

 John 13:1-17

05/24/2020

## Teachers Dig In

### Dig In to the Bible

- Read: John 13:1-17
- In This Passage: Jesus shows an example of service when he washes his disciples' feet. Although Peter protests at first, he lets Jesus wash his feet. This is a lowly job, and yet Jesus does it. He tells his disciples to follow his example and serve others.
- Bible Point: Jesus is servant-hearted...
- Application: ...so we serve others.
- Summary Verse: "Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

### Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is servant-hearted*. It's one thing to serve by doing something you enjoy anyway. But Jesus took on the role of a servant, even though he seemed too important to do that. Help kids humble themselves and realize that no job is too gross or too low for them to do as an act of service.
- Think About: Who has served you recently? Thank God for those people!

### Dig In to Prayer

- Ask Jesus to give you a servant heart like his as you teach the kids in your class.

### Quick Tip

- You may have some special servants in your children's ministry: teenagers! If you serve with teenagers, help them feel important. Find out how they'd like to take a more active role in teaching. Write them notes of appreciation when you see them doing well. By encouraging them in their service, you'll help them build lifelong servant hearts.

## This Lesson at a Glance



### OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers serve one another, get their feet washed, and sing a song.

#### Supplies

- Bible
- 3-ounce cups of water (1 per child)
- small snacks (1 per child)
- tarp
- medium bowls or containers filled  $\frac{1}{4}$  with water (1 for every 10 to 12 kids)
- washcloths (1 for every 5 to 6 kids)
- towels (1 for every 5 to 6 kids)
- soap

#### Easy Prep

- Explain to 2 teen or adult helpers that you'll be demonstrating a brief shoulder rub during the lesson. Ask 1 of the helpers to say he or she doesn't want a shoulder rub and the other to agree to the shoulder rub.



### LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers draw pictures as they plan to serve this week.

#### Supplies

- large paper heart
- sticky notes
- crayons

#### Easy Prep

- Hang the paper heart on the wall where kids can reach it.



### OBJECT LESSON

Preschoolers use water to make a paper hand open.

#### Supplies

- printer paper
- plastic disposable plates (1 for every 5 kids)
- pitchers of water (1 for every 5 kids)

#### Easy Prep

- Trace your hand on a piece of paper, making sure it's small enough to fit on the plate. Cut out 1 hand for every five 5 kids in your class.



### HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers crawl and tag others' feet with wet wipes.

#### Supplies

- wet wipes (1 per person)
- upbeat music
- music player



### PRESCHOOL PUPPET SKIT

Recommended for preschoolers.

#### Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order

#### Easy Prep

- Attach the washcloth to Theo's paw. This is his

here)

- washcloth

“towel.”



## LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers pack a bag for a traveling friend.

### Supplies

- backpacks or other bags, such as reusable grocery bags (1 for every 5 kids)
- blankets, pillows, stuffed animals, and other soothing items (1 for every 5 kids)
- toys (1 for every 5 kids)
- books (1 for every 5 kids)
- puzzles or similar activities (1 for every 5 kids)
- snack-size bags of pretzels or something similar (1 for every 5 kids)
- small bottles of water (1 for every 5 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

### Easy Prep

- Place the bags spaced a few feet apart on the floor along a wall.
- Spread the other items out in the center of the room.



## CRAFT

Preschoolers decorate soap wrappers.

### Supplies

- bars of soap (1 per child) (see Tip)
- construction paper (in a variety of colors)
- crayons
- stickers
- transparent tape

### Easy Prep

- Cut pieces of construction paper to fit around your soap bars. Ours were 2¾ inches by 7¼ inches.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.

*\*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.



## Supplies

- Bible

## Welcome

- Thank kids for coming.
- Just for fun, have preschoolers stack their hands in a cheer and say, "I love Jesus!"
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having preschoolers say, "Three cheers for our birthday friends! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! Hip, hip, hooray! It's your birthday!"
- Collect the offering.

