



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Gave His Life for Me
Winter Year 2, Lesson 44

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

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 came to serve, love and save.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Kids will learn how important it is to help and serve others. Even though Jesus was a king worthy of praise, he spent his life serving others – even by doing what was considered a servant's job – washing his disciples' feet. We should learn from Jesus' example to serve others in his name. 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: Your choice, if available.

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: Imagination Theater

Imagination Theater is audience participation drama where the Bible event is told in creative fashion using children as actors. The Imagination Box contains the Bible and other special props used for the drama. Begin by removing the Bible and explain that it is God's Word. Briefly summarize the story, and then remove an imaginary hat and place it on your head. This is your Imagination Hat. Invite the children to put on theirs as well. They will also use their imaginations to picture the events the Bible tells us about. Some will even use their imaginations to help act out these events. Distribute props to actors as they are called forward at the beginning of the presentation. Have them sit to the side until they are called on stage.

(Introduce the Bible story by using two children as actors – one dressed as a king and one dressed as a servant or peasant. Have the servant seated on the floor of the stage and the king waiting beside the stage. Have a stool or chair and a bowl or basin with a damp washcloth on the stage.)

Presenter: Before we start today's true Bible Event, let's act out a scene together. This is a story about a king and his servant. A king is a wealthy, powerful person. He has servants to do all kinds of things for him, so the king doesn't have to. A servant in Jesus' time would do things like help a king get off his horse, sweep around the castle, clean up after the animals, cook the meals and wash up the king before dinner time – even wash his smelly feet. Back then, many people didn't wear shoes or socks and their feet got very dirty and grimy. The servants got stuck with all of the yucky jobs the king didn't want to do.

One day, the king came in from outside and it was almost time for dinner.

Have the king come on stage.

The servant jumped up ready to clean up the king for dinner.

Have the servant jump up and bow to the king. Then have him lead the king to the stool and grab the basin off the floor.

As the servant got ready to clean the king's feet, the king stopped him!

Have the king hold his hand out to tell the servant to stop and grab the basin from him.

Instead, the king said to the servant, "Sit down! I have something important to do." (

Have the king repeat these lines as the servant sits on stool.

Then the king began to wash the servant's feet!

Have the king "wash" the servant's feet with the cloth. Shoes and socks can be removed first, but it is not necessary.

That was not the way it was supposed to go! That was backwards! How do you suppose the servant felt?

That was one mixed up story! But do you know what? That reminds me of an event in the Bible about Jesus.

Pull out a Bible and have the actors join the other children.

Let me tell you what Jesus did one night before he went to the cross.

Jesus was having his last supper with his friends, the disciples. As they were getting ready to eat, Jesus took off his coat and tied a towel around his waist. What a strange thing for Jesus to do! Then he filled a bowl with water, and began to wash each of his disciple's feet.

Grab the basin and rag from the stage to hold up. *Option:* Have several volunteers come onto stage and wash their feet as the story is told.

He used the towel around his waist to dry their feet.

One of the disciples, Peter, knew that this wasn't right. He knew that feet washing was a servant's job, not a king's job. He knew that Jesus was a true king and that the disciples should be washing his feet, not the other way around. But when Peter said to Jesus, "No, you shall never wash my feet," Jesus told him this was the way it had to be.

When Jesus finished washing all of their feet, he put his coat back on and sat back down with them. He said, "Do you understand what I have done for you? Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you should also wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you and you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

Jesus knew how important it was to serve others. His whole life was about helping other people. He knew that even dying on the cross would help others by taking their sins away. So, when Jesus did a servant's work – washing stinky, dirty feet – he was just trying to show that we should serve and be kind to all people. Let's remember to follow Jesus' example. Remember: ***JESUS SERVED US – We serve others.**

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.



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: Provide each child with a few graham cracker sticks and a dollop of Cool Whip colored blue with food coloring or powdered Jell-O. Have them dip the graham crackers in the Cool Whip to symbolize feet being washed with water.

Drama Zone: Set up a foot washing station. Provide tubs of water, rags and towels for drying. *Optional:* Set up a house-keeping/serving others station with brooms, mops, feather dusters, etc.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to name ways they can serve and help one another.

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

Craft Zone: Give each child a sheet of cardstock – any pastel color. Have them trace both feet (*stocking-covered or bare*) onto the cardstock. Have them color the feet with crayon and then watercolor blue over the entire page. The crayon colored feet will repel the watercolor. Attach a pre-made label: "Jesus washes his disciples' feet."

Play Zone: Have teams compete in relay races in which they have to wear oversized (*adult-sized*) shoes down and back, and then give the shoes to the next team member to put on. Use masking tape to mark the starting and turning points on the floor. Another option: Provide tubs of water and water toys.

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 His Disciples' Feet" coloring page



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 comes onstage holding a washcloth and is very upset. He doesn't want to wash his sister Judy's stinky feet, but knows that today's event says he is supposed to. The presenter explains to Bubba that while today's event is about feet washing, it isn't usually how people serve one another today.

If he's not supposed to wash people's feet, then Bubba wonders how he is supposed to serve others. The presenter tells him "that's a great question." Here are a few ways we can serve others today:

1. share toys with others
2. give offerings at church to help others buy food and things they need
3. help out around the house
4. forgive others when they hurt you
5. tell others about God's love

The presenter invites the children to come up with other ways to help and serve others.

The presenter then concludes by explaining anything we do to help others and share Jesus' love is what Jesus meant when he told us to serve others. 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 with bringing your hands down and wiggling the 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 the 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:

- cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box—the treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event
- King and servant or peasant costumes
- bowl or basin and rag
- chair or stool

Action Zones:

Snack:

- graham cracker sticks
- Cool Whip
- blue food coloring or powdered Jell-O

Drama:

- bowls or basins filled with water
- rags and towels
- *optional:* brooms, mops, feather dusters

Craft:

- cardstock, any color
- crayons
- blue watercolors
- newspaper
- paintbrushes
- pre-made label: "Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet"

Play:

- masking tape
- several pair of adult sized shoes
- *optional:* tubs of water and toys

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to reenact story (example: *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*, #147, Remembering Jesus, the Last Supper.)

Coloring page:

- "Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet"

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- washcloth

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books