

#LIGHT**the**WORLD

First Observe, Then Serve

Activity Plan

OBJECTIVE: To inspire participants to think about serving others, including acts of anonymous service, identify possible individuals needing service, and to plan and to prepare to serve them using the #LIGHT-theWORLD initiative.

ACTIVITY PLAN

1. Introduce the concept, "*First Observe, Then Serve*," from Sister Linda K. Burton.
2. Encourage the idea of anonymous service.
3. Play Service Charades.
4. Identify and Plan to serve individuals using the *First Observe, Then Serve Planning Pages* and *Maze Page*.
5. Encourage participants to act on their plans using the *First Observe, Then Serve Anonymous Service Pass Along Ornaments*.

SUPPLIES

- A Device for Playing Downloaded [#LIGHTtheWORLD Video](#)
- Printer
- Paper
- White Cardstock
- Scissors (for preparing game cards)
- String or Ribbon (for preparing game cards and pass-along ornaments), Optional
- A Small Christmas Tree or Other Display Item, Optional
- A Timing Device (cell phone, egg timer, watch)
- Pens or Pencils
- Crayons or Markers



First Observe, Then Serve

PREPARATION

- [Download the #LIGHTthe WORLD video.](#) (Click on blue text to be taken to link location.)
- [Download the video or print a copy](#) of Sister Linda K. Burton's talk, "First Observe, Then Serve." (Click on blue text to be taken to the link location.)
- Print a copy of the *First Observe, Then Serve* poster. (optional)
- Print *First Observe, Then Serve* game cards on card stock and cut out.
- Display game cards on small Christmas tree or other item, if desired.
- Print Service Charades List
- Print First Observe, Then Serve planning sheets for each group member.
- For younger children, print First Observe, Then Serve maze page.
- Print First Observe, Then Serve #LIGHTtheWORLD calendars for each group member.
- Print one set of the pass-along ornaments on card stock for each person. Use your printer's double-sided printing option or re-insert printed pages into printer to print the #LIGHTtheWORLD on the backs. If desired, cut out, punch and thread the pass-along ornaments with ribbon. OR, provide supplies for class members to prepare their own pass-along ornaments.
- For younger children, print out the pass-along ornaments black and white version so they can color and customize their own, if desired.

INTRODUCTION & DISCUSSION

Play the [#LIGHTtheWORLD video](#) for group members.

Use the following scriptures to introduce the theme of service, if desired:

- Matthew 5:16 (Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.)
- Matthew 6:1-4 (Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, . . . But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.)
- Matthew 25:40 (Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.)
- Mosiah 2:17 (And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.)



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- Moroni 7:47 (But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.)

Display the *First Observe, Then Serve* Poster.

Share highlights and examples from Sister Burton's talk.

Ask participants to share times they were served and to explain how that service blessed them.

Explain and discuss the value of serving others, including anonymous service.

PLAY SERVICE CHARADES

Game Object: To identify ways, including anonymous actions, to serve various people we meet.

Players: 2+ This game can be played in teams, with each team taking turns acting out the charade while the other team guesses, OR with an individual acting out the charade while the remaining participants guess. Young children may need help thinking up ways to perform the charades.

Supplies:

- Prepared *First Observe, Then Serve* Game Cards
- Scissors (for preparing game cards)
- String or Ribbon (for preparing game cards), Optional
- A Small Christmas Tree or Other Display Item, Optional
- A timing device

Game Preparation:

- Print *First Observe, Then Serve* ornament cards, front and back using either your printer's double-sided printing option or by printing one side and then re-inserting the printed sheet into the printer and printing the other side. If you don't want to print the card backs, you can handwrite numbers from the charade list at the end of these instructions on the card backs.
- Cut out cards and determine how you will display them. You can spread them face down on a table or playing surface, or you can punch a hole in each ornament, thread them with string or ribbon and display them on a small Christmas tree or other display item.
- Obtain a timing device (cell phone, egg timer or watch).

Game Play:



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1. Determine if you will be using teams or having an individual act out the charades. Select a team or individual to go first. The remaining team/participants will be the guessers.
2. The team or individual selected to go first selects a card and takes a short time to plan their charade.
3. The time-keeping device is set. The amount of time can vary depending on the ages of the guessers, but one minute is suggested.
4. Without speaking or making noises, the person performing the charades uses gestures and actions to get the guessers to identify the needy person on the card.
5. Once the correct guess is made or the timer goes off, the person performing the charade reveals the needy person on their card. Then, the guessers must state ways to serve the person on the card. Focusing on anonymous service to that individual can be encouraged, but is not required.
6. The next team/individual selects a card and the game continues with charades, guessing and discussing ways to serve until the cards run out or a set time has elapsed.

Keeping Score:

You do not need to keep score, but if desired, teams/individuals performing charades that are guessed within the time limit can get a point. Remember, the real goal here is to get participants thinking about ways to serve.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Plan Your Service:

Once the game is concluded, the group can use the #LIGHTtheWORLD calendar, planning sheet and/or planning maze to organize their service.

- Use either the planning sheet or maze sheet to identify service recipients, service ideas and plans as well as for journaling about their service afterwards.

Using the Pass Along Ornaments:

The pass-along ornament cards are intended to be used with anonymous service. The giver of performs an anonymous act of service and leaves behind a pass-along card for the recipient. They can also be used as Christmas ornaments or gift cards.

Here is a list of ideas to get group members thinking:

- A boy secretly makes his sister's bed and leaves a pass-along ornament on her pillow.
- A daughter quietly unloads the dishwasher without being asked for her mother and leaves behind a pass-along ornament.



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- A class or group of teens puts together small goodie bags and ties on a pass-along ornament. Then, after getting permission, they place the goodie bags on the windshields of cars in a parking lot or in front of residents' doors at an apartment complex.
- A business man in the drive-thru lane at a fast-food restaurant pays for the food of the car behind him. He asks the cashier to pass along the ornament to the person in the car behind him when telling them he has paid for their food.
- A family gathers a basket of treats, gifts and gift cards, attaches a pass-along ornament and leaves it on the porch of a needy family in their neighborhood. They knock on the door and run.
- A youth choir carols at a hospital or long-term care facility and presents each resident with a pass-along ornament to hang in their rooms.
- A family plans small acts of anonymous kindness for each other. Each time one of them finds an ornament from someone who served them, they hang them on the Christmas tree.
- A middle-school student writes an anonymous message of encouragement to another student who is struggling and slips the ornament into their locker.
- A high-school student purchases a small gift for a special-needs student, attaches a pass-along ornament and has the office deliver the surprise.

After plans are begun, each member of the group can be given their own set of pass-along ornaments, either already cut out and threaded with ribbon or in printed sheets. Younger children might like to color and customize their own pass-along ornaments by coloring the black and white version. Group members can prepare their pass-along ornament cards during this part of the activity or take them home for later.

CONCLUSION

Encourage group members to keep observing or looking for ways to perform service and to take advantage of spontaneous ways they can serve in the moment. Have them use the pass-along ornaments as a way to build excitement for the [#LIGHTtheWORLD](#) campaign.

