



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

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Take Home Point: *Jesus served us so we can serve others. *Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: John 13:1-20

Key Verses: 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."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Jesus washing the disciples' feet.
- Jesus served them by washing them with his forgiveness when he went to the cross. This meets everyone's greatest need.
- They have an opportunity to "foot wash" or serve others because Jesus first served them.




We will help kids feel:

- Surprised at how often they fail to see opportunities to serve.
- Excitement at opportunities to serve.

We will help kids do:

- Decorate a paper foot with markers that have been "served" to them.
- Watch the Bible event on video.
- Write on paper feet ways they can serve others the following week.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up (15 minutes) 	3	Kids decorate a paper foot with markers received only from another who offers it to them.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • markers • bucket • foot picture (p. 15) one per child
Large Group (20-30 minutes) 	4 7 9 9 10	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Gets Served”—Gordy is disappointed when no one served him a marker in small group. Video: <i>The Gospel of John</i> —John 13:1-20 Signs Along Believers’ Highway: John 13:1-20 Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Gets Served”—Gordy learns that we are to serve others just as Jesus did.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gordy • paper foot from small group taped onto Gordy’s hand • road construction worker outfit • sign on a stick—The front of the sign says, “Jesus is the servant, the one who washes feet.” (p. 13) and the back says, “Now we can (serve) others, and that is really (neat) (p. 14) • two to four chairs • cardboard car front used in earlier lessons • paper foot from small group • video: <i>The Gospel of John</i> by Visual Bible International, 2003. Order from www.visualbible.com
Small Group Application (20-25 minutes) 	4	Kids decorate feet and write ideas of how they can serve others this week.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • foot picture (p. 15) <u>two</u> per child • markers or crayons • scissors • decorating supplies

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies: a bucket full of different markers, copies of foot picture (one for each child)

Pass out a copy of the foot picture to each child and say:

Notice what is on the toes of these feet. What does it say? (Serve.)

Each of you will get an opportunity to decorate your foot with the coolest coloring designs. I have a bucket full of markers that you may use.

Now, here are the rules for the decorating. First, you can only have one marker at a time. Second, you can never reach into the bucket and get a marker for your own use. But you can reach in for a marker that you will offer to someone else. Third, if you are left with no markers, you cannot ask someone to give you one. You must wait for someone to offer it to you.

You may begin.

Allow five minutes for the group to share markers and color.

What do you think would happen in this game if no one offered to get a marker for another person? (It wouldn't work. We would all just stare at each other.)

That is exactly what happened to Jesus when he was having a Passover meal with his disciples. It was the custom that all would have their feet washed. This was the job for the lowest servant in the house. Everyone was waiting for it to happen, but no one did it. Jesus surprised all of them by washing their feet.

Tell us about a time when you saw someone who needed help and you were the one to help him or her. It could be a little thing like helping your mom do the dishes without being asked. Maybe it was something that happened in school and one of your friends needed help.

Let kids share their stories.

We will talk more about serving and being served in large group today. We will learn that **Jesus served us so we can serve others.*

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Gets Served”—Gordy is disappointed when no one served him a marker in small group.

Video: *The Gospel of John*—John 13:1-20

Signs Along Believers’ Highway: John 13:1-20

Puppet Conclusion: “Gordy Gets Served”—Gordy learns that we are to serve others just as Jesus did.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to John 13:1-20 in their Bibles for the following questions.

On the night of the Passover meal, how did Jesus show his disciples he had come to be a servant? (*John 13:4-5. He took off his outer clothes and tied a towel around his waist. Then he washed his disciples’ feet.*)

What did Jesus say when Peter refused to let Jesus wash his feet? (*John 13:8. “If I don’t wash you, you don’t belong to me.”*)

How did Peter respond back? (*John 13:9. Peter said, “Lord, don’t wash only my feet. Wash my hands and my head too!”*)

What was the lesson Jesus was teaching his disciples? (*John 13:14-15. Since Jesus the Lord became a servant to wash their feet, they too, should serve others.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Why was Jesus washing his disciples' feet such a surprise to them?
(Because Jesus was their master whom they followed and he became like a lowly slave to them.)

How did Jesus become a lowly servant for you, me and all people?
(He gave up his heavenly glory, like when he took off his outer clothes, and became a human being. He then died on the cross taking on himself the punishment we deserve for our sins.)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Do you trust Jesus? Have you allowed him to serve you forgiveness? When he died on the cross, he paid for your sin. If you believe in him, you can know for sure that Jesus is your Savior. You will live with him forever in heaven.

If you haven't placed your trust in him and want to today, here is a simple prayer that will help you. Let's all close our eyes. Silently pray with me.

