



# Service To Others

United Methodist Committee On Relief Kits

*An Educational Resource for Children and Youth*

**Health Kits  
Layette Kits  
School Kits  
Sewing Kits  
Birthing Kits  
& Cleaning  
Buckets**

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## *An Invitation*

Children and youth usually learn to serve simply by serving. The idea for the eight week study “Service to Others” began in a local church, moved to Mission Central, and now is ready to complete the circle back to the churches. This material is undated and can be used, in part or in whole, in a Sunday school class, worship activities, a mid-week program, camping program, as a focus for a birthday party, or any way you want to engage children and youth in mission. It is designed to enable our younger members to serve by learning about and completing United Methodist Committee On Relief kits, while connecting to a biblical story.

It is fairly easy to design craft projects. Too often, they are completed and then, after display, are forgotten and discarded. Service opportunities usually make a difference in the life of a child or teen. As they construct something or put together a kit, they can imagine how it might change the life of an individual or family who receives it. Children and youth who participate in mission projects see beyond themselves and have a wider perspective on the world.

You are invited to utilize this resource in the way that best meets the needs of your congregation. The instructions for completing the United Methodist Committee on Relief kits is on the Mission Central website:

<http://missioncentral.org/how-can-i-help/donate-items/>

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## **Week #1 ~ Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet – Service to Others**

Scripture: John 13:15 “I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.”

FOCUS: General information about Mission Central and its work

Do any of you have a rule at your house, or maybe your friend's house, that you have to take off your shoes before you go in? Do you know why you do that? Right, so you don't track dirt and mud into the house. In Jesus' time, some houses had the same rule – and they took it one step further. Because a lot of people walked everywhere and only wore sandals, their feet were often dusty and dirty. So, there would be a servant to wash the feet as people entered a house.

There is a story in the Bible about a time when Jesus became the servant. It was at a dinner party. Jesus and all the disciples were gathered together. Jesus was trying to teach his friends a lesson and thought a perfect way to do it would be to show them an example. So, Jesus got up from the table and took off his robe and tied a towel around his waist. He poured water into a large bowl. He got down on his hands and knees and started to wash the feet of the disciples.

This was very shocking to the disciples. Jesus was not a servant. He was a teacher. There were servants at the house who should be doing this lowly job. Jesus told his friends, “You don't understand now why I am doing it; someday you will. I am setting an example for you. Since I am a teacher, and I have humbled myself to wash your feet, you ought to wash each other's feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done unto you.”

Jesus was trying to tell his friends that no one is more important than another person in the eyes of the Lord. We should all be willing to serve others and to help others, no matter how rich or poor we are. Even the mighty powerful Jesus, the son of God, did the work of a servant.

Mission Central is one way that we can serve others. Mission Central has many different programs to help people here in our area and all around the world. Over the next 7 weeks, you will hear about one of the program areas: UMCOR. Each week, you will learn about a different kit that UMCOR volunteers prepare to help others. And you will learn how you can serve others through supplying items and assembling the kits yourself.

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for being the perfect example of how we should live our lives...being in service to others. Help me to remember that I am not better than anyone else and I should always help those in need. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Activity: Washing each other's feet. Teacher sets the example and washes the feet of the first child and then the children wash each other's feet.

## Week #2 ~ Jesus' Birth: Birthing Kits

Scripture: Luke 2:6-7

UCMOR Kit: Birthing Kit

Have any of you seen a real baby being born? Probably not. How about a puppy or a kitten? Or maybe a cow or lamb? I have. And do you know what...it is kinda gross and VERY, VERY, messy. There is all this fluid and blood and stuff that comes out when the babies are born. If it is an animal, the mother cleans off her babies by licking them clean. As humans, we don't lick our babies clean, do we? No. We have doctors and nurses who clean the babies for us. And then the nurses wrap the babies in cute little blankets and put a pink or blue little hat on the baby so they are all nice and clean and warm. And they get to sleep in a bassinet or crib.

We didn't always have hospitals and doctors and nurses. For a long time, babies were born at home. Usually the other women of the house helped the mom who was having the baby. Do you remember Jesus from the Bible? The great man, God's son, who died for our sins? Well, he didn't start out as a grown man, did he? No, he started out as a baby, just like you and me. And since he was born so long ago, his mom didn't go to a hospital and there wasn't a doctor or a nurse. Let's read in the Bible about Jesus' birth. This is from the book of Luke, Chapter 2:6-7:

"And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the village inn."

