SERVICE PROJECTS

Leader’s Cards for Tide Pool Playland
Service for Preschoolers

Even very young children can receive lasting benefits from serving others. They can learn:

- respect—for God, others, and themselves.
- value—realizing the special gifts God has given them and how much He loves everyone.
- compassion—developing a caring attitude and empathy toward others.

Quick Tips for Service Leaders

- Make samples of serving tools ahead of time.
- Be patient and keep your goals simple. Understand that very young children may have undiscovered gifts and/or delays that may make it difficult for them to sit still or follow instructions. Remember that they will learn the most about serving by watching how you serve others.
- If you have missionaries on-site, invite them to spend time showing preschoolers pictures of kids and scenes from other places. Help preschoolers to see and understand the needs of people living in difficult situations around the world.
- If you are supporting Back2Back Ministries, check out the ideas for explaining orphans and their needs to young children (included in the printable section of the Planning & Missions DVD).
- Use the Service Fish as “Caught Serving Others” cards to recognize acts of service you see kids doing on their own.
- Repeat the Bible Memory often.

Service Projects Safety

- Review the Sensory Inventory Forms for all the children. Be aware of any allergies or sensitivities.
- Make sure you have enough teen or adult helpers, especially if you will be doing activities outside of the Tide Pool Playland area.
- Keep a first-aid kit handy.

See the Preschool CD in the Age-Level Resources Disc Set for extra instructions, options, patterns, and helps.
PELICAN PICKUP

What You’ll Need

- small trash bags
- latex-free gloves
- brooms
- dustpans
- safe cleaning wipes
- dustcloths (or old socks)
- timer
- (optional: Pelican Pickup visors; use pattern on Preschool CD, card stock, scissors, hole punch, and elastic string)

Preparation

Before class, decide on spots at your site where the preschoolers can have access for cleanup. Determine specific jobs they can do, such as picking up paper; dusting; picking up toys; or wiping down doorknobs, tables, and chairs.

What You’ll Do

Make some fun Pelican Pickup visors for your crew. Print out the Pelican Pickup visor pattern onto card stock, cut them out, punch holes in each end for string to go through; then thread string through the holes and tie the ends together in a knot. Give kids the visors and the necessary tools for the cleanup jobs they will be doing. Separate the preschoolers into small cleaning crews. Explain that they will be serving others today by cleaning up the area so other kids can enjoy it. Tell them they will have 10 minutes to clean up their area and come back to the Tide Pool Playland.
Special Needs Tip: Children with attention difficulties may find it difficult to keep focused. Give them small tasks for shorter amounts of time. Be aware of any sensitivities to cleaning products or dust.

What You’ll Say

SAY: What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery? (God KNOWS me!) God knew Noah, and God knows us too! God told Noah to follow Him. Before going on your cleanup mission, play a simple, quick game of Follow the Leader. Talk to the preschoolers about the importance of following good instructions. SAY: Today we’re going to practice doing the right thing, like Noah did. ASK:

• Is it important to follow a good leader?
• What can happen if you follow a bad leader?
• God is our leader! He gave us this world and commanded us to take care of it. Today we are going to take care of it by cleaning up the spaces we use. How can cleaning up show others that we care about them?

S&S® Worldwide Service Option

Children can decorate these precut cardboard Color-Me™ Paper Visors with paint, markers, foam, glitter, and more (decorating supplies sold separately). One-size-fits-most elastic coil band. Approx. 7½" x 10". Item STL-SD305. To order: Call 800.243.9232 or visit standard.ssww.com.
P.J.’S PRAYER PUFFS

What You’ll Need

cube boxes of facial tissue, 1 per child
paper squares to fit sides of boxes
scissors
crayons and markers
*Sea Animal Stickers*
*Daily Theme Stickers*
glue sticks (or tape)

Preparation

Before class, cut squares of paper to fit the sides of the tissue boxes.