## Introduce the Lesson

Say: **Today we'll learn that Jesus is servant-hearted. That means Jesus loves to serve and help others. We'll read in the Bible about how Jesus cleaned his friends' dirty feet. Let's start today by talking about the dirtiest our feet have ever been.**

## Share

- Share about the dirtiest *your* feet have ever been. Explain how your feet got that way, what was all over them, such as mud or paint, and what you did to clean them.
- In leader-led small groups, have preschoolers share about the dirtiest *their* feet have ever been. Maybe their feet got dirty from sand or they spilled cereal and stepped in it. Or maybe they stepped in paint or played outside without their shoes on.
- After small groups have discussed, have adult or teen helpers share with the whole group what they talked about in their small groups.

## Summarize

Open a Bible, and say: **Feet get dirty, and in the place Jesus and his friends lived, people usually only wore sandals, so their feet got very, very dirty. Today we'll find out why Jesus cleaned his friends' dirty feet, and we'll learn how that shows Jesus is servant-hearted. And we'll find out that when we're friends with Jesus, he helps *us* love and serve others, too!**

Pray, thanking Jesus for being servant-hearted.

**Supplies**

- Bible
- 3-ounce cups of water (1 per child)
- small snacks (1 per child)
- tarp
- medium bowls or containers filled ¼ with water (1 for every 10 to 12 kids)
- washcloths (1 for every 5 to 6 kids)
- towels (1 for every 5 to 6 kids)
- soap

**Easy Prep**

- Explain to 2 teen or adult helpers that you'll be demonstrating a brief shoulder rub during the lesson. Ask 1 of the helpers to say he or she doesn't want a shoulder rub and the other to agree to the shoulder rub.

**Serve One Another**

Say: **Today we'll learn that Jesus is servant-hearted. That means Jesus loves to serve and help others. Jesus loves to do *anything* he can to help! Jesus shows us how to serve others, too. Let's practice serving one another right now.**

Divide your kids into two groups. Have one group retrieve water and small snacks and bring them back for each child in the second group. Allow the second group to enjoy their snacks as you ask: • **What was it like for you to serve someone?**

- **What was it like for someone to serve you?**

After kids answer the questions, have the second group retrieve water and small snacks and bring them back for each child in the first group. Allow kids to enjoy their snacks as you ask: • **What was it like for you this time?**

Say: **Thank you for serving one another, friends! Jesus loves when you're servant-hearted like he is. Let's practice serving in another way.** Lead kids to each pick up someone else's trash and discard it in a trash can.

Say: **Picking up someone else's trash is a nice way to serve. You can do it after a friend finishes his or her snack, or you can do it at home after dinner.**

Ask: • **What's a way you could serve your family after a meal?** Help the children with ideas if needed. They might pick up napkins and take them to the trash or help carry plastic dishes or cups to the sink. They might also help Mom or Dad do the dishes.

Say: **There are lots of ways to serve! Let's try one more way.** Have kids get in a circle and turn to the left to face the back of the people on their left. **Let's serve by helping our friends relax. We can do that by giving them a shoulder rub.** Ask the first adult or teen helper if he or she would like a shoulder rub, and the leader should say, "I don't want a shoulder rub, thank you." Ask the second leader, and when the leader agrees, demonstrate what a shoulder rub is. **Anytime we serve by touching someone, we always ask our friend if he or she wants it first. Our friend [name of leader who didn't receive the shoulder rub] didn't want a shoulder rub, so I didn't do it. But [name of leader who received the shoulder rub] did want a shoulder rub, so I gave one to him [or her].** Encourage children to ask the people whose backs are to them if they'd like a shoulder rub and then give a shoulder rub only if the children say yes. This will create a chain of shoulder rubs. Rearrange kids if necessary so every child is doing at least one or the other (giving or receiving a shoulder rub).

Say: **Thanks for being good servers, friends! There are so many ways to serve others! Let's look at the Bible to find out one way Jesus served, but first we'll have to get all set up so we can experience what happened, too!**

**Receive a Foot Wash**

Have kids get into leader-led small groups on the tarp, and have adult and teen helpers each bring one washcloth, one water bowl, one towel, and some soap to their groups. Have kids take off their shoes and socks.