Jesus' mother, Mary, was in a stable, not a hospital. She wrapped Jesus in strips of cloth, not a baby blanket. She laid him in a manger (that's the thing that holds the food for the animals), not a bassinet.

There are still parts of the world today that do not have hospitals and doctors and nurses. Or maybe they have them, but there has been a natural disaster such as a flood or hurricane and the moms can't get to the hospital. So UMCOR has Birthing Kits prepared to send to areas of the world where there are not hospitals and doctors and nurses. The Birthing Kit has supplies that a new mom will need for her birth, things like soap to wash the baby and blankets to wrap the baby to keep it warm.

Prayer: Father, we thank you for the birth of your son, Jesus Christ. We thank you for our hospitals and doctors and nurses. We thank you for the opportunity to help others by preparing birthing kits to send to those that need help.

Activity: Jesus in a manger craft. Found on Pinterest. Uses an invitation envelope, brown crayon, ½ large craft stick, yellow cupcake liner, and piece of cloth.

### **Week #3 ~ Gifts from the Wisemen: Layette Kits**

Scripture: Matthew 3:11

UMCOR Kit: Layette Kits

Do any of you have a younger brother or sister? Do you remember when they were born? Did people bring gifts for the baby? What types of gifts did they bring? (let children answer: diapers, toys, Onesies, bottles, outfits, blankets, books, etc.) Wow! Sounds like it is great to be born because you get some pretty awesome gifts.

Do you remember last week when we talked about Jesus being born? As you recall, Jesus was born in a stable. But he didn't live there forever. His parents moved to a house. And like today, people brought gifts for him. In today's story, we hear about some special people who brought some very special gifts for Jesus.

Long, long before Jesus was born, people believed in God and loved God. God told them that he would send them a new King, a messiah. So the people waited and waited. And they watched for signs. There were some wise men from a land east of Bethlehem. They had seen a new star in the sky and they were sure this was a sign from God. So they packed up their supplies and set out on a long trip and followed the star – it was like their GPS system.

Finally, they found Jesus. Only he wasn't quite a baby anymore. We think he must have been about 2 years old by now. And, the wise men brought gifts for Jesus. Do you know what they brought him? Did they bring him toys or cute little outfits or blankets? No, they didn't. In Matthew 3:11 it says "They entered the house where the child and his mother, Mary, were and they fell down before him and worshipped him. Then they opened the treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Wow! Did you hear that? They had treasure chests!!! With gold!!! What an odd gift for a child. These were wise men. They knew this wasn't an ordinary child. They knew this was the new King. So they brought gifts for a king.