What You’ll Do

Play a quick game of Keep It Up! Tell the children they have to keep the tissues from falling to the ground. Throw several tissues in the air for children to catch, and tell them to throw them back to you or other kids and helpers. After a few minutes, gather the kids together to sit down and listen to the discussion time. Then children will decorate tissue boxes by coloring happy and encouraging messages and pictures on the paper squares. They can make happy faces, hearts, stars, rainbows, sunshine, or flowers. They can glue the squares onto the sides of the boxes and add stickers. Help children add messages like “Praying for you” to the sides. Explain to the children that they can take the tissue boxes and give them to people they know who might be sick or having a hard time.
What You’ll Say

SAY: What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery? (God HEARS me!) God heard Jonah calling to Him for help, and God hears our prayers too. Explain that one way we can serve others is by praying for them. Show the kids a box of tissues.

ASK:

- Who might need a box of tissues? (a person who’s sick, a person who’s sad/criing)
- Sometimes we can help a sad person or a sick person by going to visit them. But sometimes we can’t go visit. What can we do then? (send a card, pray for them)
- Wherever we go, we can always pray for others, and God will always hear our prayers. Who are some people you know that we could pray for right now?

S&S® Worldwide Service Option

Children can color reusable cardboard tissue box covers that fit a tall tissue box that’s 4¼" W x 5½" H. Pack of 24. Item STL-SD316. To order: Call 800.243.9232 or visit standard.ssww.com.
SANDY SEAL OF APPROVAL

What You’ll Need
Sandy Seal of Approval sticker template (on Preschool CD)
2 ½" circle sticker printer sheets
computer and printer
scissors

Preparation
Before class, use template to print out Sandy Seal of Approval stickers on circle sticker sheets. You can cut the sheets into halves or quarters to pass out to the children.

What You’ll Do
Play a quick game of tag. After a few minutes, gather the children around to talk about encouraging others. After the talk, give them Sandy Seal stickers. Emphasize that they are going to walk around the site and “tag” people with encouraging award stickers. They shouldn’t just give stickers to people they know, but to people who are having a hard time or looking lonely or maybe even scared. They should give the stickers with a smile and say “Good job!” or “You can do it!” or “You’re awesome!” or another encouraging message.

Special Needs Tip: Let children practice giving stickers away with their Diving Buddies first to help relieve anxiety about talking to others.
What You’ll Say

SAY: What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery? (God STRENGTHENS me!) In our Bible story today, when Peter saw Jesus walking on the sea, he wanted to go meet Jesus. But the wind and waves made him afraid. ASK:

- Have you ever been with someone who was afraid?
- Jesus didn’t let Peter down. He helped him up. How can you help people who are feeling sad or scared?
- There are many people in our neighborhood who help people. Who are some helpers you know? (police, firefighters, doctors, nurses, etc.)

We can serve others today by encouraging them. We’re going to encourage people right here today with our Sandy Seal of Approval stickers. Let’s go look for people who might need some encouragement, or look for some helpers so we can say thanks! Then you can take some extra stickers with you today to give to people in your neighborhood or people you see every day. Let’s go encourage others!

S&S® Worldwide Service Option

Children can decorate and hand out the Color-Me™ Waterproof Bags to lifeguards or other community helpers. Waterproof bag features a “seal shut” inner seal and slide zip seal top. Included silver carabiner on loop makes it easy to attach to belt or bag. Measures 4½” x 6”. Item STL-SD306. To order: Call 800.243.9232 or visit standard.ssww.com.
SESSION 4 • GOD LOVES ME!

OLIVE-YOU HUG CREW

What You’ll Need

- clean, used tights (or leggings), 1 pair per child
- scissors
- dot markers (or circle stickers)
- copies of Service Fish (on Preschool CD), at least 3 per child
- laundry or grocery produce mesh bags, 1 per child

Preparation

Before class, cut off the legs of the tights, discarding the top part. Also, hide the Service Fish in the area.

