



Lesson: Being of Service

Ages: 1st and 2nd grade

Supplies needed: props for the drama improvisation activity (optional; the children can also just pretend to be using props)

Project Intro: This lesson gets children thinking about the concept of service and how they can be helpful to others.

Materials Reference: Ruhi Institute, Teaching Children's Classes, Grade 2

Project steps:

Warm-Up Activity:

- **Can You Please Give Me A Hand?**
 - Divide the children into pairs (a sibling or parent can also be part of a pair). Ask one person of each pair to stand behind the other. The person behind should be facing the back of his or her partner. Explain that each pair is going to act as one person. The person in back will be the arms, and the person in front will be the rest of the body. The hands of the person in front should be placed behind his or her back, allowing the arms of the person behind to be extended, as though they were the arms of the person in front.
 - Now explain that each pair will first act out a situation in which the arms are not united with the rest of the body. The person in front should

describe what is happening to the body. For example, he or she may say, “There is sun in my eyes, I need to protect them with my hand” or “My nose is itchy, I need to scratch it.” The person behind should do something different from what the body has said, for example, wave his or her hand, fold his or her arms, or wiggle his or her fingers.

- Next, ask the two people in each pair to act in harmony, with the arms doing the jobs the body needs them to do. Allow each person in the pair to swap roles, so each has a chance to pretend to be the arms.

Drama Activity:

- Explain to your children that the next exercise will help them to think about how they can serve humanity as they grow up.
 - Ask the children to sit silently for a few moments and imagine what kind of work they might want to do in the future. Once each child has an idea in mind, call on them one by one to stand up and act out some of the tasks involved in the work they have chosen. For example:
 - if one hopes to be a doctor, he or she might pretend to examine a patient
 - if one hopes to be a teacher, he or she might pretend to give a lesson

After each one has finished his or her improvisation, the other children and their family members should guess what he or she was pretending to be and then discuss briefly how such an occupation can contribute to the betterment of the world.

Drama Vocabulary:

Acting – playing a character; pretending to be another person

Improvisation – Acting without a written script; creating dialogue as you pretend to do the actions of the characters you are playing

Props - items that actors use on stage as part of their production