



## Helping Kids Choose Love God's Way When "Me First" Turns Into "You First"

### Lesson Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Retell the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet.
2. Explain how love means putting others first.
3. Identify one way they can show love through serving others.

### 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*)

### Lesson Flow (25 min)

#### 1. Connect (3 min)

- **Opening Thought:** Ask: "What is a chore or job you don't like doing? How would it feel if someone helped you with it?"
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes student attentiveness and willingness to share.

#### 2. Teach (7 min)

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

### Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

On the night before Passover, Jesus shared supper with His disciples. Usually, a servant would wash everyone's dusty feet, but this time no one did. Then Jesus got up, wrapped a towel around His waist, poured water into a basin, and began washing His disciples' feet. They were surprised because this was the job of a servant, not their Teacher and Lord!

When He came to Peter, Peter said, “Lord, are You going to wash my feet?” Jesus replied, “You don’t understand now, but later you will.” At first Peter resisted, but when Jesus explained that this was part of belonging to Him, Peter agreed.

Afterward, Jesus told them, “You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right. But if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you should also wash one another’s feet. I’ve given you an example to follow.”

Through this act, Jesus showed that real love serves others humbly and willingly.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why was it surprising that Jesus washed His disciples’ feet?
2. How does this story show us what love looks like?

- **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.

- **Assessment:** Teacher checks comprehension through answers and engagement.

### 3. Model (7 min)

- **Teacher shares:** A time you showed love in choosing what was best for someone and put their needs before yours.
- **Student activity:** In small groups, act out situations of helping someone (carrying books, sharing supplies, cleaning up together).
- **Assessment:** Teacher notes student participation, creativity, and understanding of “love in action.”

### 4. Pray (2-3 min)

- “Jesus, thank You for showing us how to love by serving. Help us to put others first and love the way You love us. Fill our hearts with kindness and joy as we serve others this week. Amen.”
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes participation and reverence during prayer.

### 5. Closing/Reflection (5 min)

- **Key Takeaway:** Love puts others first and helps them follow God’s way.
- **Student Reflection:** Ask: “What is one way you can serve someone at school or home this week?”
- **Teacher Closes:** Encourage students to practice their reflection action before the next lesson and be ready to share what they did.
- **Assessment:** Teacher listens for understanding in reflections.

### Optional Extension

- Have students write or draw one way they can serve someone else this week. Display their “Love in Action” drawings on a class board or wall to remind everyone that love puts other people’s needs before their own.