



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Is the King
Winter Year 1, Lesson 46

Servant of All

Primary Scripture: John 13:12-17

Key Verse: John 13:14, "So if I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you must wash each other's feet."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids, by their very nature, are self-centered and believe the world revolves around them. The whole mindset of putting others' needs ahead of their own is foreign to them, especially as they model those adults around them who exhibit an attitude of doing what is best for only those who are closest to them. Our role as Christian educators in these children's lives is to hold up Jesus as the true role model for all behavior. His role as the kingly servant is very humbling as we recognize God coming down to us. What wonderful promises Jesus made—when we follow his example, he gives us blessings.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus became the servant for us so we would truly understand his love.

Jesus in us: Jesus gives us a servant heart to love and serve others. Personal needs become less important as the Holy Spirit rules our heart and lives. He gives us that love for others.

Jesus through us: As we experience life-change through our relationship with the servant King, we become servants to others in our lives.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies:

- large sign with "#1" written on it

Using a large sign with "#1" on it or another sports item, communicate the theme of "who is number one?"

Think about your favorite sports team. When watching your team, did you sit quietly and watch the team or did you scream and cheer? Have you ever sat next to someone who thought *his* team was so terrific but you knew *your* team was #1? What did you feel like doing when they yelled loudly? Did you yell back?

What about when you were playing a game yourself, like basketball, and you heard your mom yelling and screaming how proud she was as you made a basket? How did that make you feel?

Do you think we make God feel good when we say he is #1 to us? How do we do that?

Worship is a wonderful way to just let loose and say, "God you are awesome. You are wonderful. I want to tell the whole world about you." And you know what is even better? God wants to say, "You are #1 to me." What an awesome God we have! Let's tell him he is #1 to us.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies:

- hula hoop

Play “King of the Hill” with a few volunteers. Have one child come up and stand inside a hula hoop. Ask him what is his very best skill or talent. Have two or three others come up to help with the demonstration. *(You may want to talk to these children ahead of time so they do not become too physical with each other.)*

Ask them:

Have you ever played “King of the Hill”? That is a game where others are trying to be the best or to push you out of your spot. That’s what we are going to play today. (Child’s name standing in the hula hoop), these other kids think they are better than you at (child’s special talent).

Let the three volunteers play “King of the Hill” with restraint and push the first kid out of the hula hoop. Then have them sit down.

Have you ever wanted to be the best at something so badly that you didn’t care who you knocked around? Have you said bad things about others so you would look better? Have you tried to get someone in trouble so you would look good? Have you ever laughed when someone else got in trouble at school?

That’s like playing “King of the Hill.” It is wanting to be better than someone else no matter how much it hurts them.

Sometimes we even push God away. We think we can do it all ourselves. When we do not pray, we are saying we know what is better for us than God does. When we do not read our Bibles, we say, “God, I am the king of the hill and I don’t need to know what you want to say to me.”

It is hard to be the best when you are trying to do it on your own. Jesus says you do not have to do it alone because he died for you. He took away all your sins.

Let's all say these words together:

God, I am sorry. I want you to be #1. I know many times you are not. Please forgive me. Change me, Lord, so I can be like you! I want to love others like you.

Reassure the children of their forgiveness through the blood of Jesus. Empower them for the life-change that will occur through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies:

- *four hula hoops on the floor*

During the offering, have several children come forward and stand inside hula hoops on the floor. Talk about how, through our offerings, we say to God, "You are #1 to me. You get the best of what I have. We give our offerings and ourselves to you."



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies:

- four hula hoop stations—each has a hula hoop with two lines of masking tape five feet from the hula hoop—the two lines should be parallel as shown below



- two different color sets of small balls at each hula hoop station—each set should contain 20 balls (If balls are not available, have available newspaper for the children to wad up into balls. See the lesson for rules on a variation of the game.)
- #1 ribbon made on paper (page 10)
- small candy bars for 10-15 kids

Learning Point: *The first shall be last and the last shall be first.*

Divide children into even groups of eight to ten. Have them move to four different stations in the room. Divide each group of eight to ten children in half and put them behind the two lines facing each other. At each station there should be two different color sets of small balls. Each set should contain 20 balls.

The object of the game is to see which team out of the eight teams has the most balls in one of the hula hoops at the end of four minutes. Each team gets to roll or bounce the balls into the hula hoop. One strategy is to knock your opponent's balls out the hoop. If the ball rolls out of the playing area (between the lines), a player may retrieve it. The only thing that player may not do is cross the line into the playing area.

Before you begin, you may want to have a short contest of bragging about which is the best team. At the end of four minutes, count the number of balls each team has in each hula hoop to determine the winner.

Call the first place team forward and hand them a paper #1 ribbon. Then call the last place team forward and give each child a piece of candy. (Expect disgruntled children.)

Read Mark 10:31.

“But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

What a ridiculous statement that seems to be, yet God promises blessings to those who are willing to finish last for the sake of the kingdom. Let’s listen to our Bible event for today and see how Jesus did something that might even appear to us humans to make him a loser. It appeared as an action that someone would *not* take if they were going to be the best.