Dear Jesus, I need your forgiveness. I admit that I have done wrong and I need to be washed clean. I know you died on the cross to pay the punishment for my sin. Please serve me with your forgiveness. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Application Activity:

Supplies: two or more copies of the servant's feet used earlier for each child, markers, crayons, add other decorating supplies as you would like and are available, scissors

Jesus said in 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."

Since we have been served, we want to serve others. What can you do to "foot wash" or serve others? Who can give me some examples of ways you can serve?

Pass out the decorating supplies and two copies of the servant feet to each child.

Decorate one or two of these feet. Write on them different ways you can serve others this week.

Discuss while kids decorate their feet

When you get home, put your feet in a special place like a mirror or refrigerator to remind you to serve others this week.

Today we learned that because **Jesus served us, so we can serve others.*

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for sending Jesus to be an example of true servanthood. Thank him for the gift Jesus gives us through his death and resurrection. Pray for Jesus' power to think of others first and to serve them because Jesus came to serve us. Encourage kids to pray for specific people and ways they can serve them.

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Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

Signs on Believers' Highway Series

The book of John points to miracles as signs and proof that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. The imagery of road construction signs will be used to exemplify the signs that Jesus performed as told in the book of John. The road worked on is referred to as "Believers' Highway" to show we are all on a journey in our faith.

The presenter is dressed in an orange construction vest, hat and work boots and holds a different road sign each week that is fitting with the Bible event. Another important prop is the simulated car set-up with two or four chairs facing the audience and a cardboard car front (See lesson 34). Shepherds and children are both involved as observers on the highway. They are called up to drive the car and answer questions, give feedback and interact with or about the event.

This series uses "The Gospel of John" DVD series as a visual to show the events of the Bible. Order from: www.visualbible.com.

Supplies: road construction worker outfit, sign on stick---The front of the sign says, "Jesus is the servant, the one who washes feet." and the back says, "Now we can ____ (serve) others, and that is really ____ (neat); two or four chairs, cardboard car front, paper foot from small group taped onto Gordy's hand

Gordy Gets Served Puppet Presentation

The presenter enters wearing an orange construction vest, hat and work boots.

Presenter: Kids should we call Gordy?

Kids call Gordy. Gordy, Gordy, Gordy.

Gordy enters with the coloring project from small group taped to his hand. It is colored with only the color black and filled with what looks like frustrated scribbles or maybe an unhappy face drawn on the foot.

He shakes his hand and looks sad.

Presenter: Gordy, it is good to see you today.

Gordy: It is good to finally be here! It is much better here than in my small group!

Presenter: What do you mean?

Gordy: Look at this. (Gordy shows his foot from small group.)

Presenter: This must be the foot you colored in small group. It's, uh, how shall I describe it?

Gordy: Blah!! It's blah because I only had black to color it with.

Presenter: You sound a little bit frustrated.

Gordy: Wouldn't you be if you only had black to color with?

Presenter: So why did you only use one color?

Gordy: It was the only color anyone offered me.

Presenter: Couldn't you ask for another color?

Gordy: Asking for another color was against the rules. We had to wait until someone offered a marker to us.

Presenter: I see. So no one offered you another marker. Well, did you offer anyone else a marker?

Gordy: Let me see. Did I offer anyone else a marker? Well, I thought someone else was suppose to offer the markers.

Presenter: Did anyone else offer markers to others in your group?

Gordy: Now that I think of it. Caleb's foot was all yellow, and Jamie's foot was purple. I think most of our group only had one color.

Presenter: That's because you all needed to learn how to serve each other. We will talk about that very thing today. **Jesus served us so we could serve others.* Jesus served the disciples by washing their feet.

Gordy: He did WHAT?!

Presenter: He washed their feet.

Gordy: Ooo... gross, stinky feet! Why did he do that?

Presenter: It was their custom in those days that before they would sit down to a special meal, like the Passover, they would have their feet washed.

Gordy: Other people washed their feet? That's like your mom trying to wipe your nose.

Presenter: No, this is a little different. In those days, everywhere they went they walked in sandals. Their feet would get very dirty. So, it was their custom that the lowest servant had to do this yucky job—wash people’s feet.

Gordy: Why didn’t they just hose them off before they came in the door?

Presenter: Gordy, they didn’t have water hoses then. But, they did have bowls and towels. So, when all the disciples were gathered with Jesus, waiting to have a servant wash their feet, guess who stood up and began to do this yucky job?

Gordy: Don’t tell me... Jesus.

Presenter: Right.

Gordy: Jesus usually is the right answer. But, why did he do it? Was he the lowest servant?

