

1st-4th Grade Lesson – CHRIST’S FINAL DAYS:

JESUS’ LAST SUPPER

Luke 22, John 13 & I Corinthians 11

OBJECTIVES

STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Contrast the disciples with Mary who washed Jesus’ feet, identifying Jesus as the greatest servant of all
- Explain how the bread and cup were used in the Passover...until Jesus explained their full meaning – his own death and resurrection
- Identify ways they can serve others

SUPPLIES

- Large bowl with water / towel
- *Jesus Storybook Bible* / Bibles
- Posters of Moses/Passover...and the food used in the feast
- Bread & grape juice
- Water basin sheet

Review the
NT Moving-Thru.
Go all the way
to **CRUCIFIED**

GATHERING ACTIVITIES

- **WATER “arcade” games** – to connect with the washing of feet with water
- **PLATE of food** – have pictures of food so that the children can make a collage of “favorite foods” on a paper plate
- **BOARD games** – games to play to see who wins (and is the “greatest”)

INTRODUCTION

If you feel like your children can handle it, ask them to take off their shoes (or take off your own shoes).

- **Let’s talk about feet! How many of you like feet?**
- **We talked about feet before. What did we discuss before?** Remind the children of Mary anointing Jesus’ feet.
- **Why was it such a big deal to wash feet back then?** *Feet were very dirty and smelly because people wore sandals and walked on dirt roads where animals walked; a servant typically washed the feet of people coming into the house.*
- **Mary washed Jesus’ feet even though she was not the servant. This was amazing!**
- **Today we are going to talk about someone else who washed feet...someone we wouldn’t expect.**

Take out the basin of water and towel.

LESSON

BOASTFUL FOLLOWERS

- **Look at this basin – and think about the idea of washing feet.** Explain how this is how one may have had their feet washed in Jesus’ days. Ask the children who they think had the job of washing feet (*servants*). Get them to think about this in terms of today – would a rich movie star or powerful world leader who was supposed to be honored enter the banquet and start serving the food, washing the dishes, and cleaning the toilets? **So, if you were one of the disciples – what would you want to do?**
- Point the children to Luke 22...
 - The disciples did the exact **OPPOSITE** of Mary: instead of humbly serving one another, they argued about who was the **GREATEST!**
 - **When have you argued about being the greatest (or have seen others argue about it)?** *Trying to be first in line at school; getting into fights on the sports field about who scored or who played better; asking others at school what they got on a test so we could compare grades to see who was better; etc.* **Well, the disciples did the same thing.**
- **They thought Jesus was the MESSIAH...but, again, they did not understand what he was going to do.**

- They thought he was going to come into Jerusalem to defeat Rome and take over as a powerful King and make Israel the greatest nation in the world.
- Each of them wanted to be the greatest in his kingdom – thinking that meant they would have a lot of power and money.
- Do we read about any of the disciples willingly washing anyone's feet – let alone Jesus' feet!? *NO!*

SERVANT KING

But what does Jesus do???

Read the story from the *Jesus Storybook Bible*.

Use your discretion in this, but feel free to take a volunteer and demonstrate what it may look like to wash someone's feet. Have the child sit in a chair. Tie a towel around your waist. Wash the child's feet and dry them with the towel.

- Explain how it may feel awkward to have someone wash their feet – especially if that person was supposed to be the most important person ever! That is why Peter did not think it was right for Jesus to wash his feet!
- Refer to your analogy before – if a powerful leader came to a great dinner today. We would NEVER expect (nor think it proper) for him/her to take the role of the waiter, dish washer, or janitor!
- **Jesus told his followers that he was the King...but the king was about SERVING. He was willing to be the greatest servant of all. Think about it.**

SACRIFICED KING

Now, after Jesus washed the disciples' feet, he came to the table. It was the Passover!

Review what PASSOVER was by showing the pictures of Moses/blood over the doors...and the poster of the food used in the Passover Feast.

- The Jews celebrated the time when God set them FREE from Egypt.
- The Jews killed a lamb and painted its blood on the doors so that the angel of death would PASS OVER them.
- They ate bread without yeast (because they had to make bread quickly) and drank wine as part of the meal before they left – because they would need to leave in a hurry.
- Then, God led the people through the Red Sea to freedom!
- Afterward, they celebrated Passover by eating bread without yeast (plus lamb and bitter herbs) and drinking wine.

Now, Jesus was about to tell his followers exactly what those parts of the feast meant...not just about freedom from slavery, but freedom from SIN and DEATH. And, the only way that was going to happen was for Jesus to die on the cross.

So, Jesus took the bread and cup and told the disciples something they were not expecting.

- He told them that God's plan for these parts of the feast were to point to something even greater than freedom from slavery. It was freedom from SIN and DEATH...freedom that would come when he DIED!
- **Pick up the bread:** he said that this bread was a picture of his body that would be broken for them.
- **Pick up the grape juice:** he said that the wine was a picture of his blood that would be shed for their sins.
- He told them to continue to practice this – the Lord's Supper – in order to remember what He would do for them. And that is why we still do it today. We take the Lord's Supper at church as a way to remind us what Jesus did. He died for our sins.