A variation of game if balls are not available: *When each group goes to the hula hoop station and divides in two, explain that one half of their group will be called the A Team and the other half the B Team. Provide a stack of newspapers at each line.*

Have all A Teams go first and see how many balls of newspaper they can make and throw into the hoop in three minutes. After three minutes, record the number of paper wads each team has in the hoop. Clear out the A Team paper wads. Then have B Teams do the same for three minutes and record the numbers for each group. Hand out awards and teach the learning point as in the game above. Allow time for children to wash their hands of black ink smudges.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies:

- *large bowl of warm water*
- *washcloth*
- *towel*

Bring a child up front before the reading and seat him. As you read the story, take the child’s shoes off and wash his feet. Afterward, bring up another child and let the first child briefly wash this child’s feet. As this is being done, explain:

In Jesus’ day, people wore sandals and walked almost everywhere they went. The roads were dusty and dirty. Can you imagine how dirty their feet were after a long day of walking? When they entered a new house, it was a custom to have the slave of the house wash the guest’s feet.

When a whole group arrived for their last meal together with Jesus, someone had to wash the feet. But no one moved. There were no slaves and this was an awful job to have. Who was it that got down on his knees and started washing feet? Jesus! Jesus was God's Son, and he had the right to be #1 and have others serve him.

Instead, Jesus said the #1 position was not the one whose feet were being washed, but the one who was a servant and was washing the feet. Do you want to be #1 like Jesus?

The reason we can serve others is because Jesus first served us. He gave his life for us. He made us #1. Now we can be like him. We can take the #1 position of serving others. That's how we show God our love for him anyway! Let's discover three ways we can serve others today in Kids Church.

Application:

Supplies:

- *several 3 x 5-inch cards for each child*
- *markers, crayons, and/or pencils*
- *"Bible Verses for Get Well Cards"*
- *prayer box for cards (Could be a shoebox decorated in a special way.)*

Serving Your Family:

We are going to make surprise cards for members of our family, but we won't sign them. Take these cards and write, "Dad, you're #1." Or "(Your sister's name), you're #1."

Make one card for each of your family members. You can use markers or crayons to make them look special.

This is what you will do with the cards you made. You want to be a surprise servant to each of your family members. That means you will do something special for each of them and do it without them knowing. After you do, leave this card in a place where they will find it.

These cards remind us that when we love God and serve him, we will serve those around us. Sometimes the hardest thing we may do is something extra nice for people in our own family.

While kids are making their cards, gather ideas of things they might do to be surprise servants. Examples are shining someone's shoes, making someone's bed, vacuuming Mom or Dad's car, and doing chores for a sibling.

Serving Your Church:

In our church from time to time, people get sick and go to the hospital. It's wonderful for people to visit and encourage them, to pray for them, and to share some of the promises from God's word.

Let's make some get well cards that those people who visit the sick can take with them to the hospital. These cards could have part of a Bible verse on them. They could say things like, "We are praying for you," or "God is with you." There are other sayings you might want to include.

Have kids give their ideas. Hand out to each child a copy of "Bible Verses for Get Well Cards" found on page 12. Bible verses for the children to copy onto their cards (see appendix). After the cards are finished and the kids have signed their cards, put them in a special container to be taken to hospitals or nursing homes. Then say:

Be sure to pray for the person who will get your card.

Serving Your Community:

What do people outside the church need that the church has to give them? It's a relationship with Jesus. Think of how important it is for someone to know Jesus as his Savior and friend. Many people don't know anything about Jesus and may think church is dull.

We need to invite people to church, or better yet, bring them. Here's a neat way to do it. Many of you like to have a friend over to spend the night. Why not have a "sleepover" on Saturday night and bring your friend with you on Sunday morning?

When you talk to your friend about going to church with you, you can ask him what he believes about Jesus. That might give you an opportunity to talk about your faith in Jesus.

Let's all think of three people we would like to invite to church or talk to Jesus about. Write their names on a card and place the cards in this special prayer box for friends. We will pray for every single name in the box every Sunday for three weeks. We won't pray for the names out loud, but will ask for every person who filled out a card to please pray for the names on his cards. We will pray over these special friends at the end of Kids Church during the prayer portion.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

If you would like to share a time when you did something to serve someone else and it was a surprise to the person, please come forward and tell your story.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- large sign with “#1” written on it

The Power of the Cross:

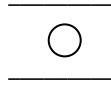
- hula hoop

Offering:

- four hula hoops on the floor

Learning Game:

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- small candy bars for 10-15 kids

Bible Presentation:

- large bowl of warm water
- washcloth
- towel

Application:

- several 3 x 5-inch cards for each child
- markers, crayons, and/or pencils
- “Bible Verses for Get Well Cards”
- prayer box for cards (Could be a shoebox decorated in a special way.)

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Bible Verses for Get Well Cards

“Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all my go well
with you...”

3 John 1:2 (NIV)

“My God will richly fill your every need in a glorious way through Christ
Jesus.”

Philippians 4:19

“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength...”

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“...I am the Lord, who heals you.”

Exodus 15:26

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