



Date: _____

Series: I Am God's Child
Summer Year 2, Lesson 1

Foot Washing Fun

Bible Event: John 13:1-17

Take Home Point: *JESUS SERVED US – *We serve others.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus served us by giving himself for our sin

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that Jesus served in many ways – by healing, comforting, giving forgiveness and washing feet. Jesus performed these examples of service so we would learn no one is too important to serve others. When we follow Jesus' example and serve others we will learn the greatest is the least. Kids will take home the point: *JESUS SERVED US – *We serve others.*
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's Word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: Dramatized Character

A costumed adult presents the Bible event by telling it from a first person point of view. Explain to the children that they will meet an actor, someone pretending to be a person in today's Bible event. Ask the children to put on their imagination hats so they can imagine that this really is the person in the Bible event.

Prop: Basin with water and washcloth, set to the side of the stage.

After being introduced as an actor pretending to be Peter, he enters in costume. Be sure Peter is wearing sandals.

Well, hi, boys and girls. My name is Peter. I am one of Jesus' very best friends and I have a very unusual story to tell you of how Jesus served me. You will discover that Jesus served you, too. Because Jesus served us, we can serve others. This is my story.

For many, many days, I traveled with Jesus. I watched him do amazing things. One time he touched the eyes of a man who could not see and he healed his blindness! Another time, he told a man who could not walk to get up and – the man got up and walked—just

like that! One time Jesus fed thousands of people from just a few small loaves of bread and a couple of fish. Jesus did many miracles. When he healed people, he was serving them. Jesus was also a friend to people no one else liked. I remember one time when he was a friend to a very rich man named Zacchaeus—a man everyone else hated. But Jesus said that he would be Zacchaeus' friend. Jesus served Zacchaeus that day by showing him that God loved him, too.

As I watched Jesus serve all these people, I knew that he loved me, as well. He was a very good friend. But this is how he showed it in a most unusual way. One night we had a very special meal. It was called the Passover meal. It was a meal that you ate with just your closest friends. We came to the room together where the food was prepared. We were ready to sit down at the table but something had to happen first. We needed to have our feet washed.

If you'll look at my feet you can see that I'm wearing sandals. In my day, we had dusty paths to walk on. Our feet were always dirty, so when it was time to have a special meal together, someone had to wash everyone's feet. That was the yuckiest job of all. No one wanted to do it. Usually it was a job the slave or servants did. But we didn't have any servants with us. I wasn't going to wash any feet. And—my friends certainly weren't going to wash anyone's feet! Then guess what happened.

Someone got up from the table took a bowl of water and started moving to each person. He took off their sandals and washed their feet. Do you know who was doing this? Can you guess? Yes, it was Jesus. He was the one who was acting just like a servant, doing the yucky job of washing people's feet. When it was time for Jesus to wash my feet, I said, "No, this isn't right. I know who you are. You are the Promised One from God. How could you possibly wash my feet?" But Jesus said, "Peter, sit still and let me wash your feet." I couldn't understand why. But Jesus was showing me that he needed to serve me—he was serving everyone. He explained that he came to this world to be a servant for others. Jesus wasn't just thinking about himself. He was thinking about others and about me.

After he washed my feet, he looked at me and said, "Peter, if I have washed your feet, what do you think you should do for others?" I thought to myself, "What should I also do?" Do you have any ideas, boys and girls? Yes, I should serve others. I should not think I'm too good to get dirty and wash other people's feet. If Jesus was my teacher and master, and he washed feet, certainly I should serve others, too.

I was surprised that night to learn how much Jesus loved me and wanted to serve me so I could serve others. But Jesus told us that

the greatest way he would serve us was not just by washing our feet, but also by washing away our sins. Do you know how Jesus washed away our sins? Yes, by dying on the cross. That is what Jesus did the very next day. He died on the cross to take away all of my wrong things, the sins, that I have ever done—and to take away all the sins that you have ever done, also. That is the greatest way he served.

You probably know that Jesus did not stay dead. He rose again and is alive. He is alive and right here, even when we can't see him. Because we know him as God's Son who served us by giving his life for us, we, too, can serve others. That's what I want to do.

