

 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

Kids share about a topic related to the lesson.

Supplies

- Bible



CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Kids 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

Kids 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

Kids use water to make a paper hand open.

Supplies

- printer paper
- plastic disposable plate (1 per child)
- pitchers of water (1 for every 5 kids)
- pencils
- child-safe scissors



HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Kids crawl and tag others' feet with wet wipes.

Supplies

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



LOW-ENERGY GAME

Kids race while balancing cups on trays.

Supplies

- large serving trays (1 for every 4 kids) (check your church kitchen or find inexpensive trays in discount dollar stores)
- tall plastic cups (2 per person)
- tennis balls (2 per person) (you could use any similar-size balls)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)



CRAFT

Kids decorate soap wrappers.

Supplies

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

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.



TALK-ABOUT VIDEO

Kids watch a video and discuss the Bible Point.

Supplies

- "Faith's Story" teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

**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 kids give a side hug to two friends.
- Make announcements.
- Introduce new kids.
- Celebrate birthdays by having kids hop on one foot while they sing “Happy 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 small groups, have kids 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 kids if needed. Kids 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 child.

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?** Kids 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. Invite them to pray as well if they want to.

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 plate (1 per child)
- pitchers of water (1 for every 5 kids)
- pencils
- child-safe scissors

Roll Paper Fingers Into Fists

Form groups of five. 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: **Let’s make open hands.** Have each child trace a hand on a piece of paper and cut it out.

Say: **Let’s make our hands closed and see if we can open them back up without touching them.**

Show kids how to roll the fingers on their cutout hands to make fists.

Place Fists in Water

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

- Give each child a disposable plate. Before kids place the hands in water, have adult and teen helpers make sure each finger isn’t folded too flat. Have them lead kids to 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 each child’s plate.
- Have kids place their hands on their plates of water, with the rolls facing up.
- As the paper gets wet, the fingers will slowly unroll so the hands open!



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 kids 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? Kids 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!



Serve Steady

Supplies

- large serving trays (1 for every 4 kids) (check your church kitchen or find inexpensive trays in discount dollar stores)
- tall plastic cups (2 per person)
- tennis balls (2 per person) (you could use any similar-size balls)
- upbeat music (optional)
- music player (optional)

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](#).

Balance Cups on Trays

Say: **Today we heard about a unique way Jesus served his friends, the disciples, by washing their feet. We might not think of that as a way to serve others today, but back then it probably meant a lot to Jesus' friends. Let's play a game about serving in a way that's more common in our time.**

- Form teams of four, and give each team a tray, eight cups, and eight tennis balls.
- Have each team line up single file about 15 feet away from a wall.
- Have the first person in each line pick up the tray and add a cup. Then he or she will balance the tray so the cup doesn't topple over, walk to the opposite wall and touch it, and then head back to his or her line to pass the tray to the next person.
- Teams will continue to relay in this way, adding either a cup or a tennis ball to their trays each time. The tennis balls should be placed loose on the tray so they'll roll around.
- As items are added, keeping the tray steady and the cups from toppling will get more difficult.
- If items on a tray topple, the child carrying the tray can reload it and continue on.
- If you'd like, play upbeat music while kids play.
- When teams finish, have them reset their trays and begin a new round with a new rule of carrying and balancing the tray with only one hand.
- Then play a third round where kids must balance the trays on top of their heads. If you have time for additional rounds, let kids think of their own new challenges.

Talk About It

Say: **The kind of service you were practicing in the game is something we see more often than foot-washing. We see servers carrying trays at restaurants or big celebrations like weddings.**

Ask: • **What are other ways you've seen people serving others? It doesn't have to involve a serving tray!**

Say: **People serve others through acts of kindness, encouraging words, offering help, or spending time with others. Or they might let others go ahead of them in line, open a door for someone, or clear someone's dishes.** Share an example of a time you were served or you served someone else yourself. For example, maybe you came up short when you went to pay for groceries and the person in line behind you kindly gave you the money to make up the difference. Or maybe you made a comforting meal for a friend who was going through a hard time.

Ask: • **Tell about times you've served or been served and what it was like.**

Say: **Jesus is servant-hearted, so we serve others. When we serve others, we reflect how Jesus is shaping our hearts to be more like his.**



Supplies

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

Easy Prep

- 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 kids each choose a color of construction paper and use the rulers to measure paper that will fit around the soap bars. Then have kids cut the 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!**



Supplies

- "Faith's Story" teaching video (watch or download [here](#))

Tip

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

Discuss and Watch "Faith's Story"

Say: Today we're learning that Jesus is servant-hearted, so we serve others.

Ask: • Tell about a time you did a service project or worked with a group of people to serve someone. Share your own story first.

Say: **Wow! We have a lot of servant hearts in here. Let's hear Faith's story about serving.**

Watch "Faith's Story!"

Ask: • **What's something Faith said that surprised you or made you think differently about serving?**

• **Faith shared what *she* liked about serving. What do you like about serving?**

Say: **Faith said that Jesus' example is a calling to us to rise to the occasion and help people who need it. Jesus is servant-hearted, so we serve others. It's Jesus' way! When we serve others, we reflect Jesus' heart.**