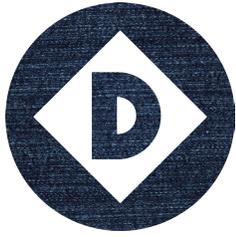


DISCIPLES

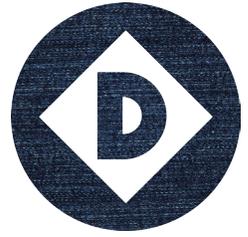


“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

Matthew 7:24-25



Week 6



TOPIC

Serving Others

DISCIPLE

James and John (Part 1)

BIBLE STORY

James and John Learn a Lesson

Mark 10:35-45

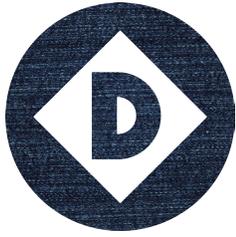
TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

I will serve others by putting them first.

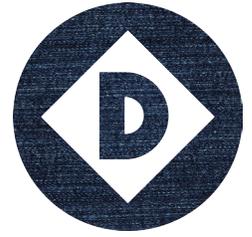
WEEKLY VERSE

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.”

1 Peter 4:10



Week 6



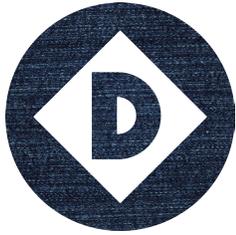
SKIT

Skit Information

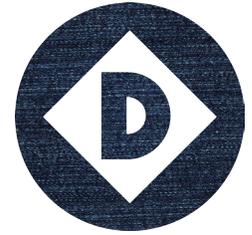
The skits will require two people. One person will play themselves (the straight character), and the other person will play the funny character. It works best if you can find a person willing to commit to being the character for the entire series.

Character Bio

The character's name is Minion Maddie. If a male is playing the character consider calling them Minion Mark or Minion Matt. Minion Maddie loves minions so much that she decided she wants to become one herself. Her goal in life is to become more like a minion in every way. Consider putting your character in a yellow shirt, overalls, black shoes, black gloves, a yellow hat, and goggles. Extras: Add minion accessories, wear a minion shirt, decorate minion shoes, go all out.



Week 6



SKIT

Leader: How is everyone doing today? I really think we are finally making some progress with helping Minion Maddie out. I wonder what she is up to this week?

Minion Maddie: *Comes in holding some banana peels.*

Leader: Hey Maddie! It looks like you have been working on your banana picking up skills. How is that going?

Minion Maddie: Well, basically I am officially the best banana picker upper they have ever seen. Last week I picked up 5,609 banana peels single-handedly!

Leader: Whoa! That's a ton of banana peels! I'm so proud of you. It sounds like you are really putting into practice what we talked about last week. You are being willing to serve with a humble attitude.

Minion Maddie: There's just one problem though.

Leader: What is it now?

Minion Maddie: I have been picking up banana peels 24/7 and I have sewn like 500 buttons back on overalls this week. I'm so exhausted.

Leader: Well, I never said that serving others was going to be easy. In fact, most of the time it's not.

Minion Maddie: You're not kidding. I've worked the hardest I have ever worked in my entire life in one week, and I really thought that by now I would have gotten some kind of promotion. Can't they see all my hard work?

Leader: It's only been one week. Did you really think you were just going to work hard for a week then be promoted to top minion in training just like that?

Minion Maddie: I mean, yeah, I kind of did think that would be how it would go.

Leader: I think you have a bit more to learn about serving others, but I have some good news for you.

Minion Maddie: You found someone who looks just like me who we can swap in and make them do all my work for me?

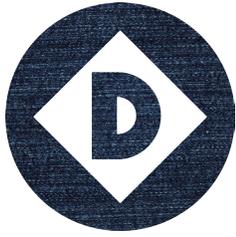
Leader: Definitely not. You are just proving my point even further that you need to learn more about serving others.

Minion Maddie: Ok. So what's the good news then?

Leader: Some of Jesus' closest disciples needed to learn more about what it means to serve other, too!

Minion Maddie: Really? You would think those guys would be smarter than that. I mean they got to hang out with Jesus all the time, and they still didn't learn how to serve others?

Leader: Eventually, yes, they did, but at first they were a little confused too.



Week 6



SKIT

Minion Maddie: That actually makes me feel a little better. I can't wait to hear more about what Jesus taught about serving others.

Leader: I'm glad you feel better. I think you should stay a little longer today to hear more about what Jesus taught his disciples about serving others. I think you will learn a lot.

Minion Maddie: Awesome. I'm definitely going to stay to hear more.



Week 6



GAME: LEMON HEADS

Supplies

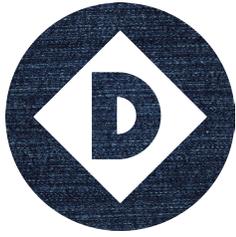
- 4 buckets
- 20 lemons (10 per team)
- Tape (for the floor)

Setup

- Fill one bucket per team with 10 lemons in each. Leave the other two buckets empty.
- Put a strip of tape on the floor where you want the kid who are holding the buckets on their heads to stand and another strip of tape on the floor where you want the kids who will be throwing the lemons to stand.

