



Date: _____
Series: Signs on Believers Hwy
Winter Year 4, Lesson 45

Jesus, the Foot Washer

Primary Scripture: John 13:1-17

Key Verse: John 13:14-15, “So if I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you must wash each other’s feet. I’ve given you an example that you should follow.”

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

Kids need to learn service. To be servants, they need to learn to be aware of other people’s needs and what they can do to meet those needs. The power to develop a selfless heart can only come from first receiving the gift of Jesus who selflessly served us. Just as Jesus knew our needs and met us (*washed our feet*), so we can follow his example and serve others.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus served completely by giving his life not just as an example, but also as a sacrifice to wipe away our sins. In giving his life for us, Jesus empowers us to live for him.

Jesus in us: Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus dwells within us so that we might have his same attitude of service.

Jesus through us: We can represent Jesus as we serve at home, school, play or church.

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 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

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

Supplies: basin of water on a table, two dry washcloths displayed nearby but not too obvious

Welcome and Theme: Serving

Good morning, kids. Welcome to Kid's Church. I am so excited about the Bible event we will learn today.

Pick up the basin of water and hold it as you talk.

It has something to do with this basin of water and serving others. I wonder if anyone here might know how Jesus used a basin of water to teach about serving others.

Take any suggestions.

Oops—Spill

Set the basin back down on the table and purposely spill the water from the basin onto the table or floor.

Oops! What a mess! I can't believe I just spilled this water. Where is my washcloth? I guess I forgot to bring it. What am I going to use to clean up this mess? Hmmm... let me think.

Pause and wait, even if the audience gets nervous for a solution to the problem. Hopefully, kids will notice the washcloths sitting visibly nearby and offer them to you. If no one notices the dry washcloths, say:

I wish I had a dry washcloth to clean up this mess. Does anyone see anything I can use?

Ask a volunteer to help clean up the water using the washcloths.

Did You Wish You Could Help?

Say to the volunteer:

Thank you so much for helping me clean up my mess. You saw that I had a need and you were willing to help. What you did is called serving. We will see how Jesus served as an example for us and we will learn that Jesus gives us his power to serve.

Brief Synopsis of the Bible Event

Take the damp washcloth that was used to clean up the spilled water and wipe a couple of kids' shoes to clean them as you tell the following story.

Let me tell you what happened to Jesus when he had a gathering of his closest friends for the religious ceremony called the Passover. It was the custom at that time that one person would wash the feet of all the guests. Can you imagine how yucky and smelly that job would have been?

Think about the yucky jobs that you don't like to do—like take out the trash or clean the bathroom. Maybe that's how Jesus' friends felt about washing other people's feet.

Who got up and washed everyone else's feet? Yes, it was Jesus. He told them that he served them so they could serve others. Jesus tells us the very same thing today. He served us when he gave his life for us. Now we can serve others. It is time to worship him for that in our songs.

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!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

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

The Dirty Washcloth

Supplies needed: the dirty washcloth from the Attention Grabber

Hold up the dirty washcloth used for cleaning the shoes.

My washcloth is no longer clean. It is dirty from washing those shoes. This is what happens to a washcloth when it is used for serving someone. This washcloth reminds me of how Jesus serves me today.

I trust Jesus as my Savior. I believe he died on the cross for me and I know he took away all the wrong things that I have done. This is just like Jesus taking a clean washcloth and wiping away my sin. Where does the sin go? It goes on Jesus and he takes it to the cross and leaves it there.

When I believe Jesus did this for me, I am made clean inside. I know Jesus will help me to do better and will help me serve others. Let's pray about that now.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for Jesus who washes away our sin. There are things that we have done wrong that we are sorry for and we need you to wash them away. Maybe we have disobeyed you by not serving others or maybe we have been mean to others. We need the power of your forgiveness to wipe away our sin. Give us the power to serve you now. Please do this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to 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 needed: clean washcloths

Place the clean washcloths inside the offering baskets.