In another book in the New Testament, we read a little more about this special meal (the Lord's Supper or Communion). **Read I Corinthians 11:24-26.**

- What is the point of taking communion? *To remember Jesus' death.*
- How long are we to remember it? *Until he comes.*

Yes, Jesus will come again! At Christmas we celebrate the FIRST time Jesus came to earth – ushering in NEW CREATION and His Kingdom. We live in that today. We are living in the Kingdom, loving people by being a servant...but one day Jesus will come again and truly make ALL things new! Until then, we are to continue remembering what He did. He came to earth to die on the cross.

THAT is being a true SERVANT!

CONCLUSION

What did we learn today?

- **BOASTFUL FOLLOWERS...** The disciples wanted to be the greatest (not like Mary)
- **SERVANT KING...** Jesus demonstrated true leadership by serving something the disciples did not understand
- **SACRIFICED KING...** After serving by washing the disciples' feet, Jesus explained how he was really going to serve: dying on the cross! This was the ultimate act of love and service!

How do we do it? How do we serve like Jesus did? *We need the Holy Spirit to give us the desire and ability to die to ourselves.* We talked about how all of us like to be the greatest too. We don't like to be the lowest among everyone else – the last chosen for a game or the one who gets the lowest grade on a test – but, Jesus **SHOWS** us and **TELLS** us that it is not about being the **BEST** (always being #1); it's about **SERVING** others in love.

So, how do we do that?

Discuss. Write some ideas on the board.

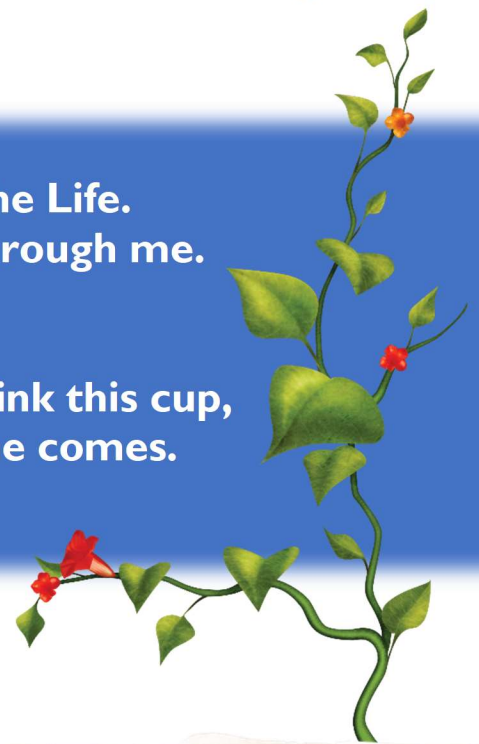
Pass out the wash basin activity sheet – have the children copy a few ideas from the board by writing them in the “water” as a reminder for them of ways they can “wash someone else’s feet” this week.

Serving in humility is placing ourselves **LOWER** than others – thinking of others **BETTER** than ourselves! Let's pray that we can love others as Christ loved us by repenting of our desire to be **FIRST** and asking the Holy Spirit to give us the **LOVE** and **HUMILITY** of Jesus.

VERSES

I am the Way and the Truth and the Life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
John 14:6

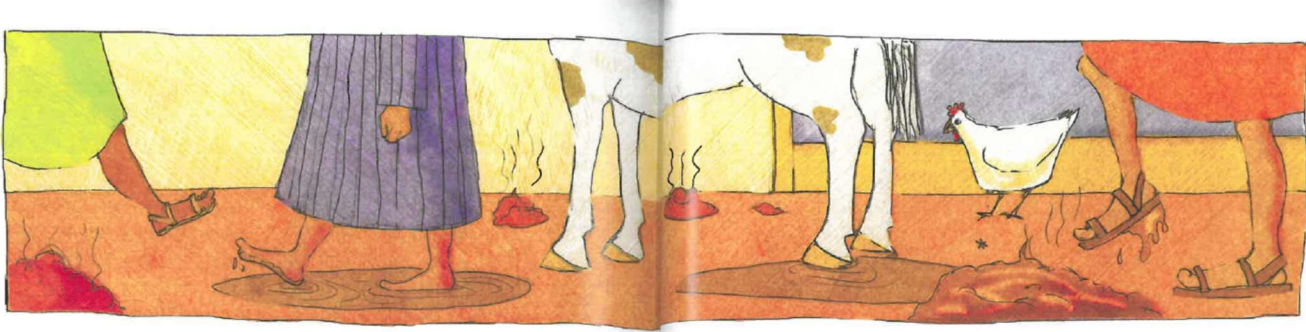
For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
I Corinthians 11:26



PASSOVER

What was this
feast to help the
Jews remember?





The Servant King

The Last Supper, from Mark 14 and John 13–14

IT WAS PASSOVER, the time when God's people remembered how God had rescued them from being slaves in Egypt. Every year they killed a lamb and ate it. "The lamb died instead of us!" they would say.

