



HELPING

The Lord Jesus helps people who come to Him in their need. He is our example. We too want to help others. The children experience in stories that are adjusted to their level of understanding, that helping others is necessary. He who tries to put himself into someone else's situation is better able to help. When one helps someone, a relationship is established. This can bring much joy to the helper.

The children experience that helping is something good.

▶ The old woman

Some children were playing outside. It was getting quite loud when all of a sudden they heard a voice calling: "Could you be a little bit quieter? With all this noise I cannot sleep." The children's voices were silent for a moment. Then it started again: "Mrs. Boegli wants to sleep in the afternoon! She always has something to complain about. She does not like children." After a while, the window opened again and Mrs. Boegli asked the children if someone would go to the bakery and get her a loaf of bread. She was having a lot of pain in her knee and could barely move. The children whispered amongst themselves: "She should go herself. We are playing now." Mrs. Boegli barely closed the window before the children were engrossed in their game again. Only Verona started to think. She had to think about her grandmother, who also complains about pains in her knee. She nudged her friend and said: "Come, let us go!" The two girls rang the bell at Mrs. Boegli's front door. The old woman was extremely surprised and thankful that the girls wanted to help her. When they came back from the bakery, they received a chocolate bar as a thank-you gift.

▶ During role play the children re-enact the encounter of the old woman with the two girls



We look at a hand drawn picture of an old woman with a cane. The children tell about older people who can no longer do anything for themselves. What small help would bring them joy? Which older brothers and sisters could the children help?



The children could draw a picture for someone who is sick.

II. 7



We sing and discuss the song: "Fear not."



► **Decorating the Altar** (helping and bringing joy)

Andrea plays with several neighborhood children. Her mother calls: "Come with me. I am going to church to decorate the altar and you can help me." Andrea is not enthused. "We are playing so nicely," she grumbles. But then she obeys. First they buy flowers and Andrea diligently helps in the selection. Because that is so much fun, she forgets about the other children. At the church her mother makes a beautiful arrangement. Andrea passes her the individual flowers. "This rose is especially pretty. You should put it in the middle," she recommends to her mother, who nods. She is happy that her Andrea gladly helps. During service Andrea sits beside her mother. Since she is still quite young, she does not understand very much. But when the Priest mentions the flowers on the Altar, she looks at her mother and beams.

► We will discuss who is happy about the flowers. (Andrea, the mother, the congregation, the brothers who serve along) Why are they happy?

► Together we will make an arrangement out of real (or handcrafted) flowers. (It can be a gift for a sick child who could not attend Sunday School, on behalf of the Rector...)

► Every child draws a flower, cuts it out and glues it on a large piece of paper. When the name of the child is written on the flower, the group picture can be hung on the door. It will greet the children every Sunday and make everyone aware of who is in Beginners' Sunday School.



► **The lion and the mouse help each other** (According to a Fable from Aesop)

A lion is sleeping under a tree. Down by the roots live several mice. They come out of their hole and jump gleefully around the tree. The fallen leaves rustle on the ground. This disturbs the lion's sleep. He becomes angry and, as a little mouse comes near him, he grabs it with his strong paws and wants to squash it. The mouse pleads: "Please Lion, let me go and I will not disturb you again. How can a big animal like you be so proud to torture a little mouse like me?" "The mouse is actually right" thinks the lion and lets it go. The mouse gives a thousand thanks and says: "If I can ever help you, I will." The lion laughs: "How could a little mouse help me?" In the night the lion wants to prey on sheep in the field. He has often done this before. Therefore, the shepherd is angry with the robber. He has erected a large net to capture the lion. During the night the lion is caught in the net. With all his strength he tries to rip it apart. He has no success. All his rage does not help him. Finally the lion roars with every fiber of his being so that he can be heard for miles around. The mouse also hears it and comes quickly to him. He wants to know what is wrong with the lion. As the mouse sees that he is caught in the net, it whispers to him: "Be really still, I can help you." The mouse calls to the other mice. They come quickly. With their sharp teeth, they chew on the netting. Before it is light the mice have chewed a large enough hole so that with a mighty shove the lion can escape. The lion runs immediately into the forest. He is so glad he let the mouse live that morning; otherwise it would not have been able to help him now.

IV. 12 ► The story is told and acted out with a simple hand puppet (lion), several mice and wilted leaves.

► The children create more mice who help to free the lion.


