Preschool–Grade 6

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus helped His friends, and I can help others too.
Bible passage: John 13. Read John 13:1–17 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "I have given you an example" *John 13:15 (KJV)*. An **example** is something to copy.
You need: a Bible, a bowl and a towel to show (no water needed), a basket and some blocks or toys, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at John 13. Scatter the blocks or toys on the floor.

1. Opening game: Little Helpers (5 minutes)

Say: "Oh no, what a mess! Who can help?" Kids pick up the blocks and put them in the basket. Cheer for every helper. Do it once more, fast! Say: "You were good helpers! Today we will hear a true story about how Jesus helped His friends."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to John 13. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Jesus loved His friends very much (John 13:1). *(Hug yourself.)*
Jesus and His friends ate supper together (13:2). *(Pretend to eat.)*
Jesus got up. He took a towel (13:4). *(Hold up the towel.)*
Jesus poured water into a bowl (13:5). *(Pretend to pour.)*
Jesus washed His friends' feet! (13:5) *(Rub your hands like washing.)*
He dried their feet with the towel (13:5). *(Pat, pat, pat.)*
Say it with me: "Jesus helped His friends!"
Peter said no, never! (13:8) *(Shake your head no.)*
Jesus said He must wash Peter (13:8). *(Nod yes.)*
Then Peter said to wash his hands and his head too! (13:9) *(Point to your hands, then your head.)*
Jesus said, "Do as I have done to you" (13:15). *(Point to yourself.)*
Say it with me: "I can help others too!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. What did Jesus take? *(A towel, John 13:4)*
2. What did Jesus wash? *(His friends' feet, 13:5)*
3. Who did Jesus say we should copy? *(Jesus, 13:15)*

4. Memory verse: Copy Me (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'I have given you an example.' An example is something to copy." Play copy-me: you pat your head, and the kids copy you. Clap, and they copy. Pretend to wash your hands, and they copy. Then say the verse together three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "John 13:15" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: I Can Help (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a bowl of water and a towel, or draw themselves helping someone at home. While they color, ask: "What did Jesus take? How can you help at home?" Kids who finish early can play Little Helpers again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, Jesus, for loving me.
Help me be a helper like You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: let each child hold the towel and pretend to pour from the bowl. Keep the story short and happy. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks why Jesus washed feet: people walked a lot, and their feet got dirty. Jesus loved His friends and helped them.

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