

#TargetPractice: What does it look like to serve God?

If Jesus showed up here today, how do you think we might treat Him? What would we do to make Him feel welcomed and loved? If He asked for something, would we provide it? Well, I have another question: have you ever seen Jesus? What do you think He looks like?

We aren't exactly sure what Jesus looked like, and people have said different things about what He might have worn and been like in appearance. But I have a few other pictures here. Do you think He looked like....This?







It might seem like these would be people we try not to think about too much, or maybe we feel sad for them, but ignore them if we saw them out and about. We certainly wouldn't think of Jesus when we saw these types of people, right? Would we help them?

Did you know that Jesus told us when we do things for other people, it's like we are doing things for Him? It seems crazy, but it's true!

Read Matthew 25:35-40.

Jesus told people that whatever they had done to help others, they actually did to help Him. We might be a lot more motivated to help people in need if we recognized that in doing so, we are helping Jesus!
But what does this mean for us?

It is important to take care of other people, because it shows that we love God. He has loved us and given us all we could possibly need. Because of that, we want to share His

love with those around us. God lets us be part of His plan to serve people. He sends people our way who need God's care, and then we have opportunities to help them.

Sometimes this means **giving** to people who don't have much. Sometimes it means just showing someone that we are **willing to listen** if they need to talk, or saying a **kind word** to someone who is sad.

We know that all people are made in God's image, and even people who might seem hard to love are His. Even people who are hurt, or sad, or stinky! They all belong to God, and we recognize His Lordship when we take care of them.

So keep your eyes open! There are chances around us all the time to love and serve Jesus by loving and serving His children. We are special agents of His work. We can be joyful and hopeful about His eventual return, and meanwhile we love Him and His people.

Why don't we say a prayer to thank God for that, and we can ask Him to help us take care of His people?

*Thank you for letting us be part of your work
When we serve other people, we serve you
Help us look for ways to do that
And to care for those around us
Help us to share your love
We love you, God!
In Jesus name, Amen!*