

Hello Champs Families!

Thank you for joining Church at Home this weekend. I have adjusted the content to hopefully make it more useful to you while at home. It is my hope that you can use this tool as you work one-to-one with your Champ in the home setting. I would imagine some of you may feel a little intimidated with teaching at home (or teaching period), who would have ever thought Home School would be the sole spiritual and educational instruction? I encourage each of you to give yourself grace as the next few weeks unfold. You each have a gift that God is going to use during this time and I am excited to hear all about Champs learning from home.

In the beginning of March, we began a new series called Robots. The series uses Robots as a theme to teach bible stories about SERVING OTHERS. Each week, we will learn about a new Robot

- Week 1- Offering Robot (On Campus)
- Week 2- Praying Robot (Church at Home)
- Week 3- Encouraging Robot (Church at Home)
- Week 4- Welcoming Robot (Church at Home)

I have outlined this week's lesson using the listed Table of Contents. The cool thing about teaching from home is you have the flexibility of teaching to *your* comfort or your Champs needs. If you would rather read the bible story and reflection first, do it! If you want to read the introduction and then do the craft, do it! The Table of Contents is your reference to the page you need or you can use it from beginning to end in its entirety.

The lesson is written in a structure that can be read word for word. But, throughout the lesson, you will see highlighted points. These are points you won't want to miss. They are key points I think are important for tying the lesson together. They also are a good place to go off script. 😊 Many times, this is where our Group Teacher will insert examples to help illustrate a point. Feel free to add your own examples, after all, you know your Champ best. If you're having a hard time thinking of an example, I added extra definitions/examples that you can find [like this. If you see this, you don't have to read it word for word, but it's there to help](#).

Have fun teaching God's word to your Champ. Use this time to learn with them. I am so excited to hear how it goes! Share the good, and the bad with me. I will adjust accordingly. Email me at trisha@seacoatgrace.org at any time.

Kindly,
Trisha M. Vasquez
(Edits by Champs Buddy Matt Webster)

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Lesson Overview

Bottom Line:

We can serve others by encouraging them.

Objective:

Champs will name a way they can encourage a family member or friend this week.

Key Passage:

1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 Encourage Each Other

Monthly Bible Verse:

“The most important person among you will be your servant.”

Matthew 23:11

Intro

A famous science fiction writer named Isaac Asimov wrote a series of rules known as Asimov's three laws of robotics. The three laws state that robots are not allowed to harm people in any way. The first rule states, when a robot is programmed with these three laws they cannot hurt someone. The second rule says a robot must also obey all orders from humans unless that order would hurt a human. The third rule says, robots must take care of itself unless doing so would cause a human to be hurt.

The laws of robotics were designed to keep robots from attacking people and hurting them (their body), but we know people can be hurt in other ways besides physical harm. We can be hurt emotionally (our feelings) and mentally (our self-esteem). We can have our feelings hurt and our hearts broken.

Can you imagine robots who were programmed not to hurt our feelings? How great would it be to have a robot who goes out of its way to encourage you on a bad day? You walk in from school and the robot says, "Welcome home. Don't you look nice today? You look smarter now than when you left this morning for school. I can tell, because I can see inside your brain with my x-ray eyes."

I don't know. Maybe robot encouragement would be a little creepy. But you know what always makes us feel better? Real encouragement. How does it make you feel when your Mom and Dad tell you you've done a good job? (allow them to answer). It doesn't matter if it's for cleaning your room or getting an A in spelling, it feels good to get praise from Mom and Dad, doesn't it?

And how good does it make you feel to hear you've been a good friend? Or a good brother or sister? Encouragement means a lot when it comes from people we love. That's why all of us need to serve the people we love by encouraging them!

Bible Story and Reflection

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11

9 God didn't choose us to receive his anger. He chose us to receive salvation because of what our Lord Jesus Christ has done. 10 Jesus died for us. Some will be alive when he comes. Others will be dead. Either way, we will live together with him. 11 So encourage one another with the hope you have. Build each other up. In fact, that's what you are doing.