How To Play

1. Choose 2 kids from each team to play this game.
2. 1 kid from each team will be the “lemon head”. They will have to hold the bucket on the top of their head while standing on the line of tape on the floor.
3. The other kid on each team will be the lemon throwers. They will stand behind the other line of tape on the floor with their buckets of lemons.
4. When the leader says go, the lemon throwers will have 1 minute to get as many lemons in their teammates bucket (on their head) as possible.
5. The first team to get all 10 lemons in the bucket wins. If no one is able to get all 10 lemons in their bucket, the team with the most lemons in their bucket wins.
6. Optional: Play additional rounds with different kids.



Week 6



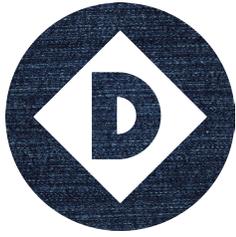
MESSAGE

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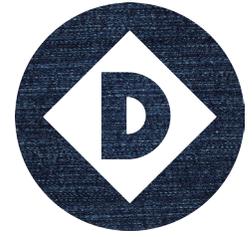
- A Bible in your preferred version (this curriculum uses the NLT version primarily)
- Home Makeover Mini Movie prepared
- One bigger chair or stool
- Two smaller chairs or stools
- King's crown
- Broom
- Dust pan
- Chocolate chip cookies
- Chocolate chips
- Flour
- Unfrosted cake
- Frosting

Introduction

Last week, we talked about how we need to serve Jesus with a humble attitude. This week, we will be talking about the importance of serving others as disciples and followers of Jesus. Jesus talked a lot about being willing to serve others during his ministry on earth. Sometimes, it seems like maybe the disciples weren't paying attention to what Jesus was teaching based on the things they said or the way they reacted to situations. However, we must remember that Jesus' disciples were people just like you and me. They made mistakes and even said some pretty dumb things. Over the next two weeks, we are going to take a look at the lives of another dynamic duo of brothers who were a part of Jesus' twelve closest disciples. Can anyone guess who I'm talking about? *Allow kids to respond.* I'm talking about James and John, the sons of a man named Zebedee. Before we take a closer look at their lives, let's see how willing the minions are to serve others. *Play Home Makeover Movie Clip.* The minions were willing to serve the girls and each other no matter what. They were willing to clean, paint the ceiling, set the table, decorate, and anything else they needed to do. Let's get to know James and John a little better and find out how willing



Week 6

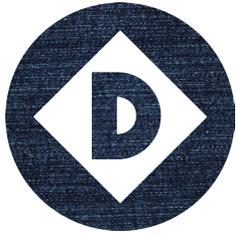


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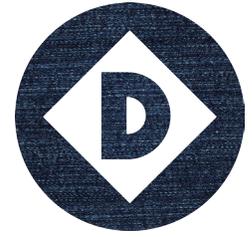
they were to serve others. Like I said before, James and John were some of Jesus' closest friends and disciples. You could say they were in Jesus' inner circle. Jesus didn't take all of the twelve disciples with Him everywhere. Sometimes, He only took a few of them, and James and John were always in that exclusive group. James and John were originally fishermen just like Peter and Andrew. In fact, they were friends with Peter and Andrew before becoming disciples of Jesus and Jesus called them to follow him at about the same time. In Mark 3:17, we learn that Jesus nicknamed them the Sons of Thunder. This is most likely because they got angry easily and were very quick to jump into action. James was the oldest of the two brothers, and was more outspoken than John. His personality was bold and loud, much like Peter's. If you have read the New Testament before, you may have noticed that there are a few people named James that are mentioned. That can be really confusing. There were actually two James' in Jesus' twelve disciples, James son of Zebedee and James son of Alphaeus. We know a lot more about James the son of Zebedee and he is often called James the Greater. There is another famous James in the New Testament, who is actually Jesus' brother. Jesus' brother, James is the one who wrote the book of James in the Bible, not the James we are talking about today. James son of Zebedee was the first of the 12 disciples of Jesus to be killed for his faith in Jesus. We will talk a little more about John next week.

Bible Story

Now that we know a little more about James and John, we can get a sneak peak into one of their not so great moments with Jesus. If you have your Bibles, turn with me to Mark 10:35-45. James and John came to Jesus one day and said, "Teacher, we want you to do us a favor." I feel like they were already heading down the wrong path with that opening statement, but Jesus was all ears to them. He asked, "What is your request?" I need two volunteers to come up here and play James and John. *Choose two kids to come up and play James and John. Pull out the stools or chairs for this part of the story and sit on the biggest stool/chair in the middle of the other two smaller chairs.* What could James and John possibly be asking Jesus to them a favor for? Well, let's find out what their request was in verse 37, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left." *Have James and John sit down in the chairs next to you.* Jesus is like, What? You don't know what you are asking of me. That was a pretty bold request on their part. Jesus continued,



