



Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

John 13:1-17

Although 5- and 6-year-olds love to help others, it is often very difficult for them to think of others before themselves. They're still in a very self-centered phase as they explore their developing verbal, physical, and academic skills. They still want to be first in line—and first to win. Continually encourage children to be first to help someone else—first to serve. Remind children that God is happy when they help others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcoming Song Sing a song welcoming all their classroom friends.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Because He Loves Us Make a picture album showing those that Jesus died for.	Bible, paper, crayons, stapler, marker	Write "Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8) on a sheet of paper. Photocopy this, and make one copy for each child in class.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 20 min.</i>	Theo's News Find out what a washcloth has to do with the Bible story.	CD player, Surprise Box, Theo puppet, washcloth Teacher Pack: CD	Place the washcloth in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it's easily accessible.
	Bible Time Help wash a doll's feet like Jesus washed his disciples' feet.	Bible; 13 paper plates and cups; 13 plastic knives, forks, and spoons; 1 dishpan of warm water; 1 towel; 1 washcloth; baby doll	Set up one place setting at the head of a long, low table as an example.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



►Bible Point

God wants us to help others.

Key Verse

"Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will help others by telling them about Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i>	Center 1: Clean Feet Pretend to wash the disciples' feet by adding paint to a picture of Jesus and the disciples.	My Bible Playground, sponges, blue tempera paint, bowls, smocks, pencils	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Playground student book.
	Center 2: Sweet Feet Enjoy a dipping snack.	blue food coloring, non-dairy whipped topping, spoon, graham crackers, 1 plate per child	
	Center 3: Do You Want to Be First? Sing a song about being first, and pretend to wash one another's feet.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
	Center 4: Service Spinners Create a tool to use in remembering to serve others.	2 paper plates and 1 brad per child, scissors, crayons	
5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i>	Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Playground	
	"First and Last" Prayer Line up and ask God to help them serve others.		
	Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

Jesus Offers to Perform a Demeaning Task

Peter at First Refuses Jesus' Service

Go and Serve Others

The Jesus Connection

Thank Jesus for making a way for you to someday live where he is. Acknowledge that because of him, you don't have to be afraid or ashamed about meeting God. Jesus bent down low to lift you up high. How can you live out your gratitude? Talk to God about that. You can write your prayer here.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Welcoming Song Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome to God's House" (track 7)

Because He Loves Us Supplies

Bible
paper
crayons
stapler
marker

Because He Loves Us Easy Prep

Write "Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8) on a sheet of paper. Photocopy this, and make one copy for each child in class.

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcoming Song



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

As the children arrive, greet each child and welcome him or her with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to bring the children together in a circle.

Play "Welcome to God's House" (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of "My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean" and lead children in doing the motions.



With arms open wide, Jesus greets you. (*Spread arms out.*)
He's so glad to see you today. (*Shake a neighbor's hand.*)
Say "hi" to a friend right beside you. (*Continue shaking hands.*)
Let's learn and let's sing and let's pray. (*Turn around once.*)

Come on in. (*Motion to come.*)
Have a seat. (*Sit down.*)
Welcome to God's house today.
Come on in. (*Motion to come.*)
Have a seat. (*Sit down.*)
Welcome to God's house today!

(Repeat.)

2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Because He Loves Us

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have the children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Romans 5:8, and show children the verse.





Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible is Romans 5:8. This verse says, “Christ died for us.” Let’s say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse: **“Christ died for us.”**

Jesus was willing to die on the cross for us because he loves us so much. By dying on the cross, Jesus took the punishment for our sins. All we have to do is believe in Jesus, and we can be forgiven for the bad things we do. And that’s not all—if we believe in Jesus, we can live forever with him in heaven.

That’s such amazing news, let’s make something to remind us of our Key Verse so we’ll never forget it. That way, we can tell other people the good news about Jesus, too!

Explain that kids will be making “picture albums” about everyone Jesus died for. Give each child a cover sheet you prepared before class. Have children write their names on the covers. Give kids several pages of blank paper, also, and help them stack these under the cover and staple them together to make a booklet.

On the first page of their booklets, ask each child to draw a picture of his or her family. Explain that Christ died for all the members of their families. On the next page, ask kids to each draw a picture of their best friend. Explain that Christ died for their best friends, too.

