TEACHER’S GUIDE

GRADES 3-4
YEAR 1 | SPRING

Sunday School
**I am the light of the world.**

*Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*

John 8:12  
(NIV 1984)
How did Jesus show love for his disciples before his suffering and death?

Jesus washed his disciples’ feet and gave them the Lord’s Supper.

Application: Jesus gave his body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins.

Response: Just as Jesus served us, we show our love for him by serving others.

Lesson Summary: Jesus celebrated the last Passover with his disciples. He showed his great love for them by humbly washing their feet. Then Jesus identified Judas as the one who would betray him. After Judas left to do so, Jesus gave the disciples his body and blood along with bread and wine. This was the first celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

Looking Back at Lesson 9

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard
Matthew 19:27–20:16

Aim: How did the landowner treat his workers?

Truth: The landowner was loving and generous to all his workers.

Application: God gives us eternal life because of his grace—his undeserved love for us.

Response: We are thankful for the gift of eternal life and rejoice when others come to faith in Jesus as their Savior.

Lesson Summary: When Peter thought that the disciples deserved a reward for following Jesus, Jesus told this parable: Early one morning a vineyard owner hired some workers and agreed to pay each a denarius. At different times of the day, the landowner hired more workers. The first workers felt that they should receive more pay than the others, but the owner paid each worker a denarius. He reminded the first workers that he had kept his agreement with them; he simply had chosen to be generous to all the workers.

Memory Treasures: *Matthew 22:37; *1 Corinthians 10:31; *Ephesians 2:8,9; *The Seventh Commandment (with explanation)
Sing: Sing “Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing” (hymn 111:1,2,5). This hymn lists some of the blessings we have through the cross of Jesus.

Pray: Dear Savior, thank you for being willing to suffer and die on a cross so that we can have the blessings of forgiveness, redemption, and heaven. Keep us from ever forgetting the amazing sacrifice you made for us. Amen.

You will need a map that shows Jerusalem, such as Copy Master 1S.

Ask a child to point out Jerusalem on the map. Tell the children that Jesus had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover with his disciples. Explain that the Passover was celebrated by the Jews every year. Ask the children to name as many of the items served at a Passover meal as they can. [Grape wine, lamb, bread made without yeast, and a dipping sauce of bitter herbs.] Also explain that the Jews had a custom of washing the hot, dusty feet of guests.

Today you will hear how Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples for the last time. Listen for the answer to the question, How did Jesus show love for his disciples before his suffering and death?

Note: Remember there are To Do at Home activity options in a separate file on the Teacher’s Guide CD.
On Maundy Thursday, the day before he would die on the cross, Jesus made plans to eat the Passover meal with his disciples. He sent Peter and John into Jerusalem to get everything ready. They prepared for the special meal in a large upstairs room.

Jesus and the rest of the disciples came to the upper room that evening and took their places at the table. Usually at a meal like this a servant would wash the guests’ dusty feet before they ate. But no servant was there, and none of the disciples had chosen to humble himself by washing the feet of the others. So Jesus himself got up from the table and took off his outer robe. He wrapped a towel around his waist and poured some water into a large bowl. Then he began to wash the feet of his disciples and dry them with the towel.

Peter didn’t think it was right for Jesus to do a servant’s job and wash his dirty feet. So when Jesus came to him, Peter said, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

Jesus replied, “Right now you do not understand what I am doing. But someday you will.”

“No!” Peter insisted. “You will never wash my feet. Never!”

“If I don’t wash you, Peter,” Jesus replied, “you cannot belong to me.” Jesus was talking about washing Peter’s sins away.

“Then don’t just wash my feet, Lord,” said Peter. “Wash my head and my hands too.”

Jesus replied, “That won’t be necessary. A person who has already taken a bath only needs to wash his feet to be clean all over.” Jesus was telling Peter that he was already clean since Jesus had washed all his sins away.

When Jesus had finished washing his disciples’ feet, he asked, “Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you should because that’s who I am. Now since I, your Lord and Teacher, have performed this humble service of washing your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have given you an example to follow. You should do for one another what I have done for you.”
As the Passover meal continued, Jesus became very sad and troubled. He said to the disciples, “One of you is going to betray me.”

The disciples were shocked. They stared at one another, wondering which one of them could possibly do such a thing. One by one they asked, “Lord, is it I?” Finally John, who was sitting next to Jesus, leaned over close to him and asked, “Lord, who is it?”

Jesus said, “It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread after I have dipped it into the bowl of sauce.” After Jesus dipped the piece of bread, he handed it to Judas. Judas had already made plans to betray Jesus to his enemies for 30 pieces of silver. After Judas had taken the bread, Satan entered his heart so that he would not give up his wicked plan. So Jesus told him, “What you are going to do, do quickly.” Judas immediately went out into the dark night to meet with Jesus’ enemies.