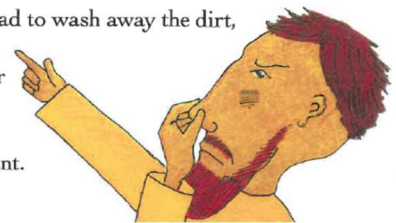
But this Passover, God was getting ready for an even Greater Rescue.

Jesus and his friends were having the Passover meal together in an upstairs room. But Jesus' friends were arguing. What about? They were arguing about stinky feet. Stinky feet? Yes, that's right. Stinky feet.

(Now the thing about feet back then was that people didn't wear shoes; they only wore sandals, which might not sound unusual, except that the streets in those days were dirty — and I don't mean just dusty dirty — I mean really stinky dirty. With all those cows and horses everywhere, you can imagine the stuff on the street that ended up on their feet!)

So anyway, someone had to wash away the dirt, but it was a dreadful job. Who on earth would ever dream of volunteering to do it?

Only the lowliest servant.



"I'm not the servant!" Peter said.

"Nor am I!" said Matthew.

Quietly, Jesus got up from the table, took off his robe, picked up a basin of water, knelt down, and started to wash his friends' feet.

"You can't," Peter said. He didn't understand about Jesus being the Servant King.

"If you don't let me wash away the dirt, Peter," Jesus said, "you can't be close to me."

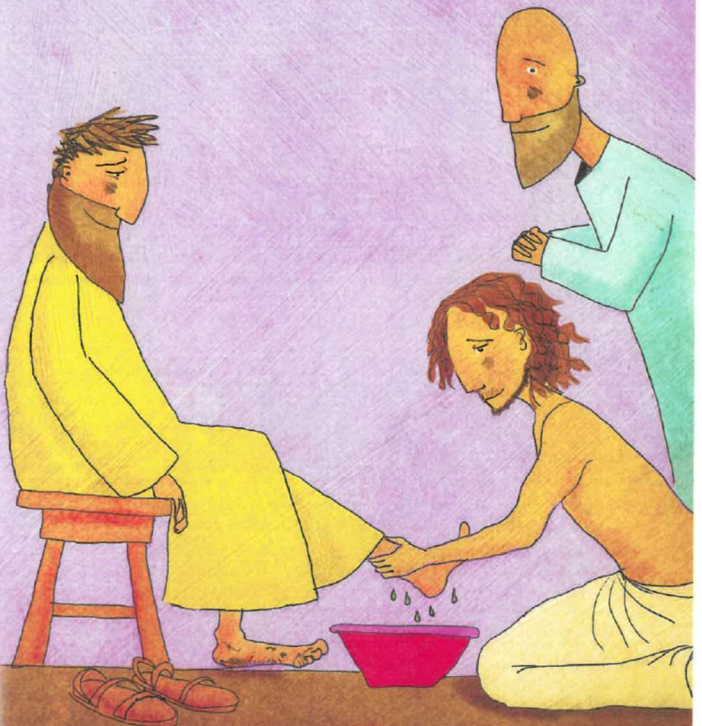
Jesus knew that what people needed most was to be clean on the inside. All the dirt on their feet was nothing compared to the sin inside their hearts.

"Then wash me, Lord!" Peter said, tears filling his eyes. "All of me!"

One by one, Jesus washed everyone's feet.

"I am doing this because I love you," Jesus explained.

"Do this for each other."





JESUS IS THE **SERVANT**...THE **BREAD OF LIFE**...
THE **WINE**...THE **PASSOVER LAMB**...

K s e I r v N i n G g

Write the CAPITAL LETTERS on the first set of lines below; write the lower case letters on the second set of lines

JESUS told his followers that he was the...

but the **KING** was not only about ruling, he was about...

This idea was **CRAZY** to the disciples because they thought the Messiah was to be the **GREATEST**—and being “great” meant never stooping down to do something a servant would do, like...

Circle every other letter. Write the circled letters on the first set of lines; write the “un-circled” letters on the second set of lines...

w F a E s e h t

After washing the disciples' feet, **JESUS** CELEBRATED the **Passover** with them...but not as they would have expected. **HE** took the special items of the **Passover** meal and used them to teach his disciples that he had come to REPLACE the **Passover**!!!

How did he do that?

The **Passover** was a meal to remember how **GOD** freed the Israelites from slavery...

JESUS was now going to use the **Passover** to show how **GOD** would free us from sin and death!



Unscramble the letters to figure out the correct answers...

The **LORD JESUS** took _____,
A D E R B

broke it and said: "This is my _____,
Y O D B

which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.

Then he took the cup, saying, "This cup [filled with

N E I W

D O L O B

drink it, in remembrance of me.

Because of the death and resurrection of **JESUS**...

he has now become our **Passover**...

B L A M



We are able to serve others because **JESUS** served us—by dying for us on the cross!

Name: _____

Washing Feet

JESUS served his disciples by washing their feet. We can “wash feet” too by serving others.

Below, write (or draw) some ways YOU can “wash someone’s feet” this week by **serving** them like **JESUS** served & loved YOU ...

