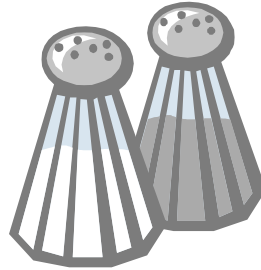


SPICE RACK®

E-Curriculum



by Mark DeVries

Note to the Teachers: The easiest thing to do (which actually becomes the most difficult before the end of the class!) is to use the same teaching method for the entire class period. What most of us are used to is simply lecturing or asking questions. And hey, if your kids are walking out each week saying, "Man, that connected with me. The hour just flew by!" then those two methods are fine. What this curriculum seeks to do is to give you active exercises that take the kids' attention off of you and their own discomfort enough that they CAN naturally answer the questions you want them to get at. Remember the rule: *1 minute of attention for each year of life lived*. That means that even in our older classes, we should be shooting for changing our teaching methods 3 times in the class period. The reason there are seven different exercises is that I'm guessing that 4 of them won't work for your group. If an exercise doesn't work, try the next one. But please try to engage the kids with something besides the standard lecture and Q&A. Thanks for all your work in loving God's kids! Also, to aid you in your preparation, any special supplies recommended for this lesson are outlined in a box. Contact colyer@ymarchitects.com with any questions!

Note for this session: During the season of Lent, Spice Rack is going "off the board" a bit with a series we're calling "The Habits of Godliness." The template for these six habits grows out of Doug Field's groundbreaking approach described in Purpose Driven Youth Ministry. What makes Doug's approach to "habits" so unique is the way that he shifts the responsibility for discipleship from the group setting in which students are "discipled" into specific spiritual practices in which students learn to take initiative in their faith and encounter God on their own. So with great gratitude (and without permission), Spice Rack will offer six sessions on these Habits of Godliness (HOGs), based on Doug's unique approach to teaching youth to practice specific spiritual disciplines or "habits." Thanks Doug.

“SERVANT’S HEART”

John 13:34-35

- I. Gathering (Attendance, First Timers, Announcements)**
- II. Engaging the Brain**

A. Video Option: Summer Mission Clips



1. If your church took a mission trip last year and you have video from that trip, have the video showing as the group comes in.
2. Another option would be to have photos from the trip out for the group to look at as they come into class.
3. Process Questions

- Which do you think is easier—serving on a mission trip or serving people you are around all the time?
- Some people say that it is a waste of time and money to send youth away on mission trips to serve when there is so much that needs to be done right here in town. What do you think about that idea?
- What do you think—are people who go on mission trips more likely to serve when they get home or are they more likely to excuse their selfishness at home because they were unselfish on the mission trip?

B. Musical Opening Options: “Gonna Have to Serve Somebody”



1. If you chose not to do the video option, have a recording of the old Bob Dylan song “Gonna have to Serve Somebody” playing as the group comes in.
2. Option 2: Ask a few of the kids (to prepare beforehand) to sing it for the group.
3. Option 3: Teach the chorus to the group and ask for volunteers to come to “rap” the verses (This can be pretty funny stuff, if the class gets into it).
4. Option 4: Or, if you or one of your students is really adventurous, you could use this music as background to a slide show from the last mission experience your church had.
5. Process Questions

- Do you think Bob Dylan is right...that everybody serves somebody?
- If he is right, then what about people who say they serve only themselves. Who are they serving?
- Who are most of the people at your school serving?

C. Go Around Check-In

1. Starting with the person in the group who has the messiest room, go around the group having each person give an answer to the check-in question.
2. Check in Question: [At your house, what is the one chore that is the least popular and why?](#)

D. Quickie Word Association or Shout Out the First Thing that Comes to Your Mind

1. Explain to the group that you are going to give them a few words to get them thinking about the topic today.
2. Ask them to shout out the first things that come to their minds when they hear each word.
3. Invite the group to ask questions to clarify the instructions.
4. Give the group the following words one at a time, reminding them to shout out the first thing that comes to their minds after hearing each word:



Slave
Servant
Waiter
Chores



5. After each word association, summarize some of the answers that you heard being shouted out.
6. Process Questions

- **Would you say that we see these words as more positive or negative?**
- **In many businesses, the idea of “servant leadership” is very popular. Do you think it is possible to be both a servant and a leader? Do you know anyone who does it?**
- **Can you think of ways that the Bible uses these words?**
- **Would you say the Bible portrays these words as more positive or more negative?**

III. Igniting the Heart

A. Scripture Soundings on Servanthood

1. Write the following references on slips of paper:
 - a. Matthew 20:28
 - b. Philippians 2:5-7
 - c. John 13:2-15
 - d. John 13:34
 - e. Matthew 25:21
 - f. James 1:1
 - g. Philippians 1:1
 - h. Romans 1:1
2. Give a different slip to each student (as long as the students or the slips last).
3. Ask the folks to look up the verses they have been given and to read them for the group.
4. Process Questions
 - **What do you see in common in all these texts?**
 - **If you had to summarize the total message of these verses in just a few words, how would you do that?**

→ Today we're talking about the last of the six habits of the Christian life. Does anyone remember what the first five are?