Presenter: Jesus was showing the disciples he was willing to wash their feet and serve them. He was also getting them ready to see how he would soon serve them in a much greater way. In that, Jesus served you and me, too.

Gordy: What do you mean? Washing our feet, too?

Presenter: I want you to watch our Bible event today and see if you can figure out how Jesus might serve us today.

Video

Show *The Gospel of John* DVD, produced by Visual Bible International, 2003. Show the clip covering John 13:1-20. Begin with the phrase, “It was now the hour before the Passover festival.” And concludes with the phrase when Jesus says, “And whoever receives me will receive him who sent me.” The length of the clip is approximately 4 minutes.

Signs Along Believers’ Highway

John 13:1-20

The presenter holds up the sign that says, “*Jesus is the servant, the one who washes feet.*” The back of the sign says, “*Now we can _____ (serve) others, and that is really _____ (neat).*” He will be careful to only show the front for now until the back is needed for a game.

Presenter: I need volunteers to come up, get in the car and get ready to drive.

Choose one boy, one girl and a shepherd. Have them come up onstage and arrange them so that kids are in front driving and the shepherd is in the back.

On “Believers’ Highway,” kids can drive just as well as adults because we are all growing in our spiritual journey, learning to trust Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. So buckle your seat belts, and let’s go for a ride!

Let’s ask our people in the car a couple questions.

1. What was the special festival or meal that Jesus and his disciples were gathered for? *Hint:* it reminded them of hundreds of years before when God freed his people from slavery in Egypt and the angel of death passed over the Israelites. (*Passover.*)

2. When Jesus got up to wash the disciples’ feet, how did he dress? (*As a servant. He took off his outer garment and wrapped a towel around himself.*)

3. What did Peter say when Jesus was going to wash his feet? (*“You will never wash my feet.”*)

4. Jesus said that all are clean except for one. What did he mean? (*There was one person who would betray him.*)

The winner of this last question will get the first opportunity to solve the riddle on our sign. Are you ready? Here is the question. Since Jesus washed the disciples’ feet and served them, what did he want the disciples to do? (*Wash one another’s feet and serve others.*)

I’ve got a rhyme on my sign. On the front of the sign it says, “Jesus is the servant, the one who washes feet,” and the back says, “Now we can _____ (*serve*) others, and that is really _____ (*neat*).” It rhymes with the front of the sign.

Gordy Gets Served

Puppet Conclusion

Presenter: So, Gordy, how did you like the Bible event?

Gordy: It seems kind of weird that Jesus would wash everyone else’s feet. I wonder what it felt like for the disciples.

Presenter: I don't know, but I bet it made them feel uncomfortable at first. They knew Jesus as their Lord, not their servant.

Gordy: I think I would feel uncomfortable if Jesus washed my feet.

Presenter: But Jesus has done an act of service for you that is far greater than washing your feet. I asked you to think about what that might be. What do you think it is?

Gordy: It's more than washing my feet and wiping my nose, right?

Presenter: Yes, of course. It has to do with Jesus washing away more than dirt.

Gordy: I bet it has to do with Jesus washing away the bad things we have done.

Presenter: Yes, that's it exactly, Gordy. Jesus serves us by washing away our sin or all the bad things we have done.

Gordy: How does he do that?

Presenter: Jesus went to the cross as a servant. He took all of our sins on himself when he died. When you trust Jesus as your Savior, it is just like having him wash you on the inside. He washes away all the bad things you have ever done. So, will you let Jesus serve you that way?

Gordy: Of course, I will. Who wouldn't?

Presenter: Sometimes people are embarrassed or ashamed to let God wash away their sin. Maybe they don't trust Jesus or feel worthy of Jesus' love for them.

Gordy: Oh, I get it. It is kind of like Peter at first who didn't feel that Jesus should be the servant.

Presenter: Yes, but he learned just like we can, that we must let Jesus serve us and wash away our sin. After that happens, we are able to go and serve others.

Gordy: Oh, I get it now. It was like when we were doing those feet in small group. I should have thought about serving others and giving them markers instead of thinking about myself.

Presenter: That's it. There are many examples of how we can serve others because we were first served by Jesus. We will talk more about this in our small group. Would you lead us in prayer now, Gordy?

Gordy: Sure. Dear Jesus, thank you for **serving us so we are able to serve others*. We know you washed away our sin when you died on the cross. Help us to trust you as our Savior and let you serve us. If there are people who don't feel like they are good enough to have you serve them, please serve them anyway. Help them take what you have given to them. Help them trust in you. **You serve us, so we can serve others*. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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