

Lessons for the Leader

What type of service do you expect when you dine at a restaurant? What do you expect from your waitstaff? What is your response if the staff does not fulfill your expectations? Imagine the thoughts of the disciples as Jesus began serving them.

- Read John 13:1. Imagine the thoughts of Jesus as He prepared to share the Passover with His disciples.
- Read John 13:2. What do you think Judas felt as he watched Jesus? Do you think Judas struggled with knowing what he was about to do?
- Read John 13:3-5. Place yourself as an observer in the room. What do you think the disciples felt? What did their body language say?
- Read John 13:6-11. Why do you think none of the other disciples objected before Peter? Why did it take Peter so long to object to Jesus' actions? How do you think the other disciples felt hearing Peter's objection and Jesus' response?
- Read John 13:12-13. What impact did the words of Jesus have on the disciples? In what ways was Jesus a teacher during the Passover meal?
- Reflect for a few moments on the children in your ministry. If you began "washing their feet" or doing something to serve them that they did not expect, what would be their reaction? Would one of them object? What about the other leaders serving with you? What impact would your actions have on the parents?
- Read the life application statement, *I can follow Jesus' example by serving other people*. In what ways do you serve? Why do you serve? Are you truly serving with an attitude that sets an example for other people?
- Pray for yourself. Ask God to give you an attitude of servanthood that will set an example for children, parents, and fellow leaders in your community.

What do these symbols mean?

1 → Application Activities Format: Follow the numbers with arrows for a 30-minute, large group plus 20-minute Application Activities format.

1 Follow all the numbers for a 45- to 60-minute large group only format.



The Way Jesus Serves

Focus Passage: John 13:1-17

Key Bible Verse: Galatians 5:13

Life Application

I can follow Jesus' example by serving other people.

Level of Biblical Learning (Self)

I can follow the examples, teachings, and commandments of Jesus.

Session at a Glance

Introduction to Worship (6 to 8 minutes)

Greet the Children

Play Bible Verse Turnover

Worship (30 minutes/45 minutes)

Sing "Whoa!"

Pray/Receive the Offering

Sing "I Just Love Worshiping You"

Examine the Teaching Picture

Tell the Bible Story

Review the Bible Story

Apply the Bible Story

Show "I Witness News" Video

Pray

Sing "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Sing "Ancient Words"

Application Activities (20 minutes)

Wrap-Up (10 minutes)

Introduction to Worship

1 → Greet the Children

2 → Play Bible Verse Turnover

Teacher Tip

Form multiple circles if you have a very large group of children.

- Seat the children in a circle.
- Read aloud Galatians 5:13. Lead the children in saying aloud the verse together.
- Choose six key words from the key Bible verse.
- Assign one of the keywords to each child.
- Enlist a volunteer to stand in the circle.
- Say: "I will call out a word from Galatians 5:13. Everyone assigned that word must stand up and switch seats with someone else that is also standing. The child who remains without a seat will stand in the middle of the circle until the next call. If I just call out the reference 'Galatians 5:13,' everyone must change seats."
- Call out one of the words.
- Complete several calls, choosing different key words or the reference.
- Conclude: "Let's discover how Jesus set an example of serving others through love."

Worship

3 → Sing "Whoa!" (DVD, 3 minutes)

4 → Pray/Receive the Offering (2 minutes)

5 Sing "I Just Love Worshiping You"
(DVD, 3 minutes)

6 → Examine the Teaching Picture (5 minutes)

Pull It Together

Print "Disciples' Feet" (CD) teaching picture and crumple into a ball.

Teacher Tip

Form multiple circles if you have a very large group of children.

- Invite the children to form a circle.
- Introduce the crumpled ball into the circle and instruct the children to kick it back and forth until you call "Stop!"

- Call "Stop!" Guide one of the children standing near the crumpled ball to unfold it and tell something about the picture.
- Re-crumple the ball and play several more rounds.
- Say: "In this game, you used your feet to move the ball. In our Bible story, Jesus uses feet to set an example."

7 → Tell the Bible Story (6 minutes)

Pull It Together

5 different colored socks, string, clothespins, masking tape, scissors

- Make a photocopy of the Bible story.
- Cut the story into paragraphs and place each paragraph inside one of the socks. Include the title and Scripture reference in the first paragraph.
- String a clothesline between 2 walls and secure the line with tape.
- Use the clothespins to attach the socks to the line. Be certain the socks are in order according to the paragraphs they contain.
- Enlist five volunteers to read the Bible story.
- Instruct the volunteers to take turns removing a sock from the line and reading aloud the paragraph it contains. Guide the volunteers to remove the socks in the correct order.