I would like you to bring your offering and place it on top of the washcloths. These washcloths remind us of how the money we give will be used to serve others.

Talk about the mission project and where the offering is going to serve others.



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.

No learning game today.

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: video, The Gospel of John, produced by Visual Bible International, www.visualbible.com

Show the clip covering John 13:1-20. Begin with the phrase, "It was now the hour before the Passover festival." Conclude with the phrase when Jesus says, "For I give you an example that you should follow."

Option:

Supplies: video, The Animated Stories of the New Testament: The Greatest is the Least, distributed by Nest Family Entertainment. Order from <http://www.nestfamily.com> and in the "search" box, enter the word "least." Double click on the title and order as indicated.

After the video, read John 13:14-15.

Then say:

Because Jesus served us, we can serve others. But how do we serve? Here are three very important steps to show us how we can serve.

Step One: See the Need

The first thing we must do is to see the need.

Begin looking around the room as you say,

I'm looking for special needs in this room right now. Oh, I see a need over there.

Point to a child's shoes.

You may not have even realized that you had a need. But I noticed you could use a shoe polishing.

Step Two: What Can I do?

Now it's time to ask, "What can I do to take care of this person's need?" Look, I have a washcloth and I think it might help in meeting this need.

Hold up the washcloth.

So, after I see the need, I ask, "What can I do to help?" I can polish this shoe with my washcloth and take care of this need.

Polish the shoe.

Step Three: Do It in Jesus' Name

There is one last thing. When I serve someone, what matters most is what is going on inside my heart. I should not help people just so they will like me. I should serve because I love Jesus. I serve in Jesus' name to show him I love him.

As I polished these shoes, I was thinking in my heart that I am doing this because of Jesus.

Application:

Supplies: newsprint or paper spread across a table and a supply of crayons

Write on the newsprint the following in four sections: Serve at Home, Serve at School, Serve at Play, Serve at Church. The newsprint can be laid on the floor or hung on a wall.

We are going to make a mural today that will help us think of ways we can see other people's needs and do something to serve them in Jesus' name.

I would like you to pick an area and draw a picture of yourself doing something for someone. But first, let's think about some ideas of how we can serve others in these areas: at home, at school, at play, or at church.

Take ideas from the kids such as helping a younger brother/sister tie his/her shoes, helping a brother or sister with their chores, helping a teacher clean the boards or pick up something that may have been dropped.

I would like you to draw a picture of yourself serving in a special way. But, there is one rule for drawing your picture. You cannot pick up a crayon on your own. Only if someone else asks you, can you pick it up and use it. For example someone may say, "Michelle, would you like a red crayon?" You, in return, can only answer "yes" or "no." If you say "no," she may ask, "Do you want a blue crayon?" This time, maybe you will answer "yes."

If no one sees that you have a need for a specific color, you can ask someone else if they need that color. For example, I may need the color yellow. So, I will ask Mike if he needs the color yellow; or Sam if he needs the color yellow. Hopefully, someone will get the hint that you need the color yellow and ask you.

Remember, you are drawing a picture of something you have done to serve someone in the past or something you could do this week to serve someone else in Jesus' name.



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.

Have the kids share what they drew and explain how they have served or could serve in the future.

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.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

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:

- basin of water on a table
- two dry washcloths displayed nearby but not too obvious

Power of the Cross:

- the dirty washcloth from the *Attention Grabber*

Offering:

- clean washcloths

Bible Presentation:

- video, *The Gospel of John*, produced by Visual Bible International, www.visualbible.com
- *option:* video, *The Animated Stories of the New Testament: The Greatest is the Least*, distributed by Nest Family Entertainment. Order from <http://www.nestfamily.com>. Link to the Children's Bible Stories and in the search box, enter the word "least." Double click on the title and order as indicated.

Application:

- newsprint paper
- crayons

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