

Lesson 16: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

[John 13:1-17](#)

Youtube Link: <https://youtu.be/f-tE45FABpA>

Children's Bible Story Video: <https://youtu.be/7yGvdO7hto>

Worship Theme: Jesus wants us to serve others.

Memory Verse: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others." (1 Peter 4:10a)

Songs (Youtube links):

1. Give Praise to Jesus <https://youtu.be/PtAbR7-xroM>
2. It's a Great Day <https://youtu.be/Z91SULEHfho>
3. Be Humble Before the Lord <https://youtu.be/7WO74xMesGU>

Pray

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: Servant or Master?

Material Needed: Paper with "O" or "X" for each child

1. As children walk in, give them a paper that has either "O" or "X."
2. Explain to the children that the ones who have "O" are the servants and ones with "X" are the masters.
3. Ask the children who are masters to tell the servants what to do (clean the church, bring water, carry your bag, etc.)
4. After 5 minutes, change roles. Children with "O" become the masters, and children with "X" become the servants.

Introduction:

You just played a game where you were both a servant and a master. If you had a choice, what would you choose to be? A servant or a master? I think we would all choose to be the master.

Imagine if you're the king or the queen of a country. What are some things that you'd like to do as a king or a queen? (Ask children.) Yes, there are many things that you can do if you're the king or the queen. You can live in a fancy palace. You can eat whatever you want and do whatever you want. You can wear expensive clothes and get all the toys and games you want. Would you ever give up your position as a king or queen and become a poor homeless person?

We all know someone who gave up his throne to come to save us. Who is this? Jesus! Jesus left his kingdom in heaven and came to live as a poor man. Why did he do this? He did this because he loves us. He comes to us as a gentle servant instead of a mean master. Let's learn about a story that shows what a humble and gentle servant he was.

Bible Story:

The Bible tells us about a time Jesus was a gentle servant to his disciples. In Bible times, when someone came to your house, a servant would wash your guest's feet because the roads were always dusty. When Jesus and the disciples got together to eat a special meal called Passover, everyone's feet needed to be washed. But no servant came to wash the feet of the disciples and Jesus. Jesus could have told one of his disciples to wash his feet or find a servant to do it for him.

But Jesus surprised his disciples by putting a towel around his own clothes and washing each disciple's feet. Jesus was doing what a servant would do! When Jesus got to Peter, Peter said, "Oh, no, Jesus. I don't want you to wash my feet." Peter knew that Jesus was the greatest of them all and should not be doing a servant's job. But Jesus said it was important.

Then Jesus asked the disciples, “Do you understand what I’ve done?” He told them, “I have given you an example to follow. You need to be servants.” When Jesus washed his disciples feet, he was teaching them that he came to serve people and that he wanted them to serve each other. Today, Jesus is telling all of us to have a servant heart and be willing to serve the people in your lives like your parents, siblings, friends, teachers, and more. Do you think you can have a serving heart like Jesus?

Questions to discuss:

1. Through this story, what did servants have to do when guests came to their house? (wash their feet)
2. What did Jesus do when no servant came to wash their feet? (he washed the feet of the disciples)
3. What was Jesus trying to show the disciples by washing their feet like a servant? (they need to have servant hearts)
4. How can you serve the people in your lives? (do the dishes, help your siblings, help friends)

Memory Verse: “Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.” (1 Peter 4:10a)

Craft: “Thank You, Pastor!”

Materials Needed: Popsicle sticks, colored paper, scissors, glue, pen



1. One of the ways to be a servant is to thank people who serve us. One of the people who serve us with a servant heart is the pastors. Today, let’s make flowers on a stick to give to our pastor!
2. Give each child some colored paper. For younger children, they can trace their hand and cut it out to glue on the stick. For older children, they can cut out flowers and glue it on the stick.
3. Children should tell the pastor, “Thank you for being our pastor” when they give the flowers to them.
4. If you have extra time, they should make one for their parents to thank them.



Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher’s Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

Jesus’ entire mission was one of humbleness. Imagine a king leaving his palace to live as a poor homeless man. Would anyone do this? No! But Jesus left his kingdom in heaven and came to this earth because he loves you. Let’s thank Jesus for saving us so that we can live in his kingdom someday. Because we have Jesus, we don’t have to be ashamed about meeting God. He lowered himself to the point of dying on the cross for us so that we can be lifted high and enter his kingdom. Please show this humble spirit to your children as you share this lesson with the children.