

BIBLE Alphabet

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

I Can Have a Good Attitude

OBJECTIVE:

Preschoolers will learn that Jesus wants us to have an attitude of helping and serving. Others first, not me first.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 13:3-5, 12-17, Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet

MEMORY VERSE:

"I serve God with my whole heart." Romans 1:9a (NirV)

SUMMARY:

Following Jesus isn't complicated. It's as simple as ABCD. When Jesus washed his disciples' feet, he showed us that it is important to have the right attitude by putting other people first.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help me to have a good attitude.

Amen

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MEMORY VERSE

"I serve God with my whole heart." Romans 1:9a (NirV)

LARGE GROUP MV ACTIVITY: Teach the kids the verse, using the following hand motions: "I" (hold your hands at chest level and point to yourself with both thumbs) "serve God" (bring your palms together, forming a bowl with your hands. Lift your arms up above you, separating your hands.) "with my whole heart" (bring your arms down in a sweeping motion. Cross your arms over your chest.)

SMALL GROUP MV ACTIVITY: Say the verse together several times. Talk about the verse's meaning.

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SKIT OR PUPPET SHOW

TITLE: A is for Attitude

ITEMS NEEDED: None

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M

CHARACTERS: Bart, Arnie

If you have puppets, this would be a good series of skits to use them. Especially, if those puppets bear any resemblance to Sesame Street's Bert and Ernie.

Arnie is on stage, singing the alphabet song. Bart enters.

BART: Hello, Arnie.

ARNIE: Hey, Bart.

BART: Did you do anything interesting today, Arnie?

ARNIE: I ate an apple with an angry alligator named Allen.

BART: You did what?

ARNIE: I asked an armadillo named Arnold to act like an acrobat.

BART: Apples, alligators, armadillos? What are you talking about, Arnie?

ARNIE: I'm trying out my A words, Bart. Today's special letter is A and I'm thinking up words that start with A. Animal. Alphabet. Arm. Ape.

BART: Attitude.

ARNIE: Attitude? That's a pretty big word. Does attitude start with an A?

BART: It sure does, Arnie.

ARNIE: What does it mean?

SKIT OR PUPPET SHOW

BART: Attitude is the way we think and behave. Some people have a mean attitude. Some people have a happy attitude. Some people have a helpful attitude.

ARNIE: And some people have an alligator's attitude.

Arnie laughs to himself.

BART: Arnie!

ARNIE: Sorry, Bart. Which kind of attitude is the best to have?

BART: I think we should have an attitude like Jesus had. Jesus was always willing to help others. He would put other people first. He was always doing things for others.

ARNIE: That is a great attitude to have.

BART: That's the kind of attitude I want to have.

ARNIE: Me too.

BART: Always.

ARNIE: Amazing.

BART: Astounding.

ARNIE: Aardvark.

Arnie laughs.

BART: Arnie!

ARNIE: Sorry, Bart.

End.

SNACK

ITEMS NEEDED: Cookies

ADVANCED PREPARATION: Post a sign outside the preschool area that says: "Today's snack is cookies. Please let your child's teacher know if it is not ok for your child to have this snack."

CONNECTION: Put your servant attitudes to the test by having little ones serve snack to each other. You can elect to have one or two kids serve all of the snacks, or have each kid come up and give a snack to another. Remind kids of the joy of having an attitude like Jesus' that puts others first.

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CRAFT

ITEMS NEEDED:

Card stock – 2 sheets per child, pencils, scissors, glue, paper towels, crayons

ADVANCED PREPARATION:

Cut half of the card stock into the shape of a water basin as seen from the side. (For the mathematically-minded, this is an isosceles trapezoid.)

DIRECTIONS:

Have kids remove their shoes and socks. Against a flat surface, have kids stand on the non-cut sheet of card stock. Have an adult trace around the child's feet. Let an adult help the kids cut out the shape of their feet. Give the kids crayons to color and decorate their feet. Give each child a paper towel and the card stock sheet shaped like a water basin. Glue the paper towel to the basin. Glue the feet to the towel and basin.

Remind the kids of the good attitude Jesus showed when he washed his disciples' feet. Jesus loved other people and put them first. Let them know that with God's help, we can have that same attitude.

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HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

ITEMS NEEDED: Artichoke, alligator picture, other items that begin with the letter “A”, two apples, knife or apple corer

ADVANCED PREPARATION: None

DIRECTIONS:

Remind kids that your special letter today is “A.” Pass around some items and pictures of things that begin with the letter “A.” Include one of the apples in this time.

Say, “Today’s special word is “Attitude.” Attitude is the way we think and act. We want to have an attitude like Jesus had, one that puts other people first.”

Retrieve the apple. Say, “The apple can remind us of the word attitude. If you have a selfish attitude, you only want things for yourself.” Take a bite of the apple. Say, “This apple tastes good, but if I have a selfish attitude, I’m the only one who gets to eat it. It’s all for me.”

Bring out the other apple. Say, “But if I have an attitude that puts others first, I’ll want to share the apple and give it away, so as many people can enjoy it as possible.” Cut up the apple using a corer or a knife. Offer an apple slice to kids that want one. (Have more apples on hand if you want to ensure that everyone who wants some, gets some.)

