



Helping Kids Choose Love God's Way

When "Me First" Turns Into "You First"

Lesson Aim:

Children will learn that love means putting others first, following Jesus' example of serving His disciples.

Scripture Focus:

- "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you." (John 13:14–15, *ESV*)
- "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34–35, *ESV*)

Connect

- **Connection Point:** Ask: "Have you ever had someone help you with a job you didn't want to do, like chores? How did it make you feel?"

Teach

- Read or retell the story of Jesus Washing the Feet of His Disciples (John 13:1-20).

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

It was the night before Passover. Jesus knew His time with His friends was almost over. Soon He would go to the cross to show the greatest love of all.

That evening, Jesus and His disciples gathered for supper. They sat down at a low table, as people did in those days. But something was missing. In those times, people walked everywhere in sandals. Their feet got dusty and dirty from the roads. Usually, a servant would wash everyone's feet before dinner—but this time, no one did. Then Jesus did something unexpected. He got up from the table, took off His outer robe, and wrapped a towel around His waist. He poured water into a basin and began washing His



Church Lesson | *The Fruit of the Spirit: Love*

disciples' feet, one by one. The disciples were shocked. "What is Jesus doing?" Washing feet was the job of a servant, not a teacher or king.

When Jesus came to Peter, Peter said, "Lord, are You going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You don't understand now, but later you will." Peter replied, "No! You will never wash my feet!" Jesus said, "If I don't wash you, you have no part with Me." Then Peter quickly said, "Then wash not only my feet, but my hands and head too!"

After washing everyone's feet, Jesus put on His robe again and sat down. He said: "Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you're right. But if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I've given you an example. Do as I have done for you."

Jesus showed His disciples that love means putting others first—even in small, humble ways.

- **Discussion Questions:**
 1. Why did Jesus wash His disciples' feet?
 2. What does this story teach us about love?
 3. What are some "you first" ways you can show love this week?
- **Explain:**
 - Jesus showed love by serving, even when it wasn't easy or expected.
 - Love means choosing what is best for others and putting their needs before your own.
 - Jesus' love is not inward and protective, but outward and sacrificial by giving Himself fully for the good of others.

Model

- **Teacher shares:** a time you showed love by helping with someone and putting their needs before you own even though it was hard.
- **Student activity:** Invite kids to draw or act out short role-play scenarios: "me first" vs. "you first" choices (sharing toys, giving up a seat, helping with chores).

Pray

- *"Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us what real love looks like. Help us to follow Your example—to serve, forgive, and put others first. Fill us with Your Spirit so we can love others the way You love us. In Your name we pray, amen."*

Craft/Activity

- **Love in Action Cards:** Give each child a card that says, "I can show love by..." Have them write or draw how they can put others first, and remind them that when we love, we share a piece of God's heart with someone else.

Takeaway

- Love puts others first and helps them follow God's way.