

Unearthing the Truth about the Resurrection: Jesus Serves His Friends

Lesson Aim

Jesus is a good friend. He took care of His friends through serving their needs and praying for them. We can learn to serve and pray for our friends.

Opening Activity — Start Strong

Jelly Bean Scoop

Put a bunch of jellybeans on the table. Give each player a spoon. Players must see how many jellybeans they can scoop off the table and into an Easter basket using only the spoon AND with their other hand behind their back in 1 minute.

Introductory Activity — Shoe Sort

Have children take off their shoes. Have them give ONE of their shoes to the teacher or volunteer and hold their other shoe. Place the shoes the kids handed to the teacher or volunteer in a row at the other end of the room. Have the children place their other shoe on the floor in front of them and sit down. Designate every other child to go and serve the child next to them by finding their shoes at the other end of the room. Instruct them to take the shoe that is in front of their neighbor so they can find the right shoe. When they find the right shoe they are to bring it to their friend and help their friend to put their shoes on. That friend now takes their shoe and finds the correct match and helps them to put their shoes on as well.

Introductory Activity

Gather the following items: Telephone, Newspaper, Letters & Envelopes, Road Map, Radio. Ask what these items have in common. They are things we use to communicate with others.

Bible story -- Jesus Serves His Friends (John 13:1-17 and John 17:1-11; 20-26)

In our two Bible stories today, we will see two ways that Jesus takes care of his friends — through serving and through prayer. Depending on your time, you may choose to focus on one or do both.

Tell the story using some objects that you use while demonstrating Jesus' service to his friends. Be sure to enlist a child you know or an adult. It is extremely important to use this real-life demonstration so that the children can see this scene play out.

Say, Jesus came to show us how we should live. One of the lessons that Jesus wanted us to learn was how to be a servant to others. A servant is a person who does the work for another. When your mom or dad cooks you something to eat, they are being a loving servant for you; they don't expect anything in return. Jesus likewise said to his disciples who desired to be great, "...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28 NIV).

Jesus wanted the disciples to know that being a servant is more important than gaining wealth, power, or position. A servant does not receive a lot of praise or credit; they work solely for the lives of others.

Let us read how Jesus, who is a king, became a servant to show his love for his disciples and for us. Read John 13:3-5 and 12-17. You might prepare two bibles with the verses highlighted and ask two of your older children to read.

3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

As you demonstrate the act of service, explain why they washed feet and the mechanics of how it worked in those days. As you are talking, prepare a basin and pour water in it. Have your helper sit down in a chair near the bowl of water. Take off their shoes and wash their feet. Explain the significance of this act.

Engage your class in the demonstration using these discussion questions:

- ◆ Why did Jesus wash their feet?
- ◆ How did the disciples feel about that?
- ◆ Which one objected?
- ◆ What did Jesus tell him?
- ◆ Would you let Jesus wash your feet?
- ◆ Why is it important to serve?
- ◆ What does serving mean to you?

Another way that Jesus cared for his friends was to pray for them. In today's Bible story, we find Jesus praying for not only the friends that were with him but for all of us. This took place just before He was to be killed. Open your Bible and share the highlights of this important prayer and what it means for us today. Remind kids that Jesus was very sad and upset. Because he felt this way, his response was to go into the garden pray. God wants us to pray when we are sad, afraid, or upset. In this important prayer, Jesus prayed for protection from evil and also prayed for the unity of his followers. Prayer is an important way that we can serve our friends and let them know we care.

Resurrection Cards

Each week share the Resurrection Cards with your class and use them to review the story and give your kids the opportunity to use them to tell others. This week's cards are JESUS WASHING THE FEET OF HIS DISCIPLES, PRAYING HANDS and the LORD'S SUPPER.

Scripture Verse Focus

1 Thessalonians 5:17-18 — "Pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." Post-It Notes Review: To prepare this activity, write one word on every Post-It notes. Give the kids many different colors for extra fun. Scramble the words and have the students work together to put the verse in order. If the class is large enough, write the verse out a few times and compete in teams.

Craft Activity — Prayer Chain

Supplies:

Construction paper or card stock (different colors)
Crayons, markers, or pens
Stapler or tape / Scissors

Directions:

- ◆ Cut the construction paper or card stock into strips, enough for each child to have at least five.
- ◆ Model for kids to write a name and prayer request on each strip. Items of praise and thanksgiving are great, too. You may need to help your younger learners with the writing.
- ◆ Loop the strips together and staple to create a chain.
- ◆ Encourage kids to take this home to help them to pray.

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**KIDS MINISTRY
NEW ENGLAND**

Baptist Convention of New England ♦ 87 Lincoln Street, Northborough, MA 01532

PRESCHOOL PAGE

If your church has younger learners, you might want to make some adjustments to the suggestions we have. You can use these options in tandem or with a small group of preschoolers separately or incorporate some of them for your younger learners.

Bible Story

As you tell the story for preschoolers, remember they have a very short attention span and need total engagement. On the average, preschoolers will only sit for 1 minute for every year they are... 2 year old will sit 2 minutes on average, 4 year old will sit 4 minutes on average. Plan to tell the story and not try to read it as this will give you the opportunity to engage the kids with your eyes. Include pictures and fun objections to help capture their attention.

Today's Bible focus is on two stories, Jesus washes feet and Jesus praying for his friends. These are two stories that are easy to tell to preschoolers as they are very visual and you can do a demonstration for the foot washing. You can ask a child ahead of time, enlist a relative or wash the feet of a baby doll.

Introductory Activity — What can we do with our feet?

As you gather all the kids together for the Bible story. Say: Can I see your feet? Hold your feet up for me! (Give the kids time to hold them up). Let's see what kind of fun things we can do with our feet! Can you hop on one foot? (Lead the kids in doing this). Can you stomp your feet really hard? (Lead the kids in doing this). How fast can you run in place like this? (Demonstrate running in place. Then let the kids try to run in place).

Review Questions for preschoolers

- ◆ "What did Jesus do for his friends?" Washed their feet
- ◆ "Why did Jesus wash their feet?" Their feet were dirty. It was custom. Jesus wanted to serve his friends.
- ◆ "How did his friends feel when he washed their feet?" Uncomfortable. Didn't want him to do it.
- ◆ "Would you let Jesus wash your feet?"
- ◆ "What did Jesus pray for his friends and us?" Protection and Unity

Practice Serving in Your Classroom

Give the kids a chance to do a service activity in your classroom! Give each kid a rag (or baby wipe) and have them look for areas that need to be cleaned up! Encourage them to "dust" toys, books, tables, walls, etc. If you can, take them to other areas of the building and have them clean. Let them know that they can be a servant wherever they are!

Craft Activity — Serving Wreath

Supplies:

Paper Plates, construction paper, markers, glue

Directions:

- ◆ Before class cut out a whole in the middle of the paper plates.
- ◆ Before class cut out handprints for the kids to use for the project. You can use the kids own handprints.
- ◆ During class lead kids to write ways they can serve this week on the handprints.
- ◆ Use glue to attach the handprints around the paper plate as illustrated.



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