

# Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet

John 13:1-17

Children this age are discovering their independence, reveling in the fact that they no longer need someone to help them get dressed, brush their hair, or tie their shoes. In fact, children this age love to use any and all of their newfound skills in order to help someone else. However, the concept of “serving others” may make children a little hesitant at first, as the term often carries with it a connotation of forced labor, which threatens their new sense of independence. Be sure to help children grasp that the “serving” Jesus describes is an action we do of our own will—it’s helping!



### ► Bible Point

Jesus wants us to serve others.

### Key Verse

“If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all” (Mark 9:35).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

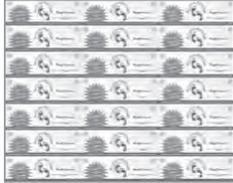
Kids will serve others.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Circle of Love</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Give and receive a tasty treat, seeing how helping others brings a great return.	plastic sandwich bags, cereal, raisins, mini-pretzels, M&M’s candies, envelopes	Partially fill an envelope for each child with cereal, raisins, mini-pretzels, or M&M’s candies.
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Guest of Honor</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Act out Jesus washing the disciples’ feet.	Bible, index cards, pencils, tablecloth, paper plates, cups	
	<b>Being Last</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn today’s Key Verse and sing a song.	CD player, large sheet of paper, marker, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



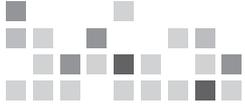


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Servant Savings</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Create coupons to practice being servants at home.	My Bible Fun, scissors, crayons, markers, CD player, stapler, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, “Coupon Covers” poster 	Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God’s Word.	My Bible Fun	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

***Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.***







### Circle of Love Supplies

plastic sandwich bags  
cereal  
raisins  
mini-pretzels  
M&M's candies  
envelopes

### ! ALLERGY ALERT

### Circle of Love Easy Prep

Partially fill an envelope  
for each child with  
cereal, raisins, mini-  
pretzels, or M&M's  
candies.

## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Circle of Love

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Say: **Today we're going to start out by having a snack so we'll have lots of energy to learn!**

Have children wash their hands and then stand in a circle. Give each child one empty plastic sandwich bag and one filled envelope.

Say: **Now each of you has an envelope with a snack food in it—but you're not allowed to eat from the envelope. Jesus tells us that by serving others we make God happy and we will be blessed! So let's serve all our friends a snack today and see just how this works!**

Instruct children to go around the circle, one at a time, putting one piece of their envelopes' contents into the plastic sandwich bags of each child in the circle. To guarantee that the contents are equally distributed, they aren't allowed to double up items to any one person. Once all children have shared their snack pieces with the circle, allow each child to quickly go another round.

Continue until the envelopes are empty and the children's sandwich bags are full. Then have children sit in their circle on the floor.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

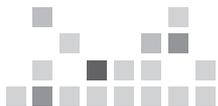
Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- How did it feel to give away your entire snack?
- How did it feel to receive a snack from your friends?

Say: **When we help others, we're sharing God's love with them, just as we shared our snacks with others today. When we shared, we ended up with an even better snack than what we started with. And that's just how God works, too! When we're servants to others, God blesses us more than we can ever imagine. Isn't God great? In today's Bible story, we'll learn about a time Jesus showed his disciples the importance of serving others. Today's story will show us that ► JESUS WANTS US TO SERVE OTHERS.**





## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Guest of Honor

### What You'll Do

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

Ask:

- **If you knew you would be leaving your family and friends for a very long time, what is one thing you've said that you would want them to remember?**

Allow several volunteers to share their answers with the rest of the class.

Say: **In today's Bible story, we'll learn how Jesus showed his disciples something important that he wanted them to remember. He wanted the disciples to learn to be servants. A servant is someone who puts others first. But before we begin, let's think of some jobs or chores we have to do at home or school that we sometimes wish we had a servant to help us with.**

Allow children to brainstorm. Then have each child write his or her least favorite chore on an index card. Assist any children who need help spelling or writing. Then lead children to a table, or tablecloth on the floor, and let kids help you set the table with paper plates and cups. Have children set their index cards in front of their place settings.