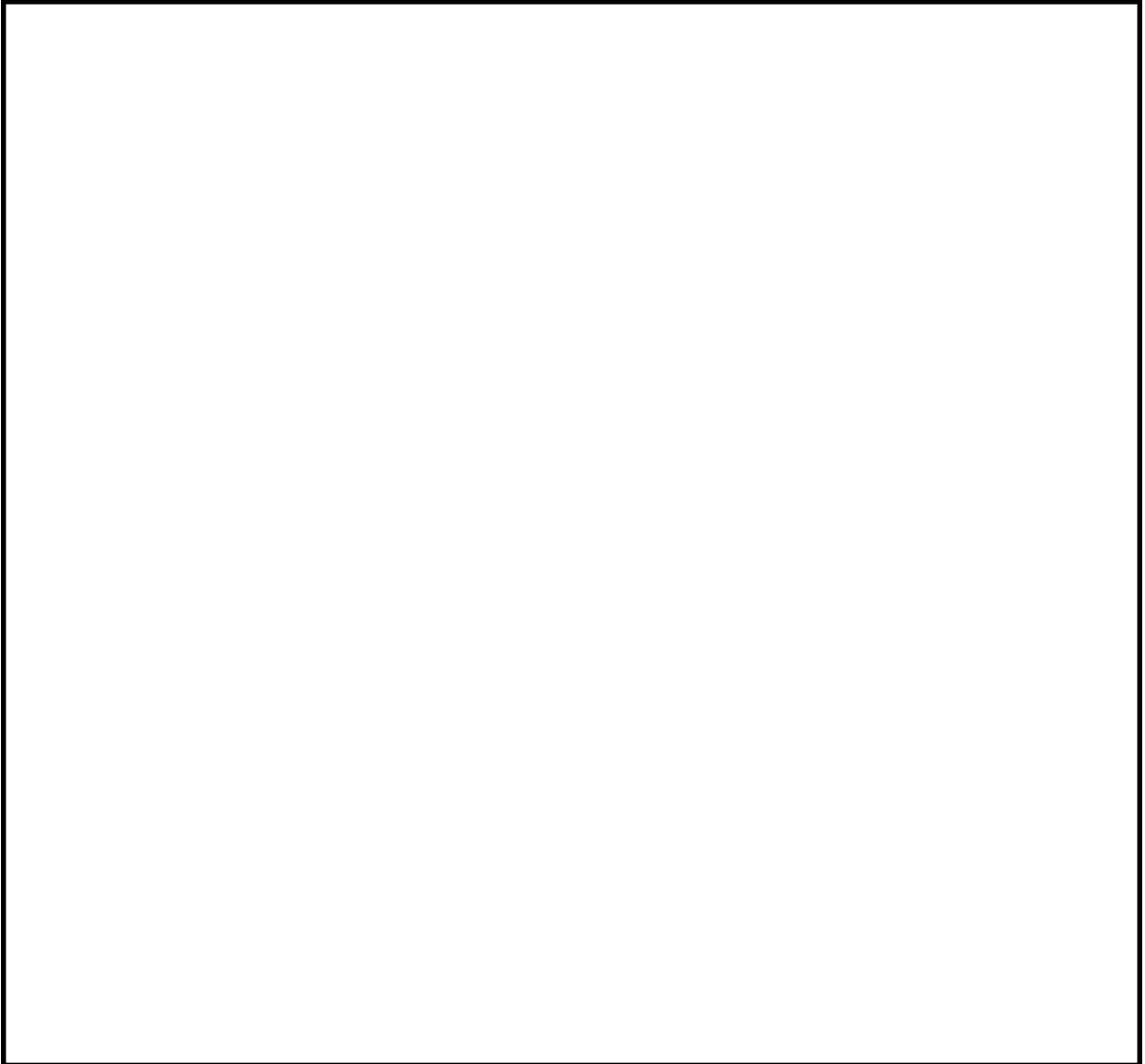
We are not expecting another king to be born. But, there are babies born every day who need things. UMCOR has special kits called Layette Kits with practical gifts for the new mom and baby. The kits have things like diapers, shirts, washcloths, blankets. Like we talked about last week, if there is a flood or an earthquake, you can't just go to the local store and buy these items. So UMCOR sends these layette kits to help, especially when there is an emergency or disaster.

Prayer: Loving God, you gave us the best gift of all, your son, Jesus Christ. Please help us to share your love with others by letting us give gifts to new babies in need...a gift of a warm blanket or diapers. Through the layette kits, we can share your love all around the world. Amen.

Activity: On a piece of paper, draw a square. Have children draw a baby gift in the square. Then tape a piece of wrapping paper over the square to look like a real present. (one piece of tape at the top so the paper can be lifted up to reveal the present.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What gift would I bring to Jesus?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a child to draw or write their answer to the question above.

## Week #4 ~ Jesus Speaks with the Teachers: School kits

Scripture: Luke 2:46-47

UMCOR Kit: School Kits

There aren't many stories in the Bible about when Jesus was a young boy. We have the story of when he was born, when he was presented in the temple and when the Wisemen came to visit. There is one other story and it was about a time when Jesus was lost (or at least his parents thought he was lost.)

Have you ever been lost? What happened? (allow time for children to share stories). How did you feel when you couldn't find your parents? Were you scared? Were you frightened? Were your parents worried? Were they glad when they found you?

Every year, Jesus and his parents went to the big city of Jerusalem for a special Jewish celebration called Passover. Dozens and dozens of families traveled together for this trip. Being a typical boy, Jesus probably hung out with the other boys and girls. When the festival was over, the families got packed up and started their trip back home. Mary and Joseph noticed that Jesus was not with them, but they just assumed he was with his friends. When the evening came and Jesus didn't show up for supper, Mary and Joseph started to worry. They looked among the families of their friends and relatives, but they couldn't find Jesus.

When they figured out that he was not with the group, Mary and Joseph returned to the city of Jerusalem to look for Jesus. They searched for three days until they finally found him. Do you know where he was? He was in the Temple, or what we would call the church school. He was with the teachers. He was listening to the teachers and asking them questions. And the teachers were listening to him.