Continue adding drawings as time permits. Other pages might include teachers, kids at school, neighbors, and children from other countries. Be sure to make the point that Christ died for all the people the children draw. Encourage kids to take the booklets home so they can show others whom Christ died for.

Say: **If we had room in our books, we could draw a picture of each person in the world, because Christ died for everyone!**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Theo’s News

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Friends, it’s time for Theo’s News!** Have the children sit in a circle. Then begin “Here, Theo” (track 3 on the CD). When the CD segment ends, bring out the Surprise Box, and put the Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet on your hand. Then follow along with the script.

Theo: Hi, everybody! How are my friends today?

Teacher: Hello, Theo! Tell us what interesting news you’ve dug up about our Bible story.

Theo: I hid it in the Surprise Box.



Theo’s News Supplies

CD player
Surprise Box (any box will do)
Theo puppet
washcloth
Teacher Pack
CD: “Here, Theo” (track 3)

Theo’s News Easy Prep

Place the washcloth in the Surprise Box, and hide the box where it’s easily accessible.





Bible Time Supplies

Bible
13 paper plates
and cups
13 plastic knives, forks,
and spoons
1 dishpan of
warm water
1 towel
1 washcloth
baby doll

Bible Time Easy Prep

Set up one place
setting at the head of
a long, low table as an
example.

Teacher: Let's look inside to see what Theo dug up for us today.

(Choose a child to open the Surprise Box, and have kids pass the washcloth around the circle. Give the children time to guess what the Bible story might be about.)

Teacher: Children, what is a washcloth used for?

(Pause while the kids answer your question.)

Teacher: Theo, why did you hide a washcloth in our Surprise Box today?

Theo: Today's story is about how Jesus used a washcloth and showed his disciples that he could serve them even though he was God's Son.

Teacher: Theo knew just what to bring to remind us that ► **GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS.**

Theo: Have fun today, boys and girls!

Teacher: Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Bible Time

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to John 13:1-17, and show children the words.

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us that ► GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS. So I want you to help me while I tell this story.**

One day Jesus was having a special dinner for his good friends. Let's set the table for the 12 disciples. Invite several children to help set the table. Thank you for helping! ► GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS.

When Jesus' friends came for the dinner, they took off their shoes. Will you help me take off my shoes? Choose two children to help you remove your shoes.

The disciples' feet had gotten very dirty walking through the streets, because in those days people wore sandals, and the dirt roads could be very dusty. Most houses had servants who would help wash visitors' feet. Washing people's feet was not a fun job, and there were no servants at the place where Jesus and his friends were. But the disciples had to have their feet washed before dinner! Who would do it? Maybe one of the disciples? No way! It was a dirty job. Not one of the disciples wanted to wash the other disciples' feet. Jesus knew this would be a great time to teach his friends, and us too, that ► GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS. Even though Jesus was the leader and teacher, he volunteered to wash the disciples' feet. Hold up the baby doll. Let's wash this doll's feet to remember that we should help others like Jesus did.

Put the dishpan of water in front of you. Allow children who haven't yet helped to take the washcloth and quickly wipe the doll's feet. Then dry its feet with the towel.



Say: **You've all done a very good job of helping me tell the Bible story. The story helps us remember that ► GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS.**

After Jesus washed the disciples' feet, he sat down to eat with them. Point out that the table is prepared because the children helped set it up earlier.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did Jesus do that no one else wanted to do?
- What are some other ways you can serve others?

Say: **Even though Jesus was a leader and teacher, he served his friends so that we would learn that ► GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS.**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

CENTER 1:

Clean Feet

What You'll Do ■■■■

Distribute the Lesson 3 My Bible Playground student pages, and have kids write their names on their pages.

Say: **We're going to use the sponges to add blue paint to the disciples' feet in the picture of Jesus and the disciples. The blue paint shows the water Jesus used to wash his friends' feet.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Do you think Jesus' friends were surprised when Jesus washed their feet? Why or why not?



Center 1: Clean Feet Supplies

My Bible Playground
sponges
blue tempera paint
bowls
smocks
pencils

Center 1: Clean Feet Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
3 pages from each
My Bible Playground
student book.





Center 2: Sweet Feet Supplies

blue food coloring
non-dairy
whipped topping
spoon
graham crackers
1 plate per child



Center 3: Do You Want to Be First? Supplies

CD player
Teacher Pack
CD: "Do You Want to Be First?" (track 8)

- Were you surprised that Jesus would serve and help his special friends? Explain.
- Who can you surprise by doing something to help them?

