



Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

John 13: 1-17

Preschoolers love to help! In fact, they often want to help even when you don't exactly need their help. They enjoy working alongside adults and receiving praise for a job well done. As you teach this lesson, point out that when children help others, they are being like Jesus.



► 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.

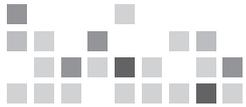
LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 10 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	CD player Teacher Pack: CD, whistle	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 5 min.</i>	Scripture Signals Use signals and objects to learn the Key Verse.	scissors Teacher Pack: "Jesus" figure, glow-in-the-dark cross 	Cut out the Jesus figures and stands, and assemble one figure.
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 20 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Hear what Theo needs help with.	CD player, Theo puppet, towel, brush, string Teacher Pack: CD	Wrap Theo in a small towel, and tie a brush to his paw with string.
	Bible Time: Dirty, Dusty Feet! "Wash" each other's "feet."	Bible, cups, pitcher of juice, tissues	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Footprints Make footprints on their papers.</p>	My Bible Hugs, 5 paper towels, pie pan, tempera paint, soapy water, clean water, towels	Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Fold at least five paper towels together, leaving a surface as large as the bottom of a child's foot. Place the paper towels in a pie pan. Pour tempera paint over the paper towels, allowing the paint to soak in to create a large "ink pad."
	<p>Center 2: Snacks to Share Help each other make sandwiches to share.</p>	butter, jelly, bread, craft sticks, napkins, knife	
	<p>Center 3: Helping Links Work together to make a chain.</p>	Teacher Pack: heart and star links	
	<p>Center 4: Helping Hearts Create a mural of thanksgiving for a church leader.</p>	blank wrapping paper, tempera paints, pie tins, 1 sponge per child, scissors, marker, wet wipes	Cut inexpensive kitchen sponges into heart shapes. Pour thin layers of various colors of tempera paint into pie tins. Spread white or brown wrapping paper on the floor so children can create a mural.
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs, crayons	
	<p>Action Prayer Say a prayer about being a helper.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Ain't It Great to Be at Church" (track 5), "God Is Listening" (track 6)

whistle

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

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 one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your whistle to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Ain't It Great to Be at Church" (track 5 on the CD) to the tune of "Boom, Boom! Ain't It Great to Be Crazy?" Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

♪ Boom, boom! Ain't it great to be here at church? (*Stomp feet.*)
Boom, boom! Ain't it great to be here at church? (*Nod head.*)
We've come to worship Jesus Christ. (*Clap hands.*)
Boom, boom! Ain't it great to be at church? (*Stomp feet.*)
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **Today at church we'll learn that ► GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS. Let's sing one more song before we hear what the Bible says about that.**

Lead children in singing "God Is Listening" (track 6 on the CD) to the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?" Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

♪ God is listening when we talk to him, (*Put hand to ear.*)
Talk to him, talk to him. (*Cup hands around mouth.*)
God is listening when we talk to him. (*Put hand to ear.*)
God hears our prayers. (*Nod head.*)
He listens when I pray; he listens when you pray. (*Point to self, then to others.*)
God is listening when we talk to him. (*Put hand to ear.*)
God hears our prayers. (*Nod head.*)
(Repeat 2x.)





2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Scripture Signals

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible is Romans 5:8. This verse says, "Christ died for us." This means that Jesus Christ died to take the punishment for the wrong things we do. The good news is that Jesus came back to life! Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the Key Verse with you: **"Christ died for us."**

Explain that you'll show an object or a signal for each word in this verse. Hold up the Jesus figure to represent the word "Christ." Explain that Jesus died on a cross, so hold up the glow-in-the-dark cross to represent "died." When you say, "for us," point to yourself and several of the children.

Repeat the verse several times using the objects and signals to help children remember the words. Let several of the children take turns being the ones to hold up the Jesus figure and the glow-in-the-dark cross. Then put the items back into the Teacher Pack for later use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think Jesus Christ was willing to die for us?
- Who can you tell about the love Jesus has for us?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS. Jesus helped us by dying for us and taking away the punishment for the wrong things we've done.**

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.



Scripture Signals Supplies

scissors

Teacher Pack

"Jesus" figure

glow-in-the-dark cross

Scripture Signals Easy Prep

Cut out the Jesus figures and stands, and assemble one figure.

Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player

Theo puppet

towel

brush

string

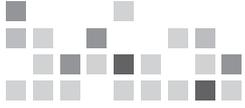
Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 2)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Wrap Theo in a small towel, and tie a brush to his paw with string.





**Bible Time: Dirty,
Dusty Feet!**
Supplies

Bible
cups
pitcher of juice
tissues

**! ALLERGY
■ ALERT**

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! You look like you're in the middle of doing something.

Theo: I was playing in the mud and had to take a bath. I got so-o-o dirty! Now I need my fur brushed. Can you please do that for me?

Teacher: I would love to help you by brushing your fur, Theo. In our Bible story today we're going to hear about a time that Jesus helped his friends. Jesus was a servant to his friends.

Theo: I'd like to stay and hear the story, but I need to go finish cleaning up.