Mary and Joseph were so happy to find their son. They were also a little mad because of how scared they had been when they couldn't find him. "Son," Mary said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic with worry. We searched for you everywhere." "Why did you need to search for me?" Jesus replied. "Didn't you know that I would be doing my Father's business?"

In the story, the Temple is a school. Like your school, students would need to learn and they would need to write. They needed supplies. What types of supplies do you use in school today? Did you know that in some parts of the world, children don't have the supplies they need for school? Through UMCOR, we can make school kits for these children. The kits have pencils, erasers, paper, scissors, rulers – all the things that you need to help you learn.

Prayer: Ever present God, we pray that we never get lost from you. But if we do, we know that you are always there to protect us and to welcome us back. Please help us to study hard and do well in school so we can learn lots of things and can share them with others, especially about your son, Jesus. Amen.

Activity: from [www.sermon4kids.org](http://www.sermon4kids.org). Activity sheet from the lesson plan "Boy Jesus in the Temple"

## **Week # 5 ~ Jarius' Daughter Made Well: Health Kits**

Scripture: Mark 5: 21-43

UMCOR Kit: Health Kit

Keeping healthy is something we work at every day. In our story, we learn that a man named Jarius, who was in charge of the Jewish meeting place, had a daughter who had been ill. Jarius prayed for her and did everything he could to make her healthy.

One day, Jesus crossed Lake Galilee. When Jesus got out of the boat, Jarius was waiting for him. Jarius knelt at Jesus' feet and begged Jesus to help his daughter.

Jesus went to Jarius' home with a large crowd following him. When Jesus arrived, people were crying and making a lot of noise. Jesus sent everyone out of the house. Jesus then took three disciples, along with Jarius and his wife, and went in to see the girl. Jesus spoke to her and told her to get up out of bed. The twelve year old girl got up and started walking around. Jesus was able to do what no one else could do...he healed the girl.

When we are ill, we see a doctor or perhaps a nurse. Our families do everything they can to help keep us healthy. One of the United Methodist Committee On Relief kits is just what is needed to help people stay clean and healthy.

What do we use every day to keep us clean? We wash our bodies and brush our teeth. We keep our fingernails clipped and trim. We comb our hair. When we have a minor cut, we use a band aid to help it heal. All these items are in the Health Kit. They are things that people need and use every day.

When you bring items for the Health Kit, you make it possible for children and adults in many places around the globe to stay healthy and clean. Thank you.

Prayer: We thank you, gracious God for our families and their care for us. Help us to reach out to others to share our gifts and our time. Use the Health Kits to help people around the world to stay clean and healthy. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Optional craft: Invite participants to make a "Thinking of You" or "Get Well" card that they can send or give to the pastor or another individual who visits the sick or shut-ins.

## Week # 6 ~ Jesus Cleansing the Temple

Scripture: John 2: 14-16

UMCOR Kit: Cleaning Bucket

Just before Passover, Jesus, his mother and his disciples were in Cana of Galilee for a wedding. Afterwards, they went to Capernaum for a few days and enjoyed some time together. Then Jesus went to Jerusalem. What he found in the temple was very frustrating. People were selling cattle, sheep and doves and some were changing money ~ all inside the temple. He couldn't stand it! He took some rope and started chasing everyone out of the temple. He also chased the animals out as well. He told people that he didn't want God's temple to be a marketplace. It was a space for people to worship God and they were doing everything but worshipping in the space. Jesus was able to clean the temple, simply by using a rope.

For us, cleaning our home means using things like a dust cloth, disinfectant wipes, a vacuum cleaner, and a mop. When a home is damaged by a flood or tornado, there are many more items that are needed.

When flood waters come into a house, what happens to the floor? What is left? Mud and other garbage, right? After a storm, a yard usually has dirt, limbs, or other stuff all over the place. Lots of time, there is just too much to clean. We can't stand all the dirt and we often don't have the tools and equipment to do the cleaning.

Like Jesus, we can't stand the disorder. Things are not in the places they should be. The space is all messed up and we want to make it right. One of the UMCOR kits is exactly what we need ~ the cleaning bucket.

After a storm, what are the things we need? Some clothes line and clothes pins to help get things dry. We may need a brush to help us scrub a floor. Cleaning gloves protect our hands. Soap helps us clean our dishes. These and other cleaning items are in a bucket, making the kit easier to carry.

