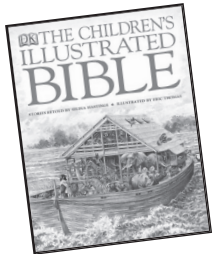


Ordinary Time, Proper 26



The Children's Illustrated Bible
page 259

Jesus said, "Do what the scribes and the Pharisees teach you, but not what they do, for they don't practice what they teach. They burden others but don't lift a finger to help. They love to have the places of honor, to be greeted with respect, and to be called rabbi. But you have one teacher, and you are my students. The greatest of you will be a servant. All who boast will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be lifted up."

—Matthew 23:1–12 adapted

Jesus Teaches Us to Serve

In this story of Jesus teaching his disciples, Jesus warned them about the religious leaders who told others what to do, but did not do it themselves. Share this scripture from Matthew 23:1-12, and show the drawings of the priests and teachers on page 259 of *The Children's Illustrated Bible*. Discuss:

1. Do you know someone like this?
2. Do you ever do this? Do you show off? Do you refuse to help others? Do you boast?

God gives us wonderful gifts, but we should not boast about them. Jesus tells his disciples not to be like the Pharisees who do everything for show. Jesus says if you want to be great, be a servant to others. He says not to let yourself be called rabbi, which means "my great one," for Jesus is our rabbi, our "great one." We are his students.

3. What can you do to serve others?
4. What good deeds have you seen others do?



Jesus taught us to t____ like him. (teach)

Jesus taught us not to show o____. (off)

Jesus taught us that God chose u____. (us)

Jesus taught us not to give u____. (up)

Jesus taught us to for_____ others. (give)

Jesus taught us to l____ God. (love)

Fill-in Blanks

Jesus was our teacher. He taught us many things. Do you remember what he taught? Play a game to help kids remember Jesus' teachings of the parables studied so far. Write cards of those teachings (shown to the left), but don't put answers on the cards. Stack them face down on a table. Call the first kid from each team to stand with one hand behind their back. Blow a whistle; the first kid to pick up the top card (with the hand which was behind their back) reads the fill-in-the-blank part. The first letter of the missing word can be given as a clue. Teams can help answer, and, if they are right, they win the card. The team with the most cards wins.

Servant Shoes

A gospel spiritual, "All God's Children Got Shoes" says that if our world were as God designed it, no one would be barefoot, homeless, sick, poor, or hurt. Set up a factory to make shoe-shaped cookies. Use plain, square, or round cookies made or purchased before class. Along a factory line (table), kids will add icing to make the cookies look like shoes. At the end, two kids will box the cookies up and take them away, paying a few pennies for the cookies. Ask if this is fair. Explain that in some countries, children work in shoe factories for a few pennies a day while people in other countries get to wear the shoes. Now share the cookies with everyone.

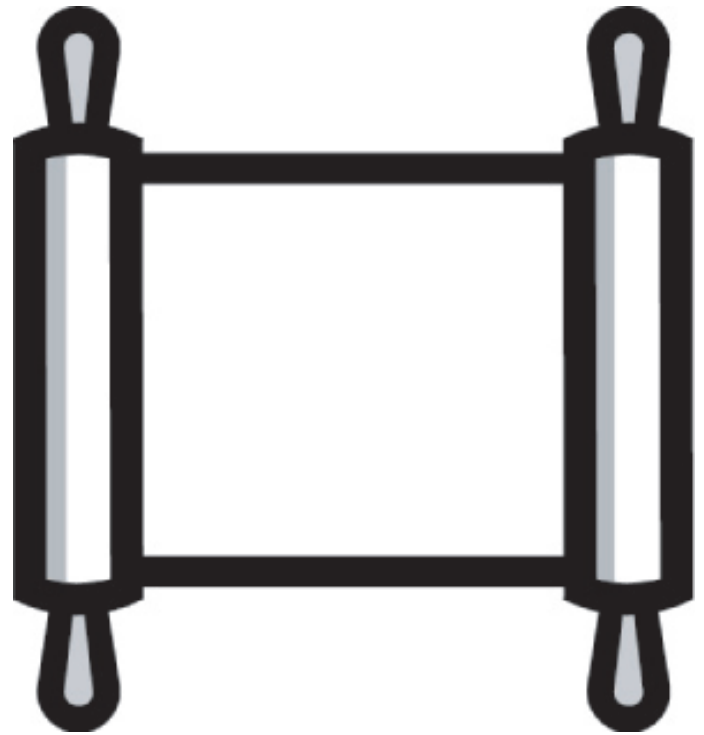


Jesus told his followers how they should act. He said boastful people show off and make it hard for others. But the greatest take care of others. They know that Jesus is their teacher, and they learn from the things that Jesus taught.

—Matthew 23:3–12 adapted

Sh'ma

Do you remember what the *Sh'ma* is? Write it on this scroll.



Word Search

Greatest-Servant Word Search. Find “greatest” five times, and “servant” four times. Words are upside down, diagonal, and backwards.

G T G S E R V A N T
W R R P X I T K T N
G R E A T E S T S A
S D A A A O S B E V
E H T V T E D I T R
T S E T A E R G A E
A E S A V Y S U E S
E S T T A E R T R S
G S E R V A N T G T