More than words

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat, so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people’s shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long

Matthew 23:1–5



The children were getting a table ready for the younger class. Michael wanted to lead. Rosie put out crayons, and Joseph carried books. Michael told them why helping each other mattered. But when a book fell, he did not help pick it up. “Can you hold the others?” Joseph asked. Michael looked at the teacher. He wanted her to see what a good helper he was.

Jesus teaches us to serve God out of love, not to win praise.

Count the objects. Write how many of each you find.

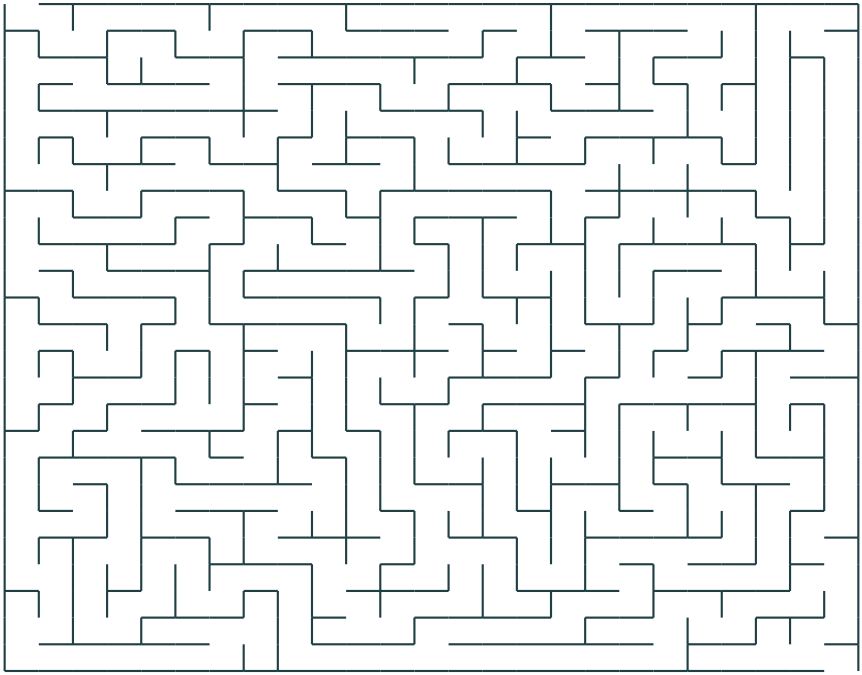
Books ___	Potted plants ___	Windows ___
Tables ___	Crayons ___	Shoes ___
Erasers ___	Cookies ___	Coats ___

For God or for attention?

Michael took some books. But when the teacher left, he stopped helping. She came back and asked why. “You weren’t watching,” he said. “But the younger children still need books!” she said. “We help people because we love God, not just to be praised.” Joseph asked, “Why should I help if Michael won’t?” The teacher answered, “God’s Word does not change when Michael does something wrong. God teaches us to help. Listen to Him, and do not copy someone else’s wrong actions. Michael needs to do what he tells others to do, too.” Michael wondered: did he want to help, or just look helpful?

Find your way from START to FINISH without crossing walls. Watch out for dead ends!

START



FINISH

No mask before Jesus

Michael pulled up a big chair and blocked the walkway. “But I told everyone to help!” he said. The teacher sat beside him. “We all sin. Being honest means coming to Jesus and admitting our sin. Hiding sin behind good words and deeds, like a mask, is called hypocrisy.” Michael looked at his friends. They were working while he tried to look better than everyone. That was pride. Now he wanted to tell Jesus the truth instead of making excuses.

Find and circle 6 things that do not belong. Color the picture and draw a cup of pencils on the table.



Decode the advice. A=1, B=2, C=3 ... Z=26.

19	5	18	22	5		15	20	8	5	18	19

Come honestly to Jesus

Michael moved the chair and prayed quietly. “Jesus, I wanted praise more than I wanted to help. Please forgive me and change my heart.” Then he asked Joseph to forgive him. They picked up the box together. When the younger children came, Michael helped them sit down. This time, he did not wait for praise. He was learning to love God and care for the people beside him.

Bible detectives

Find the answers in the verses below.

1. Circle what the greatest must become.
2. Underline what happens to someone who exalts himself.
3. Box what happens to someone who humbles himself.

The greatest among you shall be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

Matthew 23:11–12

Number the story events in order: 1–4.

___ Michael apologized and helped.
___ Michael gave orders without helping.
___ Michael moved his big chair aside.
___ Michael wanted his help to be noticed.

What sin do I need to tell Jesus about honestly?

I will help, even without praise: _____

even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Matthew 20:28

Good deeds cannot hide or wash away sin. We ask Jesus to forgive us and learn to help people out of love for God.

Jesus, help me not to hide my sin, but to come honestly to You. Forgive me and teach me to love You and others. Amen.

Lesson online

www.juniordisciples.com
/lessons/words-and-deeds