Say: **The Bible tells so many ways Jesus showed he's servant-hearted. One time Jesus was at a special dinner with his friends. They were celebrating something amazing God did for their families. During the dinner, Jesus got up from the table.** Have adult or teen helpers stand.

Say: **Then Jesus wrapped a towel around his waist.** Have the adult or teen helpers demonstrate this.

Say: **Then Jesus began to clean his friends' feet.** Have the adult or teen helpers wet the washcloths, get some soap on them, and quickly wipe each child's feet and dry them. They can then put their shoes back on.

As the adult or teen helpers work on this, ask kids: • **What do you think about your leader cleaning your feet?** Invite kids to share things such as whether they were surprised, how the water feels on their feet, and how it feels to have clean feet after the foot wash.

Say: **Jesus' friends were surprised that Jesus was cleaning their feet! Jesus was so important, and usually important people had someone else wash *their* feet. They weren't normally the ones to wash other people's feet. Let's hear what they said.**

Read John 13:6-10.

Say: **Jesus' friend Peter was very surprised! But Jesus is servant-hearted, so he wanted to do this special thing for Peter. It's hard to understand why Jesus served his friends in this way, but Jesus wanted his friends to know that he was making a way for all of them to be friends with him forever.**

Place the supplies aside.

### Sing a Song

Say: **After Jesus finished, he told his friends he wanted them to serve others, too. He meant that he wanted his friends to help others as much as they could. Because we're friends with Jesus and Jesus is servant-hearted, we can serve others, too!**

Share a way *you* serve others. You might say you serve by being a leader in children's ministry. You might also say you take your grandmother to the grocery store each week because she can't drive. Or you might share smaller ways you serve, such as opening the door for others or cleaning dishes after dinner.

Ask: • **What's a way *you* serve others?** Help preschoolers if needed. Preschoolers can serve by helping set the table at dinnertime or "helping" parents with cooking. They can also serve by cleaning up a sibling's toys for him or her. Any way they can help or bring joy to someone, such as singing a song for someone who is sad, can work as service for a preschooler.

Say: **Jesus loves it when we serve, and there are so many ways! Let's learn a song about that.** Lead kids in singing the following song to "The Ants Go Marching."

**We can serve like Jesus did.** *(march in place)*

**Hurrah, hurrah!** *(fist bump with a friend)*

**We can serve like Jesus did.** *(march in place)*

**Hurrah, hurrah!** *(fist bump with a friend)*

**We can serve like Jesus did,** *(march in place)*

**Helping moms and dad and kids,** *(nod head)*

**And Jesus loves when we serve like him 'cause he's servant-hearted.** *(hug self)*

**Yeah! Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!** *(jump and smile)*

Repeat the song as time allows.

Say: **Any time we help someone, it's a way to serve. And we want to serve because our friend Jesus is servant-hearted and shows us how we can serve, too!**



## Supplies

- large paper heart
- sticky notes
- crayons

## Easy Prep

- Hang the paper heart on the wall where kids can reach it.

## Plan and Draw

Say: **Today we found out that Jesus is servant-hearted. Jesus loves to help others and do things for them. Helping others fills up his heart, and when we serve others like Jesus does, it fills up our hearts, too.**

Share one simple way *you* can plan to serve someone this week. You might plan to open the door for someone whose arms are full or do a family member's chore.

Ask: • **What's one way *you* can serve someone this week?** Preschoolers might plan to help a sibling clean up toys, or they might help their families dry the dishes after dinner.

After kids share their plans, have them each draw on a sticky note a picture of doing that service.

## Pray

Say: **Jesus loves it when we serve others because Jesus is servant-hearted. Let's ask him to help us serve others this week.** Have kids hold their pictures as you pray for Jesus to help each of the kids with serving others.