Teacher: Okay. I'll see you in a little while to brush your fur. Goodbye!

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

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Have you ever helped someone? How did you help them?**

Say: **Let's find out how the disciples felt when Jesus helped them.**

Bible Time: Dirty, Dusty Feet!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Say: **Today's Bible story tells us that ► GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS. We're going to hear a story about Jesus serving his friends. Remember, serving means helping.**

One day Jesus and his friends were eating dinner together. Have children pass around the cups, each taking one cup before passing them to the next child. Pour juice into each child's cup.

Say: **Now you may enjoy your juice. But while you're drinking, listen to the rest of the story about Jesus and his friends.**

Jesus and his friends were sitting and eating together. Then Jesus did a surprising thing. He got up and washed the feet of each disciple. Because they walked on dusty roads, their feet were dirty. Jesus was being a helper by serving his friends.

When Jesus was finished, he told his friends that they should also help each other. Let's pretend to wash each other's feet. We can practice serving, or helping, each other.





Give a tissue to each child. Then help children form pairs by turning to a child next to them. Show children how to wipe each other's shoes clean with a tissue. If children still have part of their drink to finish, remind them to wash their hands before drinking.

Say: **Just as Jesus and his friends were good helpers, we can also help each other.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you like about helping others?**

Say: **Jesus was showing his friends how to be good servants, or good helpers.**

▶ **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:

Footprints

What You'll Do ■■■■

Have children each take off one shoe and one sock. Have children take turns each placing a foot on the paper towel "ink pad" and then stepping onto his or her My Bible Hugs page. Then wash each child's foot. Remind children that Jesus washed his friends' feet.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How did it feel to get your feet dirty?**
- **How did it feel when I washed your feet?**
- **How do you think Jesus feels when we help each other?**

Say: ▶ **GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS. When we help each other, it makes us feel good.**



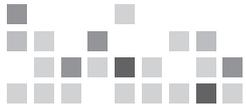
Center 1: Footprints Supplies

My Bible Hugs
5 paper towels
pie pan
tempera paint
soapy water
clean water
towels

Center 1: Footprints Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 3 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. Fold at least five paper towels together, leaving a surface as large as the bottom of a child's foot. Place the paper towels in a pie pan. Pour tempera paint over the paper towels, allowing the paint to soak in to create a large "ink pad."





Center 2: Snacks to Share Supplies

butter
jelly
bread
craft sticks
napkins
knife

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: Helping Links Supplies

Teacher Pack
heart and star links

CENTER 2:

Snacks to Share

What You'll Do

Have the children clean their hands and then sit down to prepare their snack. Have children form pairs. Tell them they are going to help each other make today's snack. One child will use a craft stick to spread softened butter on a slice of bread; then the other child will spread jelly on a slice of bread. Have them put the two pieces of bread together to make a sandwich, and then cut it in half for them to share.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What are some other ways you can help each other?

Say: **Let's thank God for showing us how to help each other and for providing our snack.** Invite one child to pray for the snack.

CENTER 3:

Helping Links

What You'll Do

Remove the heart and star links from the Teacher Pack, and be sure the links are separated. Give yourself and each child a heart or star, and sit in a circle with the children. Explain that children are going to help each other make a chain. Pass your heart or star to the child on your left, and have that child add a link to yours. Then that child should pass the chain to the next child to add another link, and so on until every child has added a link. As children work, point out that when they help each other, the chain is easier to complete.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why is it more fun to help each other?
- How did you feel when you worked together to make the chain?

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS.** When we help each other, God is very happy.



CENTER 4:

Helping Hearts

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **There are people in our church who help us. Let's show how thankful we are for this help!**

Explain that children will make a poster of thankfulness for a pastor or other leader in your church. Show children how to dip the heart-shaped sponges into the paint and press these onto the paper. Use wet wipes to clean hands after painting.

As children work, let them share some of the things they like about the person who will receive the mural. Use a marker to write a few of these affirming statements among the painted hearts.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **How have people in our church helped you?**
- **How can you help others in our church?**

Say: ► **GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS. One way we can help others is by encouraging them. This picture you've made will encourage and help** [name of person who will receive picture].

Deliver the mural after the paint is dry.

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned 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 for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.



Center 4: Helping Hearts Supplies

- blank wrapping paper
- tempera paints
- pie tins
- 1 sponge per child
- scissors
- marker
- wet wipes

Center 4: Helping Hearts Easy Prep

Cut inexpensive kitchen sponges into heart shapes. Pour thin layers of various colors of tempera paint into pie tins. Spread white or brown wrapping paper on the floor so children can create a mural.

Daily Challenges Supplies

- My Bible Hugs
- crayons





Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS. I would like each of you to choose a way to help others this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Help a friend clean up his or her toys. Tell your friend that God wants us to help others.**
- ■ **Help your mom or dad clean the house. Remember that God wants us to help others.**

Say: **If you want to help a friend, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to help your parents, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs 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!

Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Remind children that God wants us to help each other. Then close by saying this prayer together:

**Dear God,
A helper I would like to be,
Serving others happily!
In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs 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 the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during 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.