

3. Jesus Washes Feet (John 13:1-17)

If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet.
(John 13:14)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Foot Towel
Water Table Play
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
I Can Serve Like Jesus
Bible Verse Feet
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Tape | Stickers | Markers | Crayons | Pencils | Glue | Paper | Scissors

Gather: Smocks or large t-shirts | Disposable paper or plastic table covering | Hand towels or washcloths (white or light colors) | Fabric markers | Small tub(s) of water | Variety of sponges | Towels

Explore: No additional supplies needed

Respond: Yarn or binder rings | Small tub(s) of water | Variety of sponges | Towels | *Deep Blue Kids CEB Bibles*

Bless: No additional supplies needed

Before You Teach

Foot washing in the ancient Mediterranean world served both as personal hygiene and a sign of hospitality. Since people wore sandals, their feet would become very dusty from walking outside. A host offered water so the guests could wash their feet when they came inside. Usually, the guest would do it themselves, or the host would have a servant do it. When Jesus washed the disciples' feet, he was combining the roles of servant and host. By washing the disciples' feet, Jesus expressed his love for them and set an example of acting in humility and service.

When Peter voiced his discomfort with Jesus' actions, he was likely giving voice to the surprise that all of the disciples felt. It was not proper for a teacher to wash his followers' feet. By insisting that Peter must let Jesus wash his feet, Jesus was asking him to accept love and hospitality. Letting Jesus wash his feet was more about Peter's willingness to receive Jesus' gesture of love and hospitality than about his need to have clean feet.

When we choose to follow Jesus, we agree to follow his example of serving others. Jesus' commandment to love one another is not a passive commandment. Jesus illustrates by his actions that loving others means being willing to take on the role of a servant.

Following Jesus means looking for opportunities to be in service to others. Encourage the children to look for ways they can serve. Help them understand there are many ways to be in service to others.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display the Attendance Chart (Class Kit—pp. 15–18) at eye level. Put together the model of the zoo and the figures of Benjie, Cinnamon, and the baby elephant (Class Kit—p. 9).

- Play, “A Whole New Level of Love” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD and Leader Guide—p. 91) as you welcome each child.
 - Show the children where to place their offerings, and help each child mark the Attendance Chart with a sticker or permanent marker.
 - Place the Deep Blue Shores Map (Class Kit—p. 11) and the zoo and Benjie, Cinnamon, and the baby elephant figures (Class Kit—p. 9) on a table or on the floor for the children to play with and explore. If available, add the Deep Blue Shores Maps, buildings, and figures from previous quarters.
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A—Foot Towel (Art)

Before class: Purchase or collect a hand towel or washcloth for each child. White or light colors will work best. Cover a table with a disposable paper or plastic tablecloth to protect the table from paint.

- Put a smock or large t-shirt on each child.
 - Give each child a hand towel or washcloth. Explain that the children are creating towels to use to wash or dry their feet with after a dusty and dirty day of playing outside.
 - Invite the children to decorate their foot towels with fabric markers. Discuss why someone might want or need a foot towel.
 - Follow the fabric marker instructions for setting the colors, or communicate the instructions to the parents.
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OR

B—Water Table Play (Sensory)

Before class: Fill a small tub or tubs with water. Have towels nearby for any spills or splashes.

- Place the small tub or tubs of water on a flat surface and place sponges of various types and sizes in the water.
 - Invite the children to explore and play with the water and sponges.
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Transition to Explore

- Have the children help you clean up. Then have them move to the Bible story circle, moving their feet slowly as if they are trudging through mud.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

SAY: During the season of Lent, the time our faith communities prepare for the season of Easter, we are learning stories about Jesus and his faith community. I wonder what we can learn from them.

ASK: I wonder:

- How many friends are here with us today? Who is missing?
 - How do you feel today?
 - What's one thing that happened in your community this week that you really liked?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: Today our Bible story is about something Jesus did for his friends.

- Tell the children the story, "Jesus Washes Feet" (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 428).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 3 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

ASK: How can you serve like Jesus?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of "Jesus Washes Feet" (Bible Story Sheets—Session 3).
- Read the story with the children, encouraging them to read the words in blue.

TIP: Printable "Word Cards" for the words in blue are available each quarter to download and print at www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday.

Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Post the Bible Verse Poster—Unit 1 (Class Kit—p. 3) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster. Say the Bible verse for the children, and then repeat it together.
 - Teach the children signs from American Sign Language for some of the words in the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 94 and www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday).
 - Watch the Unit 1 Bible Verse video (Adventure DVD) with the children.
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Transition to Respond

- Have the children move to the next activity, moving their feet slowly as if they are shaking dust off of them.

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RESPOND

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Post "All Are Welcome" (Class Kit—p. 27) and "Meet Our Neighbors" (Class Kit—p. 13) on a wall or bulletin board. Invite an adult Sunday school class to come and visit your classroom for this activity. Set up two or three chairs and place towels in front of them. Have small tub(s) of water and sponges nearby. The same tubs and sponges from the earlier activity will work, but you will want to change the water.

NOTE: Encourage everyone to participate, but do not force any adult or child to participate in this activity. Consent is important, and not every person feels comfortable being touched in this way. This is an excellent time to be a good example of asking for and giving consent.

- Play, "All Are Welcome" (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD). Sing along and dance to the music.
- Invite the children and the adults to sit on the floor together in front of the chairs and towels. Some adults may need to be seated in chairs rather than on the floor.
- Invite a child or two to summarize the Bible story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet.
- Encourage two or three adults to move to the chairs you set up, remove their shoes, and place their feet on the towels. Encourage one child to kneel on the floor in front of each adult.
- Have the child ask the adult, "May I wash your feet?" and then wait for the adult to respond. Once the adult gives consent, have the child use a sponge to wash the adult's feet and dry them using a towel.
- Continue until everyone who desires to participate has had a turn.

A—I Can Serve Like Jesus (Activity Sheets)

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheets—Session 3 and yarn or binder rings. Invite the children to create "I Can Serve Like Jesus" books according to the instructions.

OR

B—Bible Verse Feet (Puzzle)

Before class: Make a copy of "Bible Verse Feet Puzzle" (p. 24) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of the Bible verse puzzle.
- Encourage the children to complete the Bible verse by matching the footprints and writing the corresponding letters in the blanks. Invite the children to check their work by looking up the verse in their Bibles.

Transition to Bless

- Have the children help you clean up. Then have them move to the Bible story circle as though they just had a bath and are trying not to get their feet dirty.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Cut out the Walking with Jesus Mural Pieces (Class Kit—p. 19) and place them in an envelope or zip-top bag. Post the Walking with Jesus Mural (Class Kit—pp. 2 & 31) on a wall or bulletin board. Prepare one or two pictures of people in your church, family, or community to add to the mural.

- Gather the children around the mural. Invite a child to tape the image of the disciple sitting beside the pitcher and the bowl of water **(D)** somewhere on the mural.

ASK: What do you remember about the Bible story we heard today? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

SAY: In the coming weeks, we will be adding more pictures of people from the Bible who knew Jesus. Some of them knew Jesus before Easter, and some didn't know Jesus until after Easter. We know Jesus too! I wonder who you can think of who is "Walking with Jesus" like the people in our Bible.

- Tell the children about the pictures you prepared before class, and then tape them to the mural. Invite children who brought in their own pictures to tell about them and add them to the mural. Remind the children that they are invited to bring their own pictures of people who are "Walking with Jesus" to add next week.
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Praising

Before class: Display "Singing Together" (Class Kit—p. 25) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Sing together, "I Can Do Good Every Day" (Class Kit—p. 25).

TIP: If time permits, invite the children to choose more songs to sing.

Blessing

- Invite the children to stand with you in a circle.
 - Turn to the child next to you and say, "Peace be with you." Have the child respond by saying, "And also with you" and then turn to the next child and say, "Peace be with you." Continue around the circle giving each child a chance to say both lines. Then conclude by saying, "Amen."
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At Home with God

ASK: What's one thing about our time today that you can tell your family?

- Give each child a copy of Bible Story Sheets—Session 3. Look at "Family Faith Activities" together.

ASK: Which of these activities are you most excited to try this week?

- Send home the Bible Story Sheets—Session 3. If the class made "Foot Towels" (p. 20) using fabric markers, send home any instructions parents may need to set the colors or to wash the towels.

3. Jesus Washes Feet (John 13:1-17)

Bible Verse Feet Puzzle



a



e



o



u

If I, y r L rd nd



t ch r, h v w sh d



y r f t, y t m st



w sh ch th r's f t.



(John 13:14)