Say: **Serving fills up Jesus' heart. Let's fill up this heart with all our plans to serve. Serving helps fill up *our* hearts, too.** Have kids place their sticky notes on the large paper heart on the wall, and then point out how kids filled up the heart with their plans for serving others this week.

Thank the kids for coming to church, and invite them to come back next week to learn more about Jesus' great big, loving heart.



## OBJECT LESSON

### Open Hands to Serve

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- printer paper
- plastic disposable plates (1 for every 5 kids)
- pitchers of water (1 for every 5 kids)

#### Easy Prep

- Trace your hand on a piece of paper, making sure it's small enough to fit on the plate. Cut out 1 hand for every five 5 kids in your class.

#### Roll Paper Fingers Into Fists

Say: **When we serve, we open our hands to help others.** Have kids close their fists tightly, then open them when you say, "We can serve!" Repeat several times for fun.

Say: **Your hands are open!** Hold up a paper hand. **Now let's see if a paper hand will open, too.**

#### First we need to roll up the fingers on a paper hand.

- Form groups of five, and assign an adult or teen helper to each group. Give each helper a paper hand, a disposable plate, and a pitcher of water. If you don't have enough helpers, form groups of 10 and give each adult or teen helper two paper hands.
- Have the helpers assist each child in rolling one of the fingers on the cutout hand to make a fist.

#### Place Fists in Water

Say: **Now let's put the fists in water and watch what happens!**

- Before kids place the hands in water, have helpers make sure each finger isn't folded too flat. Have them give each finger roll a little squeeze so it's loose and less folded.
- Have adult or teen helpers pour enough water to completely cover the bottom of the plate.
- Count to three together, then have a willing child in each group place the group's paper fist in the water.
- As the paper gets wet, the fingers will slowly unroll so the hand opens!



#### Talk About It

Say: **These open hands are ready to serve now!**

Ask: • **What are some things hands can do to serve or help others?** Share an example to begin the conversation—for example, hands can clear plates from the dinner table, make a bed, pick up toys, and make a pretty card for someone.

Say: **Jesus is servant-hearted.** In our Bible story, **Jesus used his hands to wash people's feet.** **We can serve others with our hands, too!** Have kids open their hands, then give a friend a high-five to celebrate serving others.



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

### Foot-Wash Frenzy

[10 min]

#### Supplies

- wet wipes (1 per person)
- upbeat music
- music player

#### Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

#### Crawl and Tag Feet

**Say: Today we read in our Bible story about a way Jesus served and helped his friends—he washed their feet for them. Let's play a wacky game where you'll try to quickly wash each other's feet with wet wipes!**

- Have preschoolers take off their shoes and place socks inside the shoes they belong to.
- Place everyone's shoes along a wall out of the way.
- Give everyone a wet wipe to hold in one hand.
- Have everyone get down on all fours. When you begin the music, everyone can crawl around quickly, trying to touch another person's foot with the wet wipe while trying to avoid having his or her own feet touched.
- No one is out if tagged. Simply allow children to crawl around in a frenzy of trying to touch as many feet as they can with their wet wipes.
- Turn off the music when time is up.

#### Talk About It

**Ask: • What did you like about having your feet tagged in the game?**

**Say: Our foot-washing was silly and fun, but when Jesus washed his friends' feet, it was to show them how much he cared about them—to do something very nice for them. I like to show my friends I care about them by...** Share some examples of ways you serve your friends, such as sending caring cards with a little gift to make their day brighter or helping friends when they have a lot to do.

**Ask: • What nice things do you like to do for your friends?** Preschoolers might talk about sharing toys or inviting friends to play.

**Say: When we do these nice things for our friends, our families, or anyone, we show a servant's heart—a kind heart that cares about others. Jesus is servant-hearted, and when we serve others, our hearts become more and more like Jesus' wonderful heart!**



### Supplies

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))
- washcloth

### Easy Prep

- Attach the washcloth to Theo's paw. This is his "towel."

### Tip

- Before printing, turn on page numbering in Word to keep the pages in order (or simply hand-number each page after printing). You may also find it helpful to highlight your part and set the script on a music stand nearby during the skit.

