

TITUS, RUN AN ERRAND FOR ME

By Lorella Rouster

Teaching Schedule

Use entire program for extended session of 1-1/2 hours. Use lesson only for twenty minute teaching session.

Song

Any song the children know about serving Jesus (Teach meaning of serve—obey God’s commands, be faithful, do what you are supposed to do, keep your promises.)

Prayer

Ask God to help us learn ways we can serve Him today.

Teach Memory Verse: Luke 16:10

Song

“I’ll Do It All for Jesus”(Teach meaning of accord—agree, one plan.) To make the last phrase more meaningful as they sing, ask the children to think of one thing the Lord Jesus has done for them. Be sure to emphasize His provision for our salvation.

Or, any song the children know about serving Jesus

Where to Use this Lesson

- Children’s church
- Week-day clubs
- Missionary conference—children’s division
- Rally day in Sunday school
- Family devotions
- Christian day school

Teaching Objectives

That the saved child may understand the importance of being faithful. That the unsaved child may receive Christ as his Saviour.

Main Truth

Be faithful in all you do.

Memory Verse

Luke 16:10—“He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.”

Divide flannelboard vertically down the middle with a two-inch wide strip of felt. On the children’s left, place a word strip with small letters saying, LITTLE THINGS. On their right, place a word strip with letters saying, BIG THINGS. Place the first part of the memory verse under LITTLE THINGS: “He that is faithful in that which is least.” What does faithful mean? (Doing what you are supposed to do – keeping your promises.) Discuss LITTLE THINGS in which children might show faithfulness, like the following: clean up room, care for baby, giving, doing homework. Make sure they understand that he means anyone. Place the second part of the verse, “Is faithful also in much,” on the right side of the board across from the first part. Discuss ways in which they might have bigger responsibilities now and in the future: paper route mowing lawns, shoveling walk, baby-sitting for others, playing the piano, singing, taking the offering, becoming missionaries, pastors, Good News Club and Sunday school teachers, summer missionaries, camp counselors, working on church bus route, etc.

Emphasize that God says if they are faithful in the little things now, they will also be faithful some day in the bigger responsibilities. Place the third part of the verse, “and he that is unjust in the least,” to the left under the portion already there. What does it mean to be unjust? It means unfair, dishonest. Talk about little ways that we can be unjust now, in school, in contests, at the store, at home, etc.

On the right side, place the last part of the verse, “is unjust also in much.” Explain that God says if they are unjust (dishonest, cheating) now in little things, they will also be dishonest in bigger things as they get older. Challenge the children to be faithful and honest now in all they do.

Suggested Songs

Any songs the children know about serving Jesus

Visuals and Other Teaching Aids

For memory verse, make word trips for LITTLE THINGS and BIG THINGS. Print the verse as described under TEACHING THE MEMORY VERSE on flocked paper or back the paper with material which will adhere to the flannelboard.

Pictures for the story have been published by Child Evangelism Fellowship. If these are not available, draw simple pictures or have the children act out some parts of the Bible story.

Choose pictures from your picture file which will aid in discussion of ways the children can be faithful now. See suggestions in text.

Choose extended-hour activity best suited to needs of your boys and girls. Select equipment or craft materials needed for the projects.

Introduction to the Lesson (Story):

Jimmy loved ice cream more than anything in the world. He loved chocolate ice cream cones most of all. Every week Jimmy's parents gave him a coin to buy an ice cream cone. Each Saturday he got his coin for ice cream for the next week, a coin for church and any extra money he had earned. Of course, Jimmy often gave some of his own money in the church offering as well as the quarter. He would do extra chores to be sure he'd have some money of his own to give. But one week Jimmy planed outside until late every night. He did not do any extra chores, and he did not earn any extra money of his own. On Saturday he only got his two coins – one for an ice cream cone and one for the offering.

On Sunday morning Jimmy was anxious to get to children's church, because he was going to see puppets! His favorite was a floppy-eared blue dog names Flopsy. Jimmy just loved to see what antics Flopsy would do.