- Hang time with God
- Accountability partners
- Bible study and memory
- Involvement in the church
- Tithing

→ Does anyone remember what the sixth one is? (Servant's Heart)

→ What in the world do you think "servant's heart" means?

→ And how can "servant's heart" be a habit? Can you think of things you could actually DO to practice having a servants' hearts?

→ If we are supposed to love the way Jesus loved, what does that mean?

→ Like all the habits, this habit becomes ingrained in us when we do it in secret. What kind of secret acts of service can we take to live out this habit?

B. Excuses, Excuses

1. Just for fun, read the following list of excuses that were given on actual insurance reports:



- a. "In my attempt to kill a fly, I drove into a telephone pole."
- b. "I had been driving my car for forty years when I fell asleep at the steering wheel and had an accident."
- c. "The pedestrian had no idea which direction to go; so I ran over him."
- d. "The telephone pole was approaching fast. I was attempting to swerve out of its path when it struck my front end."
- e. "Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with tree I don't have."
- f. "The guy was all over the road. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him."
- g. "An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle and vanished."

2. Guys/Girls Competition: Best and Worst Excuses

- a. Divide the group up into two teams (guys and girls would be fine).
- b. Explain that you will be giving the groups 2 minutes to come up with the most creative lists they can of the best and worst excuses that people give for not living with servants' hearts.
- c. Invite the group to ask questions to clarify the instructions.
- d. Give the groups 2 minutes to come up with their lists.
- e. After 2 minutes, call time and have the groups share their lists.



3. Process Questions

- What do you think about the “too busy” excuse?
- Does serving have to take a lot of time?
- What do you think about helping out people who stand on the street and ask for money?
- What do you think about people who only serve when someone else comes up with the idea to do it?
- How important do you think it is to serve on your own initiative, without something being organized by someone else?

C. Which One Doesn't Fit or Find the Opposite or “It's All About Integrity”

1. Using the same teams as the previous exercise, have the groups each come up with a story that doesn't fit with a lifestyle of serving. You might want to give this as an example: “Sam was a guy you could always count on when you needed someone to visit you in the hospital. He always seemed to have a comforting word for people at funerals. But he never seemed to have time for a kind word to his own wife or time to listen to his children's school plays.”
2. Invite the group to ask questions to clarify the instructions.
3. Give the groups two minutes to come up with their stories.
4. Process Questions

- Who are the hardest people for you to serve?
- What could you do for your parents this week that would shock their socks off?



D. Letter to the Editor: What I Hate About Christians

1. Read the following “letter to the editor”:

Dear Editor,

You know what I hate about Christians? They are always trying to change other people. I hear them say all the time to their kids, “you can change the world!” What if the world doesn't *want* to be changed?

Sure, they may do good things for people every now and then. But usually they do those things only to earn people's trust enough that they can turn around and try to change them. If they want to do random acts of kindness, great. But I, for one, am sick of being treated like someone's project.

So Christians, why don't you do yourself and the world a favor and just leave the rest of us alone?

2. Process Questions

- How do you respond to this letter?

- Is there anything in the letter that you either agree with or disagree with strongly?
- How would you feel if you were someone's "project," someone that another person was trying to change?
- Can you think of a time in the Bible when we are told to make it our goal to transform the world?
- Do you think it is possible to serve without a servant's heart? Can you give an example?

IV. Taking It Home

A. The Servant's Heart Scholarship

1. Have the group *imagine* that our group has been offered three \$1000.00 scholarships for students from our church who demonstrate a servant's heart.
2. Ask them to write a nomination for at least one person from the class and one youth outside the class (up to three nominations), giving the person's name and why that person should receive the servant's heart scholarship.
3. Process Questions
 - What are the qualities that you highlighted in the people you nominated?
 - What do you think about the idea of establishing a scholarship like this for our group?

B. Ask one of the youth to close the group in prayer today.