Say, “A is for Apple, and A is for Attitude. We need to have an A-plus Attitude that puts other people first. Just like Jesus did.”

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MAIN LESSON

BOTTOM LINE: I Can Have a Good Attitude

OBJECTIVE: Preschoolers will learn that Jesus wants us to have an attitude of helping and serving. Others first, not me first.

KEY PASSAGE: John 13:3-5, 12-17, Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet

WORSHIP TIME:

Prior to the lesson, sing one or two songs with the kids. Use CDs or live lyrics of songs that the kids are familiar with.

LESSON:

Today's story comes to us from the Bible. (Hold up a Bible.) The Bible is God's word to us, so we know that everything it says is true. (Open the Bible and set it down in front of you as you give the lesson.) Our special letter today is the letter "A." Lots of words begin with the letter A: apple, ant, angel, aardvark. Another word that begins with the letter "A" is attitude. Attitude is the way we think and act. Jesus had a good attitude. He loved people. He helped people. He put people before himself. One day, he was with his friends, the disciples. They were getting ready to eat a special meal together. Before the meal, Jesus took a bowl of water and a towel. He knelt down and he washed his disciples' feet. Jesus was their leader, their master, their Lord. But he wanted to show them that he was always willing to serve other people. Jesus had a helping attitude.

When he was washing their feet, Jesus told his disciples that it was a good thing he had done. He said that anyone who follows Jesus should have the same attitude. We should serve people.

I can follow Jesus. I can help other people. I can put other people first.

I can have a good attitude. A is for Attitude.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Help me to have a good attitude.

Amen

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MAIN LESSON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WIGGLE TAMER: Play a little “Follow the Leader.” Talk about how we are learning how to follow Jesus, and we need to let him be our leader.

SMALL GROUP MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Say the verse together several times. Talk about the verse’s meaning.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What is today’s special word that begins with the letter “A”?

What did Jesus do for his disciples?

Did Jesus help and serve other people?

Does Jesus want us to have that same attitude?

SMALL GROUP GAME OR ACTIVITY: Play with modeling clay. Put your servant attitudes into practice by one at a time, having each child come and get a bag of clay for someone else in the group. See who can mold a water basin like the one Jesus used to wash his disciples’ feet.

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SPECIAL 1 PAGE LESSON FOR 1-2 YEAR OLDS

PLAY TIME: Spend the first 15 minutes on the floor playing with the kids. Cars, dolls, blocks, and simple puzzles are great for this time.

BIBLE TIME: Seat the kids in the place they will be having snack. Hold up a Bible or Illustrated Kids' Bible and say, "This is the Bible. God wrote the Bible. Everything in the Bible is true." Then allow each child to pat the Bible with his hand.

LESSON:

Jesus got down on his hands and knees.
He said, "You should serve others just like me."
He gently washed his friends' feet that day.
He wants us to help others in the same exact way.

Jesus had a good attitude, and so can I.

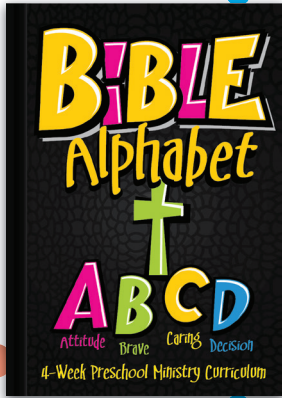
MAKE IT REAL: After the lesson say, "God loves you, and he wants you to love him too." Then point to each child and say, "God loves you (child's name)."

PRAYER TIME: Ask the children to fold their hands and bow their heads. Say, "Let's pray before our snack. Thank you God for our mommies and our daddies. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for this snack we get to eat. Amen."

SNACK TIME: Wash each child's hand with a wet wipe and then serve the snack. At this age crackers or goldfish with water are generally best, but you always want to be mindful of any food allergies.

POTTY BREAK: After snack is a great time to ask those who are potty trained if they need to use the bathroom, or change diapers of those who are not yet potty trained.

PLAY TIME: Finish the day with more playtime until it's time for dismissal.



MAKE IT STICK

4 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Bible Alphabet Lesson 1

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: A IS FOR ATTITUDE

Use these four common times in a preschooler's day to reinforce this week's lesson:



DRIVING:

As you drive along, brainstorm ideas of how you and your little ones can help and serve other people. Who are specific people you can visit or say a kind word to? What are other ways you can have a Jesus Attitude towards others?



PLAYING:

Make greeting cards. Create birthday cards, get well cards and thinking of you cards for specific people or a group in need – like people in a nursing home. Write in a simple message, while your little ones decorate the cards with drawings and stickers. Mail out the cards, or visit the card recipients.



EATING:

Practice serving others by having each member of the family in charge of serving a particular component of the meal to the others. Little ones could give out dinner rolls or silverware. Talk about the joy in serving others.



SNUGGLING:

While you cuddle together, read an alphabet book (i.e. A is for Apple). Remind your little ones that Attitude is another word that begins with the letter A. Pray together that God would help both of you to have the right attitude, just like Jesus.

**A
B
C
D**

"I serve God with my whole heart."
- Romans 1:9a (NIRV)

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