After the puppets, the children sang a song and a boy and girl stood up to take the offering.

Jimmy reached into his pocket. Something was wrong! There was a hole in his pocket! His quarter was gone. In the other corner, Jimmy felt one quarter. He pulled the quarter out, and checked his pocket again. No, the other quarter was gone. Now he had to make a hard decision. Did he lose the quarter for children's church, or did he lose the quarter for the ice cream cone? The offering basket would be up to him soon. He had to make up his mind – fast! He could imagine he tasted chocolate ice cream in his mouth. He could feel it melting on his tongue. It wouldn't be cheating in a big way, Jimmy told himself. It would be just a little thing! What do you think Jimmy should do?

Transition to the Bible Lesson:

Let's see if we can discover the right answer as we look at the life of a young man in our Bibles.

Titus was one of Paul's missionary helpers. Titus hadn't always been a missionary helper. He remembered the time when Paul had told him that he was a sinner and he needed to receive God's Son as his Saviour. Titus, like other boys, could remember many times when he had done things that did not please God...he'd done things that hadn't pleased his parents. Have you ever done anything like that? Yes, each of us can think of times when we've disobeyed...times when we've felt ashamed...times when we've said things that weren't kind. The Bible calls these things sin. But, Paul not only told Titus about sin, he told him about the Saviour. Titus learned that even though he would try very hard to be good, this was not enough to please God. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to his mercy he saved us..." (Titus 3:5). Perhaps Titus remembered John 3:15 which says, "Whosoever believeth in him hath eternal life." Titus believed God's promises. He believed in Jesus Christ as the one who had paid the price for his sin. And when Titus believed, he received this new life – eternal life. Now he wanted to tell others. He wanted to serve the Lord. So when Paul asked him to be his missionary helper, Titus was ready to go!

His first job that we read about in the Bible was to go with Paul and Barnabas on a trip to the big city of Jerusalem. We aren't told that Titus had any special responsibilities on this trip. He just went along and probably helped Paul and Barnabas in little ways. Do you suppose Titus felt discouraged that he was only asked to help in little ways? I don't believe so. I think he was glad he could go along to learn all he could from these older missionaries. He was watching what they did and how they worked with the people they met.

Titus must have been faithful in helping Paul and Barnabas on their journey and in the city of Jerusalem. How do I know? Well, it was the next year, Paul asked Titus to go on a very important errand – to deliver a letter to the believers in the Lord Jesus who lived in the city of Corinth.

You can read the letter Titus delivered for Paul. It is 1 Corinthians in your Bible. Paul had to tell the Christians in Corinth some unpleasant things in the letter. He told them that they were not living right, not pleasing God. They had believed in Jesus, God's only Son, as their Saviour. They believed that Christ died for their

sins and rose again (1 Corinthians 15:1,3,4). But the new Christians in Corinth had not learned to live in ways that pleased God. They were continuing their old sinful habits. They were jealous of one another and there was quarreling among them (3:3). Some of them were proud and boasted of the evil things they were doing. Paul reminded them in his letter of the sins in their lives and told them they should confess their sins to God and begin to live like God wanted them to live.

Titus was in a difficult situation. If the Corinthians did not like what Paul wrote, they might blame Titus for bringing the letter to them.

Paul must have prayed for Titus as he took the letter to Corinth. Paul was anxious to find out how the believers treated Titus (2 Corinthians 2:13).

One day Paul had a visitor. It was Titus!

“Great news, Paul!” Titus may have shouted. “The believers in Corinth listened to your letter. I explained it carefully to them. They see that the way they’ve been living has been wrong. They’ve really changed their minds. They’re living differently. And to think that I felt afraid to read them your letter!”

