FOLLOWING JESUS VBS · TEACHER GUIDE · NURSERY (AGES 0-2)

Day 3: Jesus Shows Me How to Love

Serve Like Jesus! | Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Bible story	Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27)
Memory verse (NKJV)	"I have given you an example" (John 13:15) (full verse for helpers: "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.")
Takeaway	I can love and help like Jesus!
Daily call	Leader: "Serve" Kids: "Like Jesus!"

Objectives

- Hear the story of Jesus washes the disciples' feet in simple words.
- Say the memory phrase: "I can love and help like Jesus!"
- Experience God's love through a caring teacher, songs, and play.

Materials

- Bible (NKJV) for the teacher
- An enlarged copy of today's coloring page to use as the story picture
- Prop for the attention getter: a towel, a basin (bowl), and a pitcher of water
- Copies of today's student lesson and activity sheets (one per child)
- Crayons, pencils, and name tags
- Craft supplies: Red or pink paper hearts; Washable paint or crayons; Wet wipes; Marker

Teacher preparation

- Read John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27 in your own Bible at least twice this week.
- Read the matching "31 Days with Jesus" devotionals at The Preacher's Pen: Day 25: The Lord's Supper (Remembering Jesus); Day 30: "Do You Love Me?" (Renewed Love and Calling); Day 19: Miracles of Jesus (Trusting God's Provision).
- Make copies, prepare craft pieces, and set out the prop before children arrive.

Background for the teacher

- Foot washing was a sign of hospitality (Genesis 18:4; 1 Timothy 5:10) and one of the lowliest servant tasks (1 Samuel 25:41).
- Order of events that night (from the class lesson): Passover begins (Luke 22:15-18), the disciples dispute about greatness (Luke 22:24-30), Jesus washes their feet (John 13:1-17), the betrayer is revealed (John 13:21-30), the Lord's Supper is instituted (Matthew 26:26-29), and the new commandment is given (John 13:34-35).
- Jesus' act was an example of humble service, not a new act of worship. The apostles taught the attitude behind it (Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3-8).
- Jesus loved His disciples "to the end" (John 13:1), even the one who would betray Him.
- The Lord and Teacher took the lowest servant's job and washed dirty feet (John 13:4-5).
- Jesus gave us an example of humble, loving service to follow (John 13:14-15).
- People will know we are His disciples by our love for one another (John 13:34-35).

Lesson plan (40 minutes)

Time	Segment	What to do
0:00-0:08	Welcome and free play	Greet each child by name. Offer soft toys that match today's story (a towel, a basin (bowl), and a pitcher of water).
0:08-0:15	Bible time	Sit in a circle. Hold up the picture and the Bible. Tell the short story with props.
0:15-0:20	Songs and finger play	Sing softly (a cappella) and do today's finger play together.
0:20-0:32	Activity time	Coloring page and the "Find the Picture" sheet with a helper beside each child.
0:32-0:37	Craft	Simple craft (see Craft section). Teachers do any gluing or cutting.
0:37-0:40	Prayer and goodbye	Say the memory phrase, pray a short prayer, and send the take-home story card.

Attention getter

Show a towel, a basin (bowl), and a pitcher of water. Let children touch and explore it while you say a simple sentence about today's story.

Bible story

Teach from an open Bible so students see that the story comes from God's word. Use this script as a guide; tell it in your own words.

- Jesus and His friends came to eat a special supper.
- Their feet were dusty and dirty from walking.
- Jesus got a towel and a bowl of water.
- Jesus knelt down and washed His friends' feet. Splish, splash!
- Peter said, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"
- Jesus was showing His friends how to love and help each other.
- Jesus said, "I have given you an example."

- I can love and help others like Jesus!

Discussion questions

1. What did Jesus use to wash feet?
2. Whose feet did Jesus wash?
3. How can you help someone today?

Review

- Who was in our story today? (Jesus and His friends)
- Say our phrase: “I can love and help like Jesus!”

Memory verse activity

Say the short verse slowly and have children echo it. Add a motion for each phrase. Repeat it at the start and end of class.

Finger play: Helping Hands

- Here are my hands, so small and strong, (hold up hands)
- I can help the whole day long! (clap, clap)
- Jesus took a towel just so, (pretend to dry feet)
- To show us all the way to go. (point forward)
- I will love and I will share, (hug yourself)
- Helping others everywhere! (arms open wide)

Craft (Craft Time): Helping Hands Heart

Materials: Red or pink paper hearts; Washable paint or crayons; Wet wipes; Marker

1. Gently trace or paint each child’s hand on the heart (parent help or crayon tracing is fine).
2. Write “I can love and help like Jesus!”
3. Add the child’s name and “John 13:15.”
4. Clean hands right away.

Recreation and snack

Game: Servant Relay: teams pass a towel and a dry bowl down the line, each child naming one way to help someone before passing it. Or “Serve the Team”: kids carry cotton balls on a spoon to fill a teammate’s cup.

Snack: “Towel rolls”: rolled fruit snacks or tortilla roll-ups, with a cup of water. Older classes can serve snack to a younger class today. Always check allergy information on registration cards before serving food.

Songs (a cappella)

Sing without instruments. Suggested titles: Jesus Loves the Little Children; Oh, How I Love Jesus; Deep and Wide; Footprints of Jesus; Jesus Loves Me.

Answer keys

Find the Picture: the basin of water.

Sources for this lesson

- “31 Days with Jesus” by Christopher Gallagher, The Preacher’s Pen: Day 25: The Lord’s Supper (Remembering Jesus); Day 30: “Do You Love Me?” (Renewed Love and Calling); Day 19: Miracles of Jesus (Trusting God’s Provision) (preacherspen.org/courses/31-days-with-jesus/)
- Preaching Library lessons and outlines: Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet (John 13:1-20, 2016 class lesson); Love As Displayed By God (1 John 4:7-9)
- Scripture: John 13:1-17, 34-35; Luke 22:24-27. All quotations from the New King James Version (NKJV).