What You’ll Do

Play a quick game of Hide-and-Go-Fish. Hand out bags for each child, and tell them they can be fishers just like Jesus’ friends. Tell them that there are fish hiding in the area that need to be gathered. Every child should try to find 3 fish and bring them back to you. After a few minutes of playing the game, gather children to talk about loving others. After the talk, explain that they will go out in the site and show some volunteers love by giving out free “Olive-you” octopus hugs, just like Olive the Octopus would give. But first, they need some octopus hugging arms! Give each child a pair of legs and let them use the dot markers to make dots on the legs to look like tentacles. Then they can pull the legs onto their arms, and you can take the Olive-You Hug Crew out to give free hugs!
Special Needs Tip: Children with touch or skin sensitivities might not want to wear the octopus legs. Let them participate by giving them Olive-You Hug Crew signs to hold as they walk with the group.

What You’ll Say

SAY: What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery? (God LOVES me!) In our Bible story today, Jesus showed love to His friends by coming to visit them and having breakfast. Let’s talk about other ways to show love to others. ASK:

• Think of some of the people you love. How do you show them you love them?
• Some people we love because we know them and are friends. But God loves everyone, and He wants us to love everyone too. What are some ways you can show love to other people?
• Jesus is God’s Son. God sent Him to earth to live with us, love us, and save us. How does it make you feel to know God loves you so much?

One way we can show love to people today and say thanks for helping us is by giving hugs. Let’s go give some special hugs to the VBS helpers today!

Sock-topus Serving Option

Mount the big Olive the Octopus cutout from the Decorating Resource Pack on cardboard or foam board and put some socks on her “feet.” Tell the children Olive needs lots of socks—and not just because she has lots of feet! Olive wants to show love by giving socks to people who might not have any. Invite children and their parents to bring in new pairs of socks in all sizes to give Olive. Then you can arrange a trip to a local shelter to give away all her socks.
**HERMAN’S HERO PARADE**

**What You’ll Need**
white paper and scissors (or blank pennant flags)  
globe, heart, star, and cross patterns (on Preschool CD)  
washable markers  
5 small Bibles  
1 Hula-Hoop®

**Preparation**
Before class, cut large triangle pennants out of white paper.  
**Option:** Print out the patterns as coloring pages and let children cut out the triangles.

**What You’ll Do**
Divide the children into 5 groups and have them make 5 straight lines, all lined up at a starting point. At some distance away, have a helper hold up 1 Hula-Hoop®. Give the first child in each line a small Bible. Tell them they are going to run to take God’s Word, the Bible, to the world. They will run with the Bible, go through the hoop, and then run back to the next person to hand off the Bible. The next child in line will repeat these steps until everyone has had a chance to run. When everyone has finished, celebrate together. Then gather children together to make parade flags for Herman’s Hero Parade. Put the children into the same 5 groups as they had for their race. Let 1 group make globe flags, 1 make red heart flags, 1 make star flags, 1 make cross flags, and 1 make green heart flags. Give each child at least 2 paper pennants to color. They can trace the patterns or color on their own. Tell them they are making flags for a
parade so they can tell others about God’s story. Explain how sometimes when soldiers go away and then come back, their towns might have a parade to give them a hero’s welcome and tell stories about what the heroes did. God is our hero! So today we’ll serve God by telling His story in our Herman’s Hero Parade! (Herman the Hermit Crab loves parades!) Once the kids have finished coloring their flags, line them up in flag groups in this order: globes, red hearts, stars, crosses, green hearts. Have each group practice shouting their message (use the messages in order listed as below in What You’ll Say). Then go on a parade around the area, with the preschoolers waving their flags and sharing God’s story.

🎵 Special Needs Tip: Be aware of children for whom loud noises can produce anxiety. They may want to wear headphones or earplugs to comfortably participate.

What You’ll Say

SAY: What’s today’s Deep Sea Discovery? (God SENDS me!) In our Bible story today, Paul and Barnabas were sent out on a trip to tell lots of people about God’s story. You can tell people about God’s story too! Let’s see how much you know about God’s story today. ASK:

• Who made the whole world and all the people who live in it? (God made the world!)
• Did God love the world He made? (God loved the world!)
• Who did God send to the world? (God sent Jesus to the world!)
• What did God’s Son do for the world? (Jesus died for the world!)
• What does God want us to do? (We can love the world!)