Say: **Today's Bible story comes from the 13th chapter of John. The disciples had just walked a very long way to get to the Passover feast, which was a very special dinner. Their feet were hot, tired, and very dirty. And after walking so far to get to the feast, the disciples were hungry!**

Have children pretend to pass bowls of food around and pile up food on their plates. Read John 13:1-3 aloud.

Ask:

- **Can you think of someone living today who would be a special guest to invite to dinner?**

Encourage children to think of famous celebrities, sports heroes, or people who have had a profound impact on their lives.

Say: **Jesus knew that he would soon be returning to his Father in heaven. But before he left this earth, Jesus wanted his disciples to learn what it means to serve one another. Let's find out what Jesus did.**

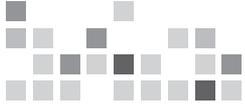
Read John 13:4-5 aloud.



### Guest of Honor Supplies

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- Bible
  - index cards
  - pencils
  - tablecloth
  - paper plates
  - cups





Ask:

- **How would you feel if you were just getting ready to eat with your special guest and your guest got up and began washing your feet?**

Say: **In Jesus' time, it was the job of a servant to wash the feet of all the guests who arrived for a meal. After traveling miles and miles of hot, dusty, dirty roads in sandals, people needed to have their feet cleaned and made to feel good so they could enjoy their visit.**

Have children form pairs and trade index cards with their partners. Tell children to pretend that their partners are their special guests.

Say: **Jesus showed his disciples his message, right in the middle of dinner! What Jesus was trying to teach his disciples is that we all need to be servants to one another—it doesn't matter what the job might be. He wasn't trying to show us how to wash one another's feet—today people might think that's kind of strange because we wear shoes that protect our feet. But Jesus was showing us that we need to be willing to help one another and put others before ourselves. Jesus—the Son of God—was doing the job of a servant! Let's see what that might have felt like for the disciples!**

Instruct children to look at their partners' index cards. Have partners take turns getting up from the table and acting out the chores on the cards they are holding. When each child has had a turn, have partners return to their seats.

Ask:

- **What was it like to imagine your special guest performing the chore you don't like the most?**
- **What would you have said to your special guest when he or she began doing the chore for you?**
- **How would you have felt if that special guest were Jesus?**

Say: **Most of the disciples weren't quite sure what to think of Jesus getting up from the meal to wash their feet. But Peter was upset!**

Read John 13:6-11 aloud.

Say: **Peter didn't like that idea very much. Peter loved Jesus and thought Jesus should be treated like royalty—not be doing the job of a servant!**

Have partners take turns acting out the chores on their cards again. This time, instruct children who are sitting to yell, "No! You shouldn't do my chores!"

Say: **But then Jesus told Peter, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."**

Instruct the children performing the actions to repeat Jesus' words. After each partner has taken a turn, have children return to their seats.

Say: **Jesus wanted Peter to understand that he came to serve each of us, and he wants us to serve others, too. And so Jesus finished washing the disciples' feet.**

Read John 13:12-17 aloud.

## Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think Jesus meant when he said, “Now that I...have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet”?
- Why should we serve others?

Say: ► **JESUS WANTS US TO SERVE OTHERS**, and we can follow his example. Jesus was trying to show us that we aren’t here on earth to have people do things for us all the time. We need to do things for others instead, as Jesus did. We need to put others first.

When Jesus finished, he told his disciples that it makes God very happy when we serve others and we will be blessed when we do. This is what Jesus wanted us all to remember and to share with others around us. Today’s Key Verse says it another way.

## Being Last

### What You’ll Do

Say: **Let’s take a look at today’s Key Verse from Mark 9:35.** Write on a large sheet of paper or chalkboard, “**If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all**” (Mark 9:35). Read the verse aloud, and have children repeat it after you several times.

