel after spending time with you." (Dave Stone)

Jesus knew the importance of importance when He wanted to forge a relationship with someone, He sat down to a meal with that person.

Road to Emmaus – He was not recognised until they sat and Jesus broke the bread. It might just be 'dinner' to you, but to others around the table it could be the moment they recognise Jesus for the very first time.

Hospitality gives families a purpose beyond themselves. They (families) exist to serve God and those around them in their church, school and communities.

Service – We Love You Too:

It is another opportunity to respond to what God has done for us

It is an important part of spiritual formation

"Jesus came not to be served, but to serve." (Matthew 20-28)

***"If we do not serve, the accumulation of knowledge only harden our hearts."
(Andrew Murray)***

"Faith is a verb - an action. It results from our actions with others, it changes and expands through our actions with others, and it expresses itself daily in our actions with others." (John Westerhoff, *Will Our Children Have Faith*, p.87)

"Faith without action is dead." (James 2:17)

Why with Family?

Involvement in family service projects during childhood and adolescence has a powerful impact on young people's growth in faith. (Search Institute)

"We learn caring, and we learn it first in family life. Parents model for their children both in their family relationships and in relationships with others in the community."

(Robert Wuthnow. In Diana Garland. *Inside Out Families*)

"Many of these churches have discovered that once parents recognize their obligation to direct the spiritual development of their children and then recognize how integral serving others in that journey, they are open to serving alongside their youngsters in meaningful projects." (George Barna, *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions*, p. 113)

Serving at Home:

It's not as exciting as a mission trip to Africa, but contributing at home is truly the foundation for a lifetime of service. The small acts of kindness done at home show that caring is a "natural" part of life. Here are ideas you can use to get kids serving at home.



Go and make disciples

Total Child Involvement in making disciples for Jesus

Total Child and Family Involvement

TMI



Do these suggested activities for Quarter 1 after the Family Altar Day program

[Print these activities and give to the children in your church or call a meeting for the children and parents and talk about the activities in which the children will be involved in during Quarter 1 and give a copy of these activities to the parents]

Task. - Each families will work together to do the following activities.

1. Keep a journal or written report in a book of the activities you will do for this quarter. Include the date, number of minutes or hours you did the activity and describe how you feel after doing that activity.
2. Take pictures or a video of what you will do and send it to the Children ministry office.
3. Compiled a report at the end of the quarter on the activities you have done together with your family. Attach photographs of the activities and send to the Children Ministry office by the end of March.
4. Of all the suggested activities, choose 1 or two activities that you and your family can engaged in this quarter.

Helper's Hints - On slips of paper, have kids write or draw a picture of a way to serve each family member. Then place the slips in a decorated shoebox. For example, kids might write, "Make Mom's bed," "Give a hug," or "Do the dishes." Each morning kids can choose a slip of paper and use the "hint" to serve someone that day. Periodically have kids come up with new ideas to add to their boxes at home. [Get a shoe box and decorate it. On slips of paper write something you could do at home to practise serving others. Writ the activity and put it in the shoe box]

Flower Power - Younger children can create six construction-paper flowers, while older kids may enjoy arranging six artificial flowers in a decorative plastic cup.

Have kids write one way they'll serve their families on each flower. Kids can place the flowers at home where they'll see them every day and remember to serve.

Love Language - Discuss with kids how service is doing what someone else needs, not simply doing what we like to do for others. Then ask kids to identify meaningful ways they can show love to their families. Have kids create a service plan for the following week and keep a short journal of people's reactions to their acts of service. Share reports the following week.

Service Celebration - Challenge kids to complete one act of kindness for each family member during the week. In your classroom, have kids share ways they served their families so other kids get new ideas. Then serve the kids snacks as a celebration of their service.

Table Talk – Use the service discussion starter card to talk with your family about how they can serve others. [Order online from SPD Children Ministries resources]

Serving the Community:

Seventy-three percent of kids believe they can make a difference in their communities. We only need to provide opportunities for children to act on this belief. Try these opportunities.

Backyard games and crafts – Help your children organise weekly or monthly activities for the children in your neighbourhood.

Hospitality – Include your family preparing food and inviting neighbours and children to your home for a meal or afternoon tea.

- **Volunteer to read.** Libraries and schools are always looking for volunteer readers. Offer to staff your public library's reading hour with families from your church, or encourage kids to help younger readers at their schools outside regular classes.