Jesus Washed the Disciples' Feet

Based on John 13:1-17

It was just before the Passover Festival in Jerusalem. Jesus was eating supper with His disciples. The Devil had already tempted Judas to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that He would soon die on the cross.

Before He died, Jesus wanted to set an example for His disciples. He got up from the table and took off His robe, wrapped a towel around His waist, and poured water into a basin. To the disciples' surprise, Jesus began washing their feet!

It was the custom in that part of the world for a servant to wash the dust and dirt off the feet of visitors as they entered the home. Jesus was acting like the disciples' servant, not their leader. Being a servant was Jesus' way of showing love to His disciples.

At first, Peter would not let Jesus wash his feet. Peter believed Jesus was too important to be a servant. Peter changed his mind when Jesus said, "If I cannot wash your feet, you cannot be my disciple."

Jesus' example taught the disciples that no one is too great, too important, or too powerful to be a servant. Serving others is how we show our love. Therefore, anyone who chooses to follow Jesus must also serve others.

8 → Review the Bible Story (5 minutes)

Pull It Together

Large box

Teacher Tip

Adapt the game for larger groups by guiding each child to write his name on a piece of paper which he crumples into a ball and places in the box. Use the pieces of paper to represent the events named.

- Instruct each child to take off one shoe and place it in the box.
- Draw a shoe out of the box. Invite the child with the matching shoe to name an event from the Bible story. Set the shoe aside.
- Repeat this process until you draw five shoes from the box. Each time an event is named, review the previously mentioned events.
- Use the shoes drawn to represent the events named. Encourage the children to place the shoes in order according to the order of the events they represent.
- Allow all the children to put their shoes back on. Use this time to remind the children of any significant events from the story that they did not mention.

9 → Apply the Bible Story (5 minutes)

Pull It Together

Worship Guides, pencils

- Distribute the Worship Guides and pencils.
- Guide the children to complete the activity entitled "What Can I Do?"
- Allow the children to share their responses to this activity.
- Lead the children in repeating the life application statement, *I can follow Jesus' example by serving other people.*

10 → Show "I Witness News" Video (DVD, 8 minutes)

Teacher Tip

The video provides statistics about the Nashville, TN area. For information on ministries provided to the homeless in your area, contact your state convention or denominational ministry offices.

- Ask: "Do you think of yourself as a servant? What characteristics do you think of concerning people who serve others? Why do you think some people are so willing to serve?"
- Continue: "There are many churches that serve people by providing places for them to stay. One ministry is called 'Room in the Inn.' Let's go to the I Witness News team as they learn about this important ministry."
- Show video.
- Ask: "In what ways did the church provide for the men at Room in the Inn? How do you think the men felt knowing the church members cared about them and wanted to help them?"
- Continue: "Why did Sarah say she wanted to be a part of the Room in the Inn ministry? How did she follow Jesus' example by helping?"

11 → Pray (1 minute)

12 Sing "Holy, Holy, Holy" (DVD, 3 minutes)

13 Sing "Ancient Words" (DVD, 3 minutes)

14 → Transition to Application Activities or Wrap-Up.

Teacher Tip

Looking for additional resources to enhance your teaching? Check out the *Levels of Biblical Learning* resources available at www.lifeway.com/levelsofbiblicalllearning.

Wrap-Up

(Large Group Only Format)

15 Complete Worship Guides (2 minutes)

- Encourage each child to fill in the “Service Commitment” on his Worship Guide.
- Explain that this is a way to remember to serve others this week.

16 Practice Bible Skills (4 minutes)

Pull It Together

Index cards, pencil, tape

- Tape the cards facedown to a focal wall
 - Write the following questions on individual index cards:
 - How many books of the Bible are named for places? (9)
 - How many books of the Bible are named for women? (2)
 - How many books of the Bible are named for men? (37)
 - How many names of books in the Bible start with the letter *M*? (4)
 - Enlist volunteers to take turns choosing a question card from the wall.
 - Guide the children to use the list of Bible books at the front of their Bibles to answer each question.
- ## 17 Sing “Our God Reigns” (DVD, 3 minutes)
- ## 18 Pray (1 minute)
- Lead in a prayer, asking God for opportunities to serve others.

Wrap-Up

(Application Activities Format)

15 → Share Application Activities (5 minutes)

- Invite children to share their Application Activity experiences.
 - Arts and Crafts—Tortilla Rolls
 - Dramatic Play—Rhythm Statements
 - Games—Marble Race
 - Exploration and Discovery—Foot Washing

16 → Complete Worship Guides (2 minutes)

- Encourage each child to fill in the “Service Commitment” on his Worship Guide.
- Explain that this is a way to remember to serve others this week.
- Lead in a prayer, asking God for opportunities to serve others.

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