Thank you for purchasing items in the Cleaning Bucket to share with people who have had a flood damage their home. It may be the only cleaning items they have and will help them as they try to restore order in their homes.

Prayer: O God of grace and love, thank you for all you do to help us. Teach us the joy of helping others by sharing our gifts. Thank you for Cleaning Buckets. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Optional craft: Items in the cleaning buckets could be used in a relay race.

## Week # 7 ~ Sewing Kit

Scripture: Acts 18: 2-3; Romans 16: 3-5a

UMCOR Kit: Sewing Kit

From the scripture we learn a lot about Aquila and Priscilla. They are husband and wife. They are tent makers who were ordered to leave Rome by the Emperor, along with all of the other Jewish people who lived there. They moved to Corinth, which is where Paul met them. The three of them made tents together and they worshipped together. They risked their lives for Jesus Christ and have a community of believers who meet in their home for worship.

In Paul's day and time, people worked from their homes. Aquila and Priscilla made tents and it was time-consuming work. Tents were often made of woven fabric, which made it heavier than simple cotton. Needles for tent making were made from the bones of large animals, like camels or horses. They were shaped like a crochet hook and the thread, made from the sinew of animals, was what held the tent together. The ones used in the desert required poles and were shaped in the familiar scout tent form. Other tents would be draped over branches of a tree.

Have you ever tried to sew fabric together? Needles today are sharp and the "eye" [where the thread goes] is often small. We need scissors to cut our thread. It takes practice to make stitches that are the same size. The UMCOR Sewing Kit provides fabric, scissors, thread, buttons, and needles. Men and women use the resources to make a garment for themselves or their children. Some of them have used the kits to begin a sewing business.

Prayer: God we thank you for work to do and people with whom to share. For the gift of the Sewing Kit, we give you thanks. Help us discover the many ways we can spread your love around the globe. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Optional activity: Practice sewing. Use fabric, heavy paper, or plastic canvas. For younger children, use yarn and plastic canvas. Put glue on the end of yarn. When it hardens, it will work without a needle. For older children, use needles and thread. You might want to sew two pieces of fabric together and form a tent.

## Week #8 ~ Feeding the 5,000 ~ Nothing Wasted

Scripture: Matthew 14: 13-21

No Specific Kit

Jesus has been very busy, telling parables to large crowds. People had to think about what Jesus told them and try to understand what the stories meant. Jesus was tired. He wanted some time and space to be alone. He got in a boat and sailed across Lake Galilee. When he got to shore, he wasn't alone. The crowds that had been following Jesus on the other shore walked to where he was.

Some who came were sick and Jesus healed them. It was late and people were hungry. The disciples told Jesus that he should send the crowd away so they could go to the villages to buy food. Instead, Jesus asked the disciples to give them something to eat.

When the crowds were asked, the only food was five small loaves and two fish that a young boy had brought. Jesus gathered the food, asked God to bless it, and then instructed the disciples to distribute it. When everyone had eaten all they wanted, there were twelve large baskets of leftovers. There were 5,000 men as well as many women and children. All of them ate from the offering of one boy.

At Mission Central, nothing is wasted and we use the leftovers for ministry. In the UMCOR School Kits, for example, the six pencils must not be sharpened and they cannot have writing on the side of them. When pencils come in that are sharpened or have writing on them from someone's office, we do not throw them away. They might go to a classroom that doesn't have enough pencils, in an activity kit used in the inner city, or in a bundle used by a homeless individual. We accept all kinds of things at our donation station [no televisions] and make them available to people in need.

We celebrate God Moments all the time. That happens when something is brought to Mission Central and we're not sure how it will be used. The call requesting the item comes soon after it arrives. Or the call has been made and the individual is on our "wish list" and in it comes. Over and over again, we connect God's resources with human need. Nothing is wasted.

Prayer: O God of great possibilities, we thank you for the many people who bring their gifts to Mission Central. We thank you that nothing is wasted and that you find a way for them to be used. Thank you for Mission Central. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Optional activity: Use a small paper plate and fold it to form a basket [two sides folded on a diagonal so that they overlap at the bottom. Fold the pointed end up and tuck the point behind the two sides. Staple to hold in place.] Plate can be decorated, if desired. Use 2 goldfish and 5 oyster crackers to symbolize the gifts that the boy brought.