As a matter of fact, maybe a child would come up here so I can wash your feet just to remind you that since Jesus washed my feet, I can wash the feet of others. As you wash the feet, continue to talk about the ways we can serve others. **We can serve others not by just washing feet, but by helping with other things people need.** People might need help if they don't know about Jesus' love. Someone will have to tell them. We can serve them by telling them that Jesus is God's Son and that he gave his life for us. Do you know anyone who doesn't know Jesus? Or maybe we can serve others by cooperating at home. How many of you are asked to clean your room? You can serve your mom and dad by cleaning your room. Or maybe you serve by helping put plates on the table... maybe you help serve by giving hugs to people to make them feel better if they're sad... maybe you serve others by sharing your toys. Everyone has his or her own special way to serve. We can always serve because, ***JESUS SERVED US—we serve others.**



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Each child will be served blue milk (prepared ahead of time) and cinnamon graham crackers. The graham crackers represent the dirt and sand that were on the disciples' feet. The blue milk will remind them of the water Jesus used to wash the disciples feet. Option: Dip the graham cracker in milk to see the sand (cinnamon) wash away.

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Children can use whole grain breads, fruits, vegetables and water bless and serve each other.

Drama Zone: Provide table, chairs, play food, dishes, aprons, order pads. Let the children team work together to serve each other.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to discuss how they can serve someone else and how Jesus served others (healing, foot washing, comforting, forgiving).

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #147 "Remembering Jesus, the Last Supper" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Have children dip their hands in washable blue tempera and place their handprints on paper. The paper is preprinted with pictures of feet. Remind them we can use our hands to serve others. Jesus used his hands to wash the disciples' feet.

Play Zone: Use a water table or make your own water fun. Put down plastic tarp and have a variety of containers and tubs filled with water. They may have cups, colanders, sponges, beach toys, etc. to engage in the water fun.

Video Zone: Nest Entertainment. *"The Greatest Is the Least"...* The Animated Stories for the New Testament.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet.

Music Zone: Your choice of music

Coloring Zone: "Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet." coloring page.

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Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba is sad that he didn't get to wear the "King Hat" in the pretend play area at school. The presenter asks why the "King Hat" is so important to him. Bubba is aghast that the presenter would ask such a silly question. Bubba says that everybody knows when you wear that hat you are the most special and important person in the play area. The presenter asks if he knows a real king. Bubba remembers that Jesus is the King of Kings.

The presenter asks him if Jesus went around wearing a crown acting special and important. Bubba says no. The presenter shares with Bubba that Jesus was the most important king because he served others. Bubba remembers from the Bible event how Jesus washed the disciples' feet. "Kids, can you help Bubba think of more ways we can serve others?" Bubba closes by saying that next time he is in the pretend play area he is going to help his friends in the play area and not worry about wearing the crown. The presenter agrees that is a great idea and sounds like something Jesus would do. Remember: ***JESUS SERVED US – We serve others.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

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:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper and crayons

Opening Worship:

- costume for actor playing Peter, be sure to have sandals, towel, bowl of water, chair.

Action Zones:

Snack:

- cinnamon graham crackers
- blue food dye
- milk
- plates & napkins
- cups

Drama:

- table
- chairs
- dishes
- plastic Food
- pads of paper
- pens/pencils
- aprons
- chef hats

Craft:

- white card stock (preprint to have a background with foot/feet clip art)-template
- washable blue tempera paint or make your own by the following: mix blue liquid starch with dishwashing soap and tempera powder
- label: "JESUS SERVED US - We serve others"
- newspaper
- paper towels

Play:

- plastic tarp
- water table or
- appropriate size containers and tubs
- water
- towels
- water toys
- cups, colanders, sponges

Quiet Reading:

- pillows and basket of books

Video:

- "The Greatest Is the Least", Nest Entertainment

Music:

- songs of choice

Puppet:

- assorted puppets

Felt:

- “Remembering Jesus, the Last Supper” materials

Coloring:

- coloring page “Jesus washed the Disciples’ Feet”
- crayons, markers

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils and paper
- basket of books