God comforted Paul through Titus and the good report. Titus had been faithful first with a small job when he traveled with Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem. Now Titus had proven faithful once again on his errand to the Christian in Corinth. When the Corinthian believers had read Paul’s letter and listened to Titus’ teaching they felt ashamed. They realized that they had been living wrong and they were sorry. They confessed their sin to God. They changed their ideas and their old way of living. How happy Titus was! How happy he was to see believers wanted to live God’s way (2 Corinthians 7:6,7).

After Paul heard this good report from Titus, he wrote another letter to the believers at Corinth. He sent it back by – yes, you guessed it – Titus. Paul knew how deeply Titus cared about the believers at Corinth (2 Corinthians 8:6). Paul wrote to the Corinthians that Titus had not made any money by coming to them with these letters, but that he had done it gladly as a service to God. How long Titus stayed in Corinth we don’t know. He may have stayed there the next five years teaching Christians to be faithful in all things.

But one day there was another job for Titus. It was the biggest one he had received yet! Paul had been preaching in Crete, a large island in the Mediterranean.

Through Paul's preaching, many people had come to believe that Jesus was God's perfect Son who had died for sins and had risen again to be the Saviour. Though the people of Crete were hearing of Jesus for the first time many of them realized they needed Him as their Saviour.

Someone was needed to teach the many new Christians in Crete. Someone was needed to help them in organizing churches on the island.

Paul sent for Titus. "Titus, I must return to Ephesus, but I am leaving you in charge of all the churches on the whole island of Crete."

"The whole island!" Titus might have gulped. "All the churches!" What a big job! Titus had been faithful in little things, and now he was ready to be faithful in bigger things as well. He needed to choose leaders for the churches in every city. Paul wrote Titus a letter telling him how to choose faithful leaders. That letter is the book of Titus in your New Testament. Titus must have thanked Paul for the help he gave him. And once again Titus was faithful in doing this new job – this big job.

Conclusion to the Bible Lesson:

Though Titus now had big responsibilities, he never felt he was too busy to help in any way that was needed. Paul wrote to Titus asking him to bring two others with him to visit Paul where he was spending the winter. Did Titus become angry and say, "Who, me? Haven't you forgotten, Paul? I have a very big job. I'm much too busy."

Perhaps he remembered our Bible verse, "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much." The important thing is not how big the job is, but how faithful you are to do all God asks you to do.

Life Application for the Saved Child

Remember Jimmy who lost one coin? If he's faithful, what will he do when the offering plate reaches him? Yes, he'll give the coin in the offering and do without the ice cream cone. Some people might consider it only a little thing that no one would ever know about. But Jimmy would know and God would know about

Jimmy's faithfulness. If Jimmy is faithful now, it will be easier for him to be faithful in a bigger test when he is older.

God wants you to be faithful in all you do, to do everything you can to honor Him. You might be asked by a Sunday school teacher to run an errand. Let's say you are asked to deliver the class offering to the church secretary. How could you do this faithfully? (Let the children answer. Do it quickly, returning to the class right away. Be honest, delivering all the money.)

What other ways can you be faithful right now? (Choose pictures from your picture file to remind children of examples of faithfulness. The children may suggest answers like Sunday school attendance, Bible reading, treating others courteously, praying for friends, giving of their own money in offerings, obeying those in authority, talking respectfully to parents and teachers, praying for others.)

We do not know what God has planned for us in the future. But if you are faithful to clean your room, run errands, obey your parents, pray, give and show love and respect to others today, I'm sure God will someday give you bigger jobs like teaching Bible classes, writing Bible lessons, leading a choir, preaching God's Word, or sharing the good news of the Lord Jesus with others in faraway lands. Perhaps God will lead you to become a faithful doctor or nurse who can help heal people's bodies and tell them of Jesus at the same time. Perhaps God will make you a faithful artist, drawing pictures for Bible lessons, or a faithful scientist who honors God in finding out about the world He has made. God may plan for you to be a farmer or a secretary, a janitor or a teacher, a cook or an accountant.

