

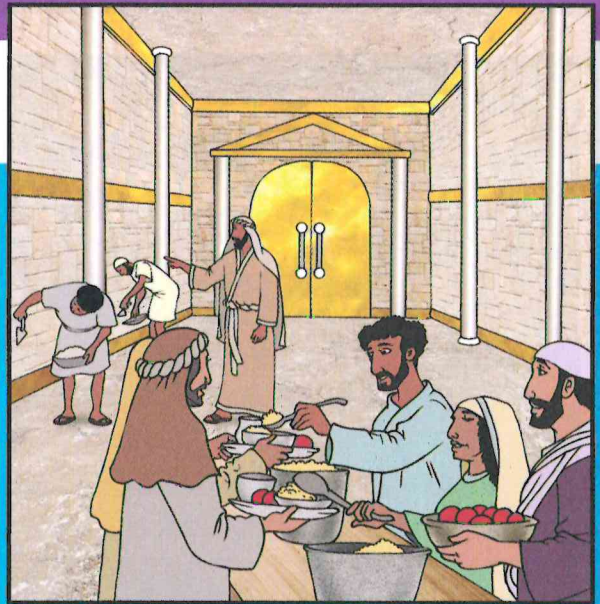
May 10, 2026

BIBLE LESSON

11



**KEY VERSE:** [Paul said,] “You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.” (Acts 20:34)



# Carrying Our Share of the Load

**Lesson Scriptures:** Exodus 20:9;  
Acts 20:17-21, 33-35

## God’s Word

**9** Six days you shall labor and do all your work.



**17** From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. **18** When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. **19** I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. **20** You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. **21** I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.”



**33** “I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. **34** You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. **35** In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

# Bible Story

## Carrying Our Share of the Load

Exodus 20:9;  
Acts 20:17-21, 33-35

In the events of Acts 20, we discover that while Paul was in Miletus, he sent for the elders who presided over the church in Ephesus. When the elders arrived, Paul reminded them of his early days in Asia where the church was located. Paul spoke of how he served the Lord with great humility. He also spoke of how he cried during the time that he was being tested and plotted against by the Jews in the area. Paul reminded the elders that he had never hesitated to preach or to help them. He had taught publicly and privately, by going from house to house. Paul had told the Jews and Greeks alike to turn to God in repentance and have faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul continued telling them that he did not want to be paid for his work. He worked hard to cover his own needs and those of his companions. Everything he did showed them the type of hard work required to help the weak.

Paul also reminded the elders that Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

## A Cleaning Conundrum

(Part 1)

Selene was stretched out on the couch playing on her tablet while her mother and older sister cleaned the house. They had guests coming to town in a few days, and the house needed to be ready. Everyone else in the family was busy helping, but she kept sneaking away to play on her tablet.

"Selene, would you please finish the dusting!" her older sister, Celeste, groaned, throwing the dust cloth at her.

"You had the dust cloth already. Why did not you do it?" Selene huffed, swiping on her tablet game.

"You cannot just lounge around all the time," Celeste snapped. "We need your help . . . please!"

Celeste's request did not move Selene. Why should she care about dusty baseboards?

## Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Hello! Nicholas and Cornelius here! How willing are you to work hard to help someone in need? It is one thing to notice that there is a need and to point it out for someone else to do the work, but it is quite another for us to work hard to meet those needs. Today's lesson is important for understanding the importance of sharing the load with a giving spirit so those in need can be helped.



## A Cleaning Conundrum

### (Part 2)

After much pleading and bargaining, Selene finally got up and helped. She did as little as possible and often snuck off to play her game whenever she was alone.

When the guests arrived, Selene's parents, sister, and brother proudly talked about what they had done around the house to prepare. Selene started feeling guilty as she listened to everything her family did to prepare.

"We deep-cleaned the whole house, made up your beds, prepared meals, and set up the guest room for you to stay in!" Celeste said.

Selene could not believe that they had done all that—while she could not even be bothered to dust the baseboards!

## Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

What does it mean to "share the load"? This means that we do our part so that one person's load is not heavier than someone else's. We must do our fair share of maintaining our living spaces. The rest of Selene's family was busy making their home inviting for their guests while she spent time finding ways *not* to help. What should she have done differently?



## A "Do Your Work" Crossword Puzzle

Fill in the words in the crossword puzzle below using the text and clues from today's lesson. The words can go across or down. The letters are shared when the words intersect.

### ACROSS

- Paul taught that we must have this in Jesus.
- Jesus said that this is better than receiving.
- Showing this means turning away from sin and toward God.
- Paul sent for them.

### DOWN

- Paul served the Lord with this.
- Paul did this publicly and privately.
- Paul worked to cover his and his companions' \_\_\_\_\_.
- Paul's Jewish opponents did this to Paul.