Leader: **It's time for our puppy friend, Theo, to come for a visit. Let's call him to our class with a "woof, woof." Ready?** *(Leads kids to bark until Theo is brought into view.)*

Theo: **Hooowloo, friends!** *(Howls.)* **I have an itch right here.** *(Points to his head.)* **Would you give me a scratch?** *(Circulates among kids so each child can pet him.)*

Leader: **Thanks for serving Theo with a friendly welcome, kids!**

Theo: **Yeah, thanks!** *(Waves his washcloth above his head.)* **Now I'm ready!**

Leader: **Ready for...?** *(Touches Theo's washcloth.)* **Did you bring this for something special, Theo?**

Theo: **Yeah, I don't like to share towels.** *(Looks to kids.)* **I love you and all, but kids' feet are dirty.** *(Shivers.)*

Leader: *(Chuckles.)* **Oh, did you hear we're learning today about how Jesus washed the disciples' feet?**

Theo: **Yes! And I came to get my own foot wash.** *(Sticks out his foot and tries to hand his washcloth to a child.)* **I love a good foot massage.** *(Rotates between a few kids, offering his foot.)*

Leader: **I see.** *(Chuckles.)* **You sure aren't shy about it, either, Theo!**

Theo: **Of course not. My mom and dad clean my feet all the time...but with their tongues and not a washcloth.** *(Looks to kids.)* **Do your mom and dad lick your feet clean?** *(Waits for kids' responses and looks confused when kids and/or the leader think his question is funny.)* **What? A dog's tongue is a great cleaner.** *(Looks as if he has an idea.)* **If your parents don't lick your feet, does your pet?** *(Invites kids to share about any pets they have that lick their feet.)*

Leader: **Dogs love to lick, but people don't usually use their tongues to clean their bodies.**

Theo: **So how will you clean my feet then? I brought my towel to dry them and everything!**

Leader: **Do you know why Jesus cleaned his friends' feet, Theo?**

Theo: **To get off the dirt?** *(Looks to kids.)* **Give me a clue.** *(Responds to kids' answers.)*

Leader: **Jesus is servant-hearted, and everything Jesus did was to serve and help others.**

Theo: **Oh, maybe I should be washing your feet then.** (Pretends to lick one of each child's feet.)

Leader: **That's the spirit, Theo! Jesus loves it when we serve and help others like he did.**

Theo: (Thinks for a moment.) **So...Jesus wants me to lick everyone's feet?**

Leader: **I don't think that's why Jesus washed his friends' feet. One reason he did it was to show his friends he wanted them to help and care for others. Serving others doesn't always mean you clean their feet.**

Theo: (Looks disappointed.) **But I love licking people!**

Leader: **Dogs do love that, Theo! And that's okay. But when we say Jesus is servant-hearted, that means he helped people in all kinds of ways.**

Theo: **Like when you give me a scratch?**

Leader: **Exactly—that's a way for us to serve you.** (Looks to kids.) **Friends, let's practice serving Theo again and give him another scratch.** (Leads kids to quickly scratch Theo.)

Theo: (Looks relaxed.) **I love service!** (Looks to kids.) **What are other ways to serve?** (Responds to kids' answers.)

Leader: (Helps kids with ideas if needed, such as to help a friend or sibling clean up, to clean up trash, to say an encouraging word, or to give a parent a back rub when he or she is stressed.)

Theo: **Can I serve you right now?** (Looks to kids.) **How about a hug? That will serve you by making you feel loved, right?** (Waits for kids' responses and then hugs each child.)

Leader: **That was a great idea, Theo. Thank you!**

Theo: **You're welcome. Now I'm going to go serve my mom by bringing her a bone. She's nervous about a neighborhood meeting, and I want to make her feel better.**

Leader: **That's nice of you, Theo. We'll see you later! Friends, let's give Theo a "woof, woof, goodbye"!** (Leads kids in a "woof, woof, goodbye," and then places Theo out of sight.)