Invitation for the unsaved child:

If you have received the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, you want to be faithful in all things. Ask the Lord to help you gladly and faithfully do all He asks you to do, whether the job looks big or small to you. (Teacher, lead the children in a simple prayer of consecration.)

Maybe you have never asked Jesus to be your Saviour. Your sin still separates you from God Who is holy. God says that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Jesus took your punishment for sin so He could give you His righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus wants to save you right now. God's word promises, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). You can pray quietly in your heart and ask the Lord Jesus to save you from sin.

You can use words like these, “Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe You died for my sins and rose again. Come into my heart and forgive me. Thank You for saving me. Amen.”

If you have asked the Lord Jesus to come into your heart and would like to talk with me about it, or ask questions about it, please come to me after the club is over. However, if you have still not asked the Lord Jesus to be your Saviour and are not sure how to, why not come and meet me, (designate place) after the meeting. I would be glad to show you from the Bible how you can receive the Lord Jesus Christ. (Consult helps in leading a child to Christ.)

Extended Hour Projects

1. Make attractive book covers for old Sunday school papers to be given to the children’s department of area hospitals. Pray together for the children who will be reading the Bible stories.
2. Make a wall mural of children being faithful to God in many different ways. Using newsprint and marking pens or crayons, the children may draw stick figures or more detailed pictures. Each should label his or her drawing, telling how the child is being faithful to God. In large letters, label the mural. FAITHFUL IN ALL THINGS. Display the mural in your classroom or in another part of the church.
3. Let the children record a message on cassette, to be sent to a missionary or a friend who is unable to attend this week. The children may also sing a song and recite the memory verse as a group on tape.
4. As a beginning in being faithful, plan a clean-up, brighten-up campaign for your room. (If for a family situation – your home or yard.) Plan ahead several simple projects the children can do, such as cleaning, putting up an attractive bulletin board, arranging flowers, disposing of clutter, perhaps even painting (provide old shirts to cover children’s clothes, paint remover and rags.) Then encourage the children week by week to be faithful in keeping the area clean and attractive.

How to Lead a Child to Christ

1. Show him his NEED of salvation, that all persons are not going to Heaven; that no one in himself is good enough to go (Romans 3:23, Revelation 21:27; John 8:21,24).
2. Show him the WAY of salvation. It is by grace a free gift because the Lord Jesus took our place on the cross rising from the dead (Ephesians 2:8, 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4).
3. Lead him to RECEIVE the gift of salvation, even Jesus Christ as his substi-

tute (John 1:12).

4. Show him that he now has salvation (John 3:36; Acts 13:38).
5. Lead him to CONFESS Christ (Matthew 10:32). This confession should be made to you, other workers, later to his friends, and as circumstances permit, in a public church service.

How to Lead a Child in Consecration

1. Question the child relative to his salvation, giving him opportunity to confess Christ to you. If he does not show clarity on this point, he is not ready for consecration. Go over with him the steps given in leading a child to Christ.
2. If he is clear on the reality of his salvation, lead him to give himself to God today by fully obeying what he knows God wants him to do (Romans 12:1 or 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).
3. Show him that the Holy Spirit who lives in him will make known to him through the Word of God what He wants him to do each day (John 14:26); e.g. obey parents (Colossians 3:20), witness for Christ where he is (Acts 1:8), set aside a time for reading the Bible and prayer (1 Timothy 2:1-5; 4:15; II Timothy 2:15), live every part of his life to please God (1 Timothy 4:12).
4. Now that you have talked these things over with the child, lead him in a prayer of dedication: "Dear Lord Jesus, today I give myself to You. I want You to take control of my life. Help me to live each day to please You. Help me to be faithful in reading Your Word that I may know Your plan for me." Lead the child in a prayer of thanks.
5. Help the child to see that it is a sin for him to take control again of his own life, and that when he sins, he should confess it to God, trusting Him to forgive. He then should allow God to once more take control of his life (1 John 1:9; Proverbs 3:5,6).