

SELFLESSNESS

BIG IDEA

Selflessness is the giving of yourself to others, as Christ gave himself to us.

KEY VERSES

Romans 12:10

MEMORY VERSE

Romans 12:10

Be devoted to one another in love.
Honor one another above yourselves.

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON

This lesson is in story and discussion form.
No additional materials are needed.

GAME

- 100 plastic or paper cups

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)

CRAFT:

- Small plastic cups, 2 per kid
- Rubberbands, 1 per kid
- Decorations such as wiggly eyes and colored contact paper.
- Permanent pens



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Long ago there was a village that had no rain for a very long time. It was so hot that the flowers and grass were brown and the trees were starting to die. The creeks and rivers were dry and the wells were almost empty. The cows, horses, birds and all animals were so thirsty!

In this country there was a little girl. Her mother was sick and really needed water in order to get well again. So the little girl took a small tin cup and went in search of water. She climbed up a mountain, higher and higher, until she found a little spring slowly dripping water. The little girl patiently held her little tin cup to collect the water. It took a long, long time. When the cup was full she headed back down the water holding the cup very carefully.

As she was walking she passed a little dog. He was so thirsty his dry tongue was hanging out.

“You poor dog,” the little girl said, “I can’t let you die of thirst. I’ll share some of this water and save the rest for my mother.” She bent down and let him drink a little water from her hand. The dog licked up the water and revived immediately. He was so happy he scampered around her barking happily.

The little girl started rushing down the mountain holding the rest of the water carefully. She did not notice that the little cup had changed from tin to silver and it was just as full as it had been before she shared some with the thirsty dog.

When the little girl finally made it home it was dark. She hurried to her mother’s room. By the bed sat a neighbor woman who had been caring for her mother. The woman looked so tired and thirsty she could not even greet the little girl.

“Give our neighbor a drink of water. She has been working so hard and needs water just as much as I do.”

So the little girl handed the little cup to the neighbor woman. She took a sip and was revived right away. With new strength the neighbor went to the bedside and lifted the sick mother. Nobody noticed that the cup had changed again, this time from silver to gold.

The little girl held the cup to her mother’s lips. She drank and drank until the cup was almost empty. The mother felt her sickness fading away and her strength returning.

The little girl, noticing there was a tiny bit of water left, lifted the cup to her lips to quench her own thirst. But just then there was a knock at the door. A very pale strang-

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er covered in dust stood outside. “I am so thirsty,” he said, “Do you have any water? Just a sip?”

“I have a tiny bit of water here in my cup.” Said the girl, “Here, drink it. You need it much more than I do.”

The stranger smiled and took the little cup into his hands and as he touched it, it changed again! From gold to diamond. Then he did a shocking thing. He turned the cup upside down and all the rest of the water spilled to the ground. But it was much more than a tiny bit of water, the water kept flowing and flowing. The place where it splashed turned into a fountain providing enough cool fresh water for all of the people, animals and crops.

The little girl, her mother and the neighbor woman were amazed and kept staring at the flowing water. They didn’t notice that he had vanished up into the sky. But when they looked up they saw a new set of stars in the shape of a diamond cup.

Now when we look at the night sky we might see the big dipper. It reminds us of a little girl whose selflessness saved a while village.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Have you or anyone you know experienced a drought? What was it like?

Have you or anyone you know had to travel a long way to get fresh water?

How would you feel if you had the last bottle of water in your whole city or town and everyone around you was extremely thirsty? What would you do?

How was the little girl selfless?

What are some other examples of selflessness in our world today?

Is it always easy to be selfless?

How was Jesus selfless?

LESSON OPTIONS

- *Leader become very familiar with the story so you can tell it dramatically and at a good pace.*
- *Ask 3-4 of the simpler discussion questions.*

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• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: MAKE JUMPING CUPS

Turn a cup into a creative creature and make it jump.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, hole punches

EXAMPLE



MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Small plastic cups, 2 per kid
- Rubberbands, 1 per kid
- Decorations such as wiggly eyes and colored contact paper.
- Permanent pens

DIRECTIONS

- Decorate one cup using permanent markers, wiggly eyes, colored contact paper, etc. Make sure the cup is upside down.
- Wrap a rubberband around the decorated cup from top to bottom.
- To make the cup creature jump press the creature down on a second upside down cup. Let go!



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• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: UP AND DOWN

Fast paced game of flipping ups.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- 100 plastic or paper cups

INSTRUCTIONS

This game is a blast and can be played with tons of people! You take a pile of cups and spread them around the room (or yard) One team is up. One team is down. When you yell go, everyone who is up is trying to run around and place the cups up. Whoever is down is running around and placing the cups down!

Yell "STOP!"

Whoever has the most wins!



