

August 18, 2024

SUPPLIES Needed:

Optional Craft: construction paper, markers

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE:

5 minutes - Pick up kids/kids arrive - bathroom, wash hands, water break 20 minutes - Snack, Games, Prayer/Devotion, Quality Time, Clean-up 30-40 minutes - RBKids Lesson & Prayer 10-15 minutes - Free time, Clean-up and Dismissal

TODAY'S FOCUS:

The most important thing for us as followers of Jesus is to show love to everyone!

Memory verse:

"In the morning let me hear about your faithful love, because I've put my trust in you. Show me the way I should live, because I trust you with my life." -Psalm 143:8

Key passage:

John 13: 1-35, Jesus washes His disciples' feet

ROCK BRIDGe MISSION:

We know that the best way to show love to others is to love them like Jesus loves them. We remember that they were made by God on purpose and we honor and serve them.

PRAYER:

Ask God to fill your hearts with love and gratitude. Pray the verse: "In the morning let me hear about your faithful love, because I've put my trust in you. Show me the way I should live, because I trust you with my life."

INTRODUCTION:

AS KIDS ARRIVE: Think about a time when someone showed you a simple act of love. Maybe they shared a snack with you or helped you with homework. Share your story with us!

Lesson intro: Today, we're going to read from the book of John, chapter 13, verses 1 to 35. Help kids navigate to it in their Bibles. This passage takes place during a meal that Jesus is sharing with His friends, the disciples, just before He is about to face great suffering. In this moment, Jesus does something surprising and deeply meaningful: He washes His disciples' feet. This act of service might seem unusual to us, but it was a powerful lesson for His friends. Through this humble gesture, Jesus teaches us about true love and what it means to serve one another. As we read these verses, think about how Jesus' actions and words can guide us in our own lives, helping us to love and serve others just as He did.

Read: John 13:1-35

(If your kids are familiar enough with this story, let them act it out as you read!)

MAIN POINT: Jesus, who was their teacher and leader, chose to wash His disciples' feet—a task usually done by a servant. This act showed that true leadership and love involve serving others humbly. By doing this, Jesus set an example for us to follow. He wants us to treat each other with the same love and care He showed, regardless of our own status or position. As we think about this passage, remember that showing love isn't always about grand gestures; sometimes it's about the simple, everyday acts of kindness and service. How can we apply Jesus' example in our lives today? Let's discuss ways we can follow His lead and serve those around us with love and humility!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

ASK THIS: Jesus' example of love should impact our lives daily. Let's answer some questions to get us thinking about how we can live this out.

- 1. Super Servant: Why did Jesus wash His friends' feet? What does this teach us about helping others?
- 2. Peter's Reaction: Peter was surprised when Jesus washed his feet. Why do you think he felt that way? How do we react when others help us?
- 3. Serving and Being Served: Is it harder for you to help others or to accept help? How can you grow in this area?
- 4. Follow the Leader: Why did Jesus say we should follow His example? How can we imitate His example in our own lives?
- 5. Love Challenge: Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." How can we do this in our daily lives? Share your thoughts!
- 6. Forgiveness: How did Jesus show forgiveness and love even when Judas betrayed him? How can we do the same?
- 7. Teamwork: How does washing feet help us understand building strong, loving communities?
- 8. Sacrificial Love: What does Jesus' act teach us about loving others in our relationships?
- 9. Living Our Faith: How can we show our faith through our actions every day?
- 10. Act Like Jesus: What is one specific way you can love more like Jesus today?

Close the discussion with a prayer asking God to help you remember that to be more like Jesus, we need to love others and see them as valuable and precious, just like God does. Ask for God's help to act in love and service like Jesus. Pray for the strength to follow His example in daily life.

TAKE IT HOME: Everyone has a story of how Jesus came into their lives and saved them. When we share our stories, it shows that Jesus' love is for everyone! Who do you want to share your story with? Pray for an opportunity to do that!

ACTIVITY:

DO THIS: Instruct the kids to write down a small act of love they can perform today. Let them share their choice and challenge them to actually complete it in the next 24 hours!

Optional Craft Variation: Use paper and markers to create foot-shaped cutouts. Write or draw a small act of service they can do today and decorate them. Take home the "footprint" as a reminder of walking in Jesus' footsteps.

Memory verse activity:

"In the morning let me hear about your faithful love, because I've put my trust in you. Show me the way I should live, because I trust you with my life." Psalm 143:8

DO THIS: Let kids create motions to demonstrate this verse. Use your class size to determine if they should work in pairs or small groups. Demonstrate the motions everyone creates, making sure to have everyone say it along with the group each time.