

for use as
STEP 1 

**Lesson 12
Focus:**
Serve unselfishly.

**Lesson 12
Bible Basis:**
Luke 17:7-10;
Philippians 2:3-7

**Lesson 12
Memory Verse:**
"Anyone who wants to be first must be
the very last, and the servant of all."
—Mark 9:35b

Your students will hear a story of an organization helping Ukrainian refugees in order to understand God's heart for serving others.

Materials:

- None

Once students have arrived to class, invite them to participate in a discussion.

Over the last year and a half, you've likely heard about the war happening in Ukraine. Since early 2022, Russia has been attacking and attempting to overtake the country of Ukraine. In the process, innocent people have died, buildings and properties have been destroyed, citizens' access to basic resources has been limited, and millions of people have been displaced from their homes.

When such crises as this war occur, it can be easy to focus on the horrible events and headlines rather than thinking about ways to help those in need. Thankfully, countless organizations and individuals have been taking action to help people displaced by the war.

- **Have you heard about people or organizations helping Ukrainian refugees? If so, what are they doing to help?** (Accept all reasonable responses.)

Let's watch a short video about an organization seeking to love and serve Ukrainian refugees.

Invite students to watch the following video [1:22]:
Loving and Serving Ukrainian Refugees
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3L7G7Lb8BNQ>

- **Why do you think it's important for Christians to care about serving refugees?** (Accept all thoughts, though students may talk about serving and loving others as Jesus did, caring about the oppressed, or serving the marginalized.)

➤ **What might be challenging for the people doing the daily, on-the-ground work of serving refugees?** (Answers may include: workers may be in dangerous situations, they may be physically or emotionally exhausted, they may be discouraged that the war continues, etc.)

People serving refugees in all parts of the world make sacrifices to do that work. They put themselves in potentially dangerous situations, witness the devastating effects of war and violence, and are willing to be made uncomfortable.

While most of us will never do this particular work, we all have the opportunity to serve and sacrifice for others.

➤ **Think about a situation where serving others may be challenging or where you may not get recognition for serving others. How could you choose to serve anyway?** (Accept all thoughts, though students may reference praying to ask God for help, remembering a Bible verse about serving others, or thinking of a time when others have served them.)

Today, we'll look at a biblical parable in order to understand how and why we should serve unselfishly.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Additional resources: https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/usaaid-chief-announce-over-500-million-aid-visit-ukraine-2023-07-17/?UTM_CAMPAIGN=Big_Moments&UTM_SOURCE=Google&UTM_MEDIUM=Sponsored

middle school



Lesson 12 / August 20, 2023

Ace Your Serve

for use as
STEP 4 

**Lesson 12
Focus:**
Serve unselfishly.

**Lesson 12
Bible Basis:**
Luke 17:7-10;
Philippians 2:3-7

**Lesson 12
Memory Verse:**
“If anyone wants to be first, he must be
the very last, and the servant of all.”
—Mark 9:35b

Materials:

- Whiteboard and marker (or screenshared document)
- Pens and Pencils
- Paper

Before class, write the Five Love Languages on the board (see the list provided below). If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

As we have learned today, selfless service is about doing things that fill others’ needs, not just doing the things that we like to do for others. One of the best ways for us to practice unselfish service is to serve the needs of those closest to us by identifying each individual’s “love language” and doing an act that is specifically catered to them. Love languages are the different ways people respond to the giving and receiving of gifts.

Point out and discuss each of the Five Love Languages you’ve written on the board (or screenshared document). You might need to give an example for each language listed (example: physical touch = hugs).

The Five Love Languages:

- **Gift Giving**
- **Quality Time**
- **Words of Affirmation**
- **Acts of Service**
- **Physical Touch**

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home.) Using the materials provided, instruct your students to identify what they believe to be each one of their family member’s love languages. Then have them use this to construct a specific way to serve each one of them.

Write down each family member and the corresponding way in which you are planning to serve them with the love of Christ. Next, challenge your class to construct and carry out a service plan for the coming week that dedicates each day to a specific act of individually tailored service for a specific family member. Lastly, have them keep a record of each person's reaction to the service and use it as a motivation to continue serving even when they are feeling unappreciated.

Close in prayer, thanking God for the ways in which He serves us each day.

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