Say: **Washing the feet of his friends was a surprising thing for Jesus to do. But it was a good way to show all of us that ► GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS.**

CENTER 2:

Sweet Feet

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Stir a few drops of blue food coloring into a tub of non-dairy whipped topping. Let children pretend this is a basin of water. Give each child a dollop on his plate, and then let children dip graham cracker squares into the whipped topping. Kids can pretend the crackers are dusty feet being cleaned in the blue water.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Do you think Jesus liked washing the feet of his friends? Why or why not?
- When do you think it's hard to help others? When is it easy?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS, even if it's hard!**

CENTER 3:

Do You Want to Be First?

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Set up a listening center by placing the CD player away from the main area of the room. Gather the children around, and lead them in singing "Do You Want to Be First?" to the tune of "Do Your Ears Hang Low?" As children learn the words, teach them the motions for each of the lines.



Jesus washed their feet (*pretend to wash feet*)

When he sat them down to eat. (*Pretend to eat.*)

Showed them how to help others (*hold hands out palms up*),

Both their sisters and their brothers. (*Point to a girl and a boy.*)

He wanted them to learn this. (*Hold out one hand then the other.*)

It's a lesson not to miss. (*Shake index finger side to side.*)

Jesus washed their feet. (*Point up, then pretend to wash feet.*)





Do you want to be first? *(Hold up index finger.)*
Do you want to be the best? *(Flex biceps.)*
Then be willing to help others *(hold hands out palms up),*
Both your sisters and your brothers. *(Point to a girl and a boy.)*
Just do it as he showed us *(hold out one hand and then the other),*
And help without a fuss. *(Shake index finger from side to side.)*
Then you can be first. *(Hold index finger above head.)*

(Repeat 2x.)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Who did Jesus help and serve?
- How do you feel when you help someone else?

Say: God had Jesus show us how we should treat others. Jesus helped and served his good friends to remind us that ► **GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS.**

■ CENTER 4:

Service Spinners

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: Today we're learning that ► **GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS.** In our Bible story, Jesus washed his disciples' feet to set an example of what it means to serve others. Let's make something to help us remember to serve others. We'll make **Service Spinners.**



Give each child two paper plates of equal size. Help kids each write on one of their plates the names of family members and friends they'd like to serve this week. Write the names near the edge of the plate and at evenly spaced intervals around it.



Center 4: Service Spinners Supplies

2 paper plates and 1
brad per child
scissors
crayons





Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Playground

Demonstrate how to cut a triangle slice out of the other plate, as if cutting out a slice of pizza or pie. Help kids each write “My Service Spinner” on the plate with the wedge removed. Then help kids place that plate over the first one and loosely attach them in the center with a brad. Show kids how to spin the top plate to reveal the names underneath. Explain that during the week, kids can spin their Service Spinners and decide how to serve the person whose name appears.

Have kids form pairs and take turns spinning their spinners and telling their partners ways they’ll serve this week. For example, kids might help their parents set the table, play with younger siblings, or help a neighbor pull weeds. Remind kids that Jesus showed us how to serve by washing his disciples’ feet because ► **GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS.**

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up the centers, sit with kids in a circle on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they enjoyed learning from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today’s lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge to encourage your children’s growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS. I’d like each of you to choose one of these Daily Challenges to help others.**

Give kids these three Daily Challenge ideas to choose from:

1. **Pray for a friend at school who doesn’t know Jesus. God wants us to help others, and that means telling others about Jesus, too!**
2. **Give someone in your family a hug, and tell him or her that God wants us to help others.**
3. **Draw a picture of yourself telling others about Jesus, and then hang it in your room to remind you that we should help others believe in Jesus!**

Say: **If you want to pray, circle choice number 1. If you want to give someone a hug, circle choice number 2. If you want to draw a picture, circle choice number 3.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Playground page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!





“First and Last” Prayer

What You’ll Do

Have the children form a line. Let the last person in line come to the front of the line and say, “Dear God, help me to be first and serve others like Jesus did.” When everyone has had a turn to say the prayer, end the prayer by saying, “In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Playground book pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the “Daily Challenges” activity. Encourage parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment throughout the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at group.com/digital.