### Pack a Pack

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#### Supplies

- backpacks or other bags, such as reusable grocery bags (1 for every 5 kids)
- blankets, pillows, stuffed animals, and other soothing items (1 for every 5 kids)
- toys (1 for every 5 kids)
- books (1 for every 5 kids)
- puzzles or similar activities (1 for every 5 kids)
- snack-size bags of pretzels or something similar (1 for every 5 kids)
- small bottles of water (1 for every 5 kids)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

#### Easy Prep

- Place the bags spaced a few feet apart on the floor along a wall.
- Spread the other items out in the center of the room.

#### Tip

- If you used the Music Video block, consider repeating the songs from today's lesson during the game. You can find the downloadable album [here](#).

#### Pack a Care Pack

Say: **In today's Bible story, Jesus served his friends by washing their feet. He did something very nice for them because Jesus is servant-hearted. Let's play a game where we'll serve a friend, too!**

- Form groups of about five, and place an adult or teen helper in each group, if possible.
- Have each group take a bag and then sit about 5 feet away from the pile of supplies in the center of the room.
- Say: **We're going to pack care bags for friends who are going on a long trip in the car. In your group, think about things you'd like to have with you to make a long car ride comfy and fun. Then you'll look around the room for things like that to pack in the bag.**
- Preschoolers will take turns within their groups retrieving items to put in their groups' bags.
- Have the helper in each group choose new kids to get an item each time the group comes up with an idea of what to pack.
- Preschoolers can choose from the pile in the center of the room and from any other items in the room.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while groups pack the bags.

#### Talk About It

Ask: • **Tell about the things your group put in your care bag and why you chose them.** Allow some time for each group to share a few of the things they packed and why.

Say: **You really thought about how to help a friend have a great trip in the car! Showing care like that shows a servant heart.**

Share a few examples of what *you* like about serving others, such as knowing you're doing something that will make another person smile or feel better and help someone know he or she is loved.

Ask: • **What do you like about serving others?** Preschoolers might share that they like making friends happy or seeing that they can help a parent have a better day.

Say: **Jesus is servant-hearted, and as we serve other people in our lives, our hearts become more and more like his. It's good to have a heart like Jesus'!**



## Supplies

- bars of soap (1 per child) (see Tip)
- construction paper (in a variety of colors)
- crayons
- stickers
- transparent tape

## Easy Prep

- Cut pieces of construction paper to fit around your soap bars. Ours were  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches by  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches.
- Make a sample craft to show kids.



## Tip

- We found three-packs of soap at our local dollar discount store. You could also ask a local hotel to donate hotel-size bars of soap.

## Talk About It

Say: **In our Bible story, we heard how Jesus is servant-hearted.**

Name several people who serve *you*, such as your spouse, your kids, your pastor, other people at church, your neighbor, and the clerk at the store.

Ask: • **Name everyone you can think of who serves you.** Encourage kids to have fun thinking of everyone who serves them in some way and naming as many people as possible.

Say: **There are so many people who serve us! And one of the ways someone might serve us is by helping us wash our hands since we're little and can't always reach the sink. Let's decorate soap wrappers as a gift for someone who serves us by helping us wash our hands.**

## Decorate Soap Wrappers

- Have preschoolers each choose a color of pre-cut construction paper.
- Set out crayons and stickers, and allow time for kids to decorate their papers.

When kids have finished decorating, help them each wrap the paper around a bar of soap and tape it in place.

**Make a Plan**

Say: **Great job decorating that special bar of soap for a special someone who serves you! Think about who you want to give your bar of soap to. Pause. Let's share reasons we're thankful for the people we'll give the bars of soap to.**

Share about someone you'd give a gift to who you're thankful for. Share a reason you love the person and what he or she does that makes you feel thankful.

Ask: • **Why are you thankful for the person you'll give your soap to?**

Say: **When people serve us, they love to hear "thank you," so they'll love to get these special bars of soap you decorated. But you can also share the reasons you're thankful with those people and then share with them that Jesus is servant-hearted, too!**

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