- **Make birthday cards** and or gifts for people in your neighbourhood and the hospitals, clinics and orphanages.

- **Be a good neighbour.** Older kids can help neighbours by weeding, mowing, painting, house-sitting, or pet-sitting. Pre-schoolers enjoy leaving flowers or handmade cards on doorsteps.

- **Give something special.** Encourage families to clean closets by giving gently used clothing and toys directly to less fortunate families or organizations supporting families in need.

- **Car Wash** - Wash car windshields for free. A Bible scripture can be left under wiper blades when finished.

- **Activity bags** – Create activity bags for hospitalised children.
- **Free water bottles** with a scripture text at community events.
- **Snack Attack** - Identify nearby parks and sports fields, and recruit enough parent volunteers to have one adult per five kids who can visit the park as a group. Arm each group with individually wrapped snacks such as cereal bars, popsicles, or fruit snacks, or juice boxes. Pack the snacks in a box for each group with a sign that reads, "Free Snacks from the kids at (your ministry's name)." Have kids meet at your church. Start with a prayer, asking God to help kids meet the people he wants them to, and then head out to the parks and fields. Encourage kids to chat with their newfound acquaintances by asking questions such as their names, favourite sports, or what schools they attend as they distribute snacks. This "just because" act of kindness can help befriend neighbours and opens the door for inviting families to church or to an upcoming family or children's ministry event.
- **Toy Drive** - Kids in your ministry can sponsor seasonal toy drives several times throughout the year to collect specific, new seasonal items. Contact community agencies that supply children's needs such as a homeless shelter, women's safe house, law enforcement, social services, and your fire department. Ask for their wish lists of items that would directly help. Once the collection time is up, have kids gather the items and place stickers on them that say, "Just to make you smile! From the kids at (your church/ministry name)." Before you take your kids to deliver the toys to the community agencies, pray for the children who'll receive each item.
- **Bear Hugs** - This special outreach gives your kids an opportunity to comfort children in crisis. Having soft, lovable cuddles to give to kids in seriously stressful situations is Meaningful not only to the child but the emergency responders as well. Collect new soft bears from children and adults at church. During your children's and adult worship services, invite people to bring up their bears. After the animals are up front, have your senior pastor pray that the gifts so lovingly given will bless hurting children in your community. At the end of your services, kids can box up the stuffed animals and help you deliver them to a local police station or fire department.

Help the Local Environment:

Plant a flower garden at a senior home and/or clean up a yard.

Clean up a park, or beach or parking lot, shopping centre, health centre or market.

Serving at Church:

Provide opportunities for kids and their families to serve at church with these ideas.

Toy Wash - Children can help your Beginners by washing toys. Pre-schoolers and preteens can work together to scrub plastic toys.

- Have a "family fun day" party where children can give their gently used toys to your children's ministry or a shelter in honour of Jesus.

Family Workday - Announce a workday for families at your church. Make a list of chores such as raking, scrubbing, gardening/ planting flowers or trees, or church furniture cleaning. Provide water, juice, and doughnuts. Create "To Do" and "Done" columns on a wall, and write instructions for each job on a sticky note. Post the notes on the "To Do" side. Families can choose their projects and celebrate by moving the sticky note to the "Done" column when they finish. Upper Primaries/Juniors – give children ownership by giving them a ministry position and allow them to work alongside adults as apprentices. Give them training opportunities and feedback.

"I'm Serving God" T-shirt's or caps - Have kids design T-shirts or caps that say, **"I'm serving God!"** Discuss the various ways people serve in your church, then have children thank these people with a handmade button. Give every child a button, too, as you celebrate their service at church.

Connection Point - As families walk into your church, and are greeted, but kids are often bypassed or overlooked. Set up a roster and train your kids specifically to connect with other kids and welcome them. Prep kids with friendly conversation starters such as, **"What's your school like?"** or, **"What's your favourite TV show?"** Each week, have two or three kids rotate serving at the connection point. Encourage greeters to ask other kids their names and to introduce themselves. Greeters can give visiting kids a small gift from your ministry, and then walk with kids and their families to the appropriate ministry area.

• **Read Me a Story** - Kids who love to read can share that love while serving younger kids with this idea. Invite older kids in your children's ministry to read a children's Bible story aloud to younger children in Beginner or Kindergarten.