Week 6

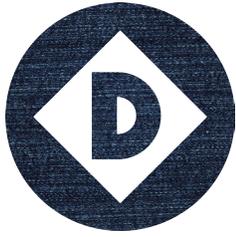


MESSAGE

“Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I must be baptized with?” Basically, Jesus is asking them if they are willing to suffer and die in the same way he is about to for them. Again, they answer confidently, “Oh yes, we are able!” You have to give them points for confidence. Jesus replied, “You will indeed drink from my bitter cup and be baptized with my baptism of suffering. But I have no right to say who will sit on my right or my left. God has prepared those places for the ones he has chosen.” Jesus believed in their confidence, but James and John were a little confused about how to become “important” in heaven. Now, word spread to the other ten disciples about what James and John had asked Jesus. How do you think the other disciples reacted to their request? *Allow kids to respond.* They were mad at them, of course. James and John were trying to sneak around the other disciples’ backs to get the best seats in heaven. Well, no worries, because Jesus is about to tell all the disciples what it means to be important in the kingdom of God. It definitely looks a lot different than what it looks like to be important here on earth. Here’s what Jesus said to them, “You know that the rulers in this world lord it over their people, *Put on crown while you talk*, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, *Hand one volunteer a broom*, and whoever wants to be first among you must be the slave of everyone else. *Hand the other volunteer a dust pan.* For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Let’s give a hand for our volunteers.

Life Application/Object Lesson

It all goes back to that concept Jesus teaches about over and over again. The last will be first, the least will be the greatest. That didn’t really make sense to the disciples and it may not make sense to us. Jesus wants us to know that we won’t become great in His book by being rich, famous, or important. We will become great disciples of Jesus when we are willing to serve others, to put them first no matter what. We have to be willing to be last, and that’s hard. I was thinking about this concept of being last, and there are a lot of things that are added or done last that are the best part. Take chocolate chip cookies for example. *Pull out chocolate chip cookies, flour, and chocolate chips.* What is the best part about a chocolate chip cookie? *Allow kids to respond.* The chocolate chips, of course. Now, you may not know this, but usually the first ingredient in a chocolate chip cookie recipe is the flour and the last ingredient added is the chocolate chips. The best is saved for last.

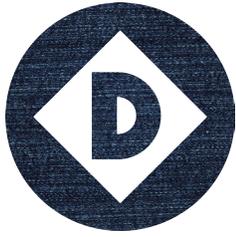


Week 6



MESSAGE

Or, take cake for example. *Pull out cake and frosting.* Cake is an awesome dessert, but it always has some kind of frosting, icing, or whipped cream on it. If cake is all by itself, it's pretty dry and boring. Notice that the frosting is always added last, after the cake is already baked and cooled. Again, saving the best for last. Let's pray and ask God how we can serve others by putting them first. *Optional: Give a salvation prayer for any kids who have not chosen to follow Jesus yet.*



Week 6



GAME: MINION VERSE HUNT

Supplies

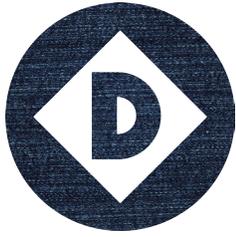
- 22 Minion cutouts
- Marker

Setup

- Find an image of a minion online, print out 22 of them, and cut them out.
- Write parts of the theme verse on the back of each of the minion cutouts.
Verse breakdown: Therefore / everyone who / hears these / words of mine / and puts them / into practice / is like a / wise man / who built his / house on / the rock. / The rain / came down / the streams rose / and the winds / blew and beat / against that house / yet it did / not fall / because it had / its foundation on / the rock.
- Hide the minion cutouts all over the room before the kids arrive.

How To Play

1. Everyone can play this game.
2. When the leader says go, everyone will begin looking for the hidden minions around the room.
3. Kids can work together the theme verse in order on the back of the minions. If they are missing parts of the verse they can go back out searching for more minions. Keep playing until all the minions have been found and the verse is in the correct order.
4. Optional: If your group is larger, hide multiple sets of minions that look different and break the group into teams.
5. Optional: Play again allowing one or two of the kids to hide the minions for the other kids.

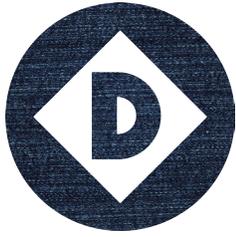


Week 6



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Do you prefer to serve others or to be served? Why?
2. What is one thing you are really good at? How can you use that talent to serve others?
3. Do you prefer to go first or last? Why?
4. Why do you think Jesus wants us to be willing to serve others by putting them first?
5. Optional: Look up these verses about faith and discuss them as a group.
 - Hebrews 6:10
 - Matthew 23:11
 - Luke 6:38
 - 1 Peter 4:10



Week 6



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of our current series?

Answer: Disciples

2. Who were the two brothers who came to Jesus with a request?

Answer: James and John

3. What was Jesus' nickname for James and John?

Answer: The Sons of Thunder

4. What is Today's Takeaway?

Answer: I will serve others by putting them first.

5. What is our theme verse for our Disciples Series?

Answer: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." Matthew 7:24-25