

AVAILABILITY

OVERVIEW

lesson 3



BIG IDEA

Availability is being willing to adjust our own schedule, agenda, and plans to fit the right desires of God and others. It makes personal priorities secondary to the needs of God and others. It is to reflect God's priorities so we are always available to Him and others when we are serving.

KEY VERSES

Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

MATERIALS LIST

- tape
- shoe with laces
- string or rope
- sweatshirt with zipper
- small objects (optional)
- garbage can or similar sized object
- colored construction paper
- patterned paper (optional)
- scissors (provided)
- copies of coloring page, one per child





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OBJECT LESSON & STORY



OBJECT LESSON

1. Ask for 2 volunteers
2. Tape the volunteer's thumbs to their palm so the thumb cannot move.
3. Assign each volunteer a simple task such as tying their shoes, untangling a rope, zipping a zipper, etc.
4. Assign the volunteers to do the same tasks together.
5. Discuss whether being available to help made a difference.

LESSON SCRIPT

The Lion and the Bull (Aesop's fable)

A lion prowled about in a pasture where four bulls were grazing. He tried many times to capture them, but each time he failed. Whenever he came near, the four Bulls turned and formed a ring, so that no matter which way the Lion approached, he was met by their horns.

One day, however, the Bulls had a quarrel and would not speak to one another. Each went alone to a separate part of the pasture to graze. This was the moment the Lion had been waiting for. One by one he attacked the Bulls and made an end of them.

Well fed and contented, the Lion thought, "Those beasts would still be grazing had they remembered: United we stand; divided we fall."

The Ant and the Dove (Aesop's fable)

An ant went to a garden pool to take a drink. Unfortunately, he fell into the water, and almost drowned.

Luckily, there was a dove sitting on a tree nearby who saw what was happening. She pulled a leaf from the branch with her beak, and dropped it gently into the water. The ant climbed onto the leaf, and it drifted to the shore. The tiny creature was safe.

At that very minute, a man was spreading his net to try to catch the dove. The ant saw what he was doing, so he scuttled up, and stung the man's heel. Of course, this made the Man drop the net, and the dove flew safely away. One good turn (deed) deserves another.



African and Asian Hornbills

Raising a hornbill family requires the complete availability of the parents.

Weeks before the mother hornbill lays her eggs, she steps into a hole in a hollow tree. Next, she and her mate work together to close the entrance, she on the inside of the hole, he on the outside. They use a special mud to almost completely enclose the mother in the tree, leaving a tiny hole so that the father can pass berries and other fruits to the mother in her hideout.

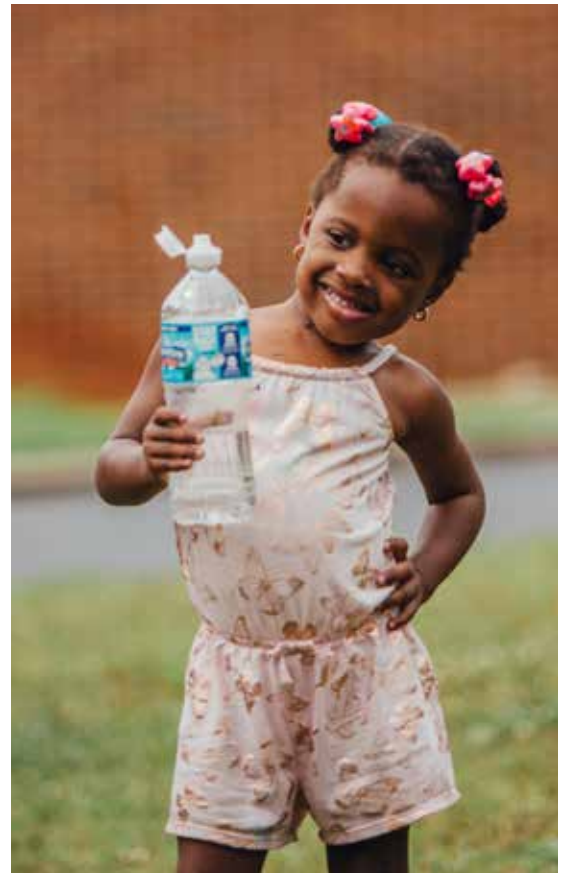
When the baby chicks hatch, the father feeds the entire family. When the chicks are old enough to fly, his work is done and he helps the mother break open the mud.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In the story of the Lion and the Bulls, why were the Bulls not available to each other?
- Is it possible to have a disagreement with someone and still be available?
- In the story of the Ant and the Dove did either creature ask for the help of the other?
- Discuss how we can respond to another person's needs when they ask or when we observe the need.
- In the story of the Hornbills which birds were completely dependent on the other?
- What would have happened if the father Hornbill got distracted or only gathered enough food for himself?

LESSON OPTIONS

- For the Object Lesson tape everyone's thumbs and assign simple tasks.
- For the Object Lesson assign a harder task such as completing a small puzzle or sorting small objects into containers.
- Choose one story and have the kids act it out.





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CRAFT

WOVEN PAPER MATS

Kids will design unique woven paper mats. Add patterned paper for some extra pizzazz.



DIRECTIONS

1. Fold a piece of construction paper in half. This is the base of the weaving.
2. Starting at the fold cut across the paper stopping 1 inch from the end.
3. To add more interest use wavy or zigzag cuts.
4. Cut colored and/or patterned paper into 1 inch strips. Make sure these are long enough to weave through the base.
5. Weave a strip of paper through going over, under, over, under the base paper.
6. Weave a second strip of paper the opposite way. Under, over, under, over, etc.
7. Continue weaving until the base sheet is filled with woven strips.
8. Tape ends down (optional)

SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- Prefold construction paper base
- Precut 1 inch strips



DESCRIPTION

The Bomb game requires silence, observation, availability and cooperation. The Monster game is a silly, noisy game requiring all group members to be available to perform the task.

THE BOMB

- Divide students into groups.
- Each group must try and move a garbage can (bomb) from one area to another without talking and without the use of hands.
- If the can tips, the “bomb explodes” and the group must start over.

THE MONSTER

- Divide into groups of 6.
- Each group must form a monster that has a different amount of hands and feet than currently exist in the group. (Example: A monster with 10 legs and 2 arms.)
- The monster must move 10 feet while making a monstrous sound, retrieve a bucket of water (or other small objects) and come back to the starting line.
- If the monster collapses or the bucket is spilled, the group must start again