Say: **These are words that Jesus said. The verse means that if people want to be first in the kingdom of heaven, they need to make themselves the very last, serving everybody else.**

Cue your CD to “Servant of All” (Mark 9:35b) (track 4 on the CD), and play the song once for kids. Then play the song a few more times as you lead kids in singing.

Sing:

 **If anyone wants to be first,  
He must be the very last.  
If anyone wants to be first,  
He must be the very last,  
And the servant of all,  
And the servant of all,  
And the servant of all,  
If you want to be first.**  
*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

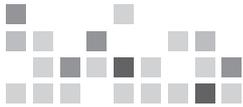


### Being Last Supplies

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CD player  
large sheet of paper  
marker  
1 copy per child of the  
lyrics page (at the end  
of the lesson)  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: “Servant of All”  
(Mark 9:35b) (track 4)





**If anyone wants to be first,  
He must be the very last.  
If anyone wants to be first,  
He must be the very last.**

“Servant of All” (Mark 9:35b) by Uelese Fa’agutu, Rachel Fa’agutu, and Jay Stocker. © 2007 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think it means to make yourself last?
- How did Jesus make himself last in our Bible story?

Say: **Jesus made himself last in our Bible story by serving the disciples. When Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, he was showing that he was willing to be a servant, just as our Key Verse tells us to do. Now let’s make something to help us practice what we’ve learned.**

## 3 WEAVING FAITH

### INTO LIFE

## Servant Savings

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Have children turn to the “Servant Savings” section of today’s My Bible Fun page. Set out scissors, crayons, and markers for children to share. Have kids cut along the horizontal line above the activity.

Say: **We’ve all learned so much about serving others today! We learned that Jesus showed us how to make ourselves last and put others first by helping them. We also learned that ► JESUS WANTS US TO SERVE OTHERS.**

Ask:

- Why should we serve others?

Tell kids that a good place to practice servanthood is right at home! Explain to the children that they are going to make special coupon books for their families instead of choosing Daily Challenges. Each coupon will have a space for children to write or draw a way of serving their families during the coming week. Have each child fill in each coupon by writing or drawing something that his or her family can redeem the coupon for, such as “washing the dishes,” “no whining at bedtime,” or “helping Bobby pick up his toys.” After kids finish writing or drawing, have them cut out and stack the coupons.

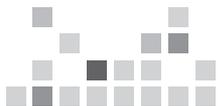
### Servant Savings Supplies

My Bible Fun  
scissors  
crayons  
markers  
CD player  
stapler  
1 copy per child of the  
lyrics page (at the end  
of the lesson)  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: “Servant of All”  
(Mark 9:35b) (track 4)  
“Coupon Covers” poster

### Servant Savings Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 3  
pages from each My  
Bible Fun student book.





As kids work, play “Servant of All” (Mark 9:35b) (track 4 on the CD) in the background. Remove the “Coupon Covers” poster from your Teacher Pack, and cut apart the covers. Give each child a cover, and show kids how to staple the cover to the stack of coupons. Explain that as each family member redeems a coupon, he or she can tear or cut the coupon from the booklet.



## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let’s think about how ► JESUS WANTS US TO SERVE OTHERS. As this week’s Daily Challenge, try to follow through on serving others by using your coupon book you made in our last activity.**

Tell the kids how you’ll serve others this week. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What’s a practical way you’re going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Jesus was the best example of serving others. Let’s think about how ► JESUS WANTS US TO SERVE OTHERS as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

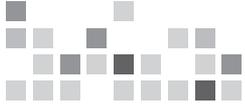
### Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how Jesus wants us to serve others. Kids can also do the activities in the “HomeConnect” section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church’s families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Close in prayer, thanking God for allowing us to serve him and for showing us what it means to be a servant.





## Lyrics ■■■■

## Servant of All (Mark 9:35b)

If anyone wants to be first,  
He must be the very last.  
If anyone wants to be first,  
He must be the very last,  
And the servant of all,  
And the servant of all,  
And the servant of all,  
If you want to be first.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

If anyone wants to be first,  
He must be the very last.  
If anyone wants to be first,  
He must be the very last.

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**!** **OK**  
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