Bible Verse Reflection:

Paul is writing to the early church at Thessalonica, a group of people brought together by their faith in Jesus (like our family). He writes to them to remind them that God came to save them. God didn't come to put them down, but lift them up through his son Jesus. **And everyone who believes in Jesus will be together in Heaven.**

People who are going to be together need to get along, don't they? It doesn't matter if you're the crew of a spaceship traveling through the solar system or a family living under the same roof. What better way to get along than to encourage one another? Encouragement makes us feel good. It gives us strength when we are tired, and it lifts our spirits when we are sad. **God wants use to serve one another by encouraging each other and pointing our friends and loved ones to Jesus. Like God, in all of His glory and power, sent His son to be a servant. What a great role model!**

Closing

Do you know why robots will never replace humans as encouragers? Because robots don't choose what they do. (God gave each of us the ability to choose). A robot that tells you you're handsome and smart didn't come to the decision on its own. Robots only do what they are programmed to do. They have no choice but to say nice things because we told them to say nice things.

People don't have to say nice things. We *choose* whether we build one another up or teach each other down. So, when people *choose* to say something kind, especially when it's unexpected, it means the world to us!

God wants us to be encouragers for that very reason. He wants us to choose to build up our friends and family. When someone is down, he wants us to encourage them. When someone is afraid, we need to let them know we are there for them. When someone is tired and ready to give up, we need to let them know we believe them!

All of us love to be encouraged. We love getting praise from our friends, bosses, teachers, or parents. This is a great reason to encourage. When we love others, the love comes back to us, and the same thing happens with encouragement. When we are there to encourage the people close to us, they will be there for us. We'll lift each other up and bear with one another, just like the early church. And we'll do it knowing that we will all be together for a long time. (Like this situation, we can encourage others to have peace and confidence that God is in control. It can be easy to be scared and unsure right now. But, we can encourage others to trust in God and seek Him).

Encouragement is a great way to serve others. It's a power way to lift someone up when they are down. Let's be encouragers to everyone we meet this week and share God's love with those who need it most!

Discussion Questions/Activities

Practice your memory verse using your Robot voice:

Matthew 23:11 "The most important person among you will be your servant."

(Adaption: Practice your memory verse using a sentence strip and place the words in the correct order).

(Adaption: Change the voice on Proloquo during Church at Home).

What are some encouraging things people have said to you?

"Said" This is a great time to explain, encouraging words.

Examples can be:

"good job"

"you're the best"

"thank you"

"keep going, you got it"

What are some things people have done to encourage you?

"Done" This is a great time to explain, encouraging actions.

Examples can be:

Mom and Dad buying a favorite toy

Sister or brother helping tie their shoe

Therapists bring their favorite reinforcer

How do you think people are feeling during this time of social distancing? How can you encourage them during this time?

Allow your Champ to think about others and hear their thoughts.

Some people to think about and pray for: Job coaches, teachers, therapists, friends, bus drivers,

Where does God plan for us all to be together one day?

Answer: God wants us to live together with him. This answer comes directly from this week's scripture, verse 10.

Craft

Materials:

Post-it Notes or paper and tape
Markers, crayons, pencil

Directions:

In light of social distancing this week, I suggest a simple, but very moving craft. Help your Champ write, draw or copy encouraging words/phrases on post-it notes. It can be simple like happy face. Or you can write a full sentence like I am praying about you during this time.

Pray! Ask God to guide you and see who he puts on your heart. And then go out into your local neighborhood. Get some fresh air, go on a walk and place the post-it notes on your neighbors' cars.

And, if you're up for it, take a picture and send it to me. I would love to see how our Champs are encouraging others in their community.

Adaption to going into your neighborhood. Still make the post-it but take a picture of it and send it to someone through email or text. 😊