When the Passover meal was almost finished, Jesus took some bread and gave thanks to his heavenly Father. Then he broke the bread into pieces, gave a piece to each of his disciples, and said, “Take this and eat it. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.”

Then Jesus took a cup of wine. When he had given thanks, he gave it to his disciples and told them, “Drink this and remember me.” This was the first Lord’s Supper.

Then after Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn, they went to the Garden of Gethsemane, just outside Jerusalem.

Discuss You will need duplicates of Copy Master 1.

Do Ask or tell the children why the Jewish people celebrated the Passover. [It was a reminder of how God had “passed over” the homes of the Israelites in Egypt during the tenth plague and had delivered them from slavery.]

Say Jesus and his disciples gathered in an upper room to celebrate the Passover together.

Ask What lowly task did Jesus do for the disciples? [He washed their feet.]
Say When Jesus came to Peter, Peter didn’t want Jesus to wash his feet.

Ask How do you think Peter felt about having Jesus wash his feet? [He may have felt embarrassed or ashamed.]

Say Jesus told Peter, “If I don’t wash you, you cannot belong to me.”

Ask What kind of washing was Jesus talking about? [Washing Peter’s sins away.]

In what way do we all need to be washed by Jesus? [We all need to have our sins washed away.]

Say Jesus told the disciples to follow his example and wash one another’s feet.

Ask What did Jesus mean by this? [They should serve one another in love—do kind things for one another.]

Do Tell the children that Jesus also wants us to “wash one another’s feet”—to show love by serving one another. Divide the class into groups of three or four students. Give each group a duplicate of the copy master, and ask the group members to list ways they can “wash one another’s feet.” Have them share their answers with the class afterward. [Possible responses include helping with the dishes, playing with a younger brother or sister, or helping a friend with homework.] Emphasize that we serve one another out of love for Jesus, to thank him for all he has done for us.

Say Jesus said that one of the disciples would betray him.

Ask What did this mean? [One of Jesus’ disciples would turn against him and help his enemies capture him.]

Say Each of the disciples asked Jesus, “Lord, is it I?”

Ask Why weren’t they sure that they would never betray Jesus? [They knew they were weak and sinful.]

Say Jesus showed the disciples that Judas was the betrayer. Then Jesus told Judas, “What you are going to do, do quickly.”

Ask What was Jesus really inviting Judas to do? [Repent of his wickedness.]

Say Next Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it into pieces. This was unleavened bread—it had no yeast to make it rise. It was baked in small, flat, round loaves, and it was broken instead of sliced. Jesus told the disciples to take the bread and eat it.

• Be a child on the playground who wants to play ball with the other kids but isn’t very good at it.

Say Jesus showed love for his disciples by washing their feet. He also showed love for them by giving them something.

Ask What did Jesus give his disciples that night? [The Lord’s Supper—his body and blood in the bread and wine.]

Say Jesus said, “Do this to remember me.” So ever since that first Lord’s Supper, Christians all over the world have received Jesus’ body and blood in the bread and wine of the Lord’s Supper.

Ask How can the bread be Jesus’ body and the wine be Jesus’ blood? And how can so many people receive Jesus’ body and blood without it being used up? [We can’t understand these things, but since Jesus says that this is what happens, we know it’s true.]

Do Ask the children to agree or disagree with this statement: “You’re too young to go to the Lord’s Supper, so, at least for now, Jesus hasn’t given his body and blood for you.” [The children should disagree. Even though they don’t go to the Lord’s Supper yet, Jesus did give his body and blood for
them when he suffered and died on the cross.

**Ask** Why did Jesus give his body and blood for you? [So that our sins would be forgiven.]

**Say** Even though Jesus knew he was about to suffer and die, he showed love for his disciples at their last supper together.

**Ask** How did Jesus show love for his disciples before his suffering and death? [Jesus washed his disciples’ feet and gave them the Lord’s Supper.]

How could the bread also be Jesus’ body and the wine also be Jesus’ blood? [This is a miracle that we cannot understand. We believe it because Jesus tells us it is so.]

What do we call this special meal? [The Lord’s Supper.]

**Do** Ask or tell the children another name for the Lord’s Supper. [Holy Communion.]

**Ask** Why, then, did Jesus give his body and blood? [For the forgiveness of sins.]

Since you’re too young to receive the Lord’s Supper, how do you get forgiveness of sins? [Because we became God’s children through Baptism, we believe in Jesus as our Savior.]

**Say** You may not go to the Lord’s Supper, but Jesus washed away your sins when you were baptized. And Jesus reminds you that you are forgiven whenever you hear his Word.

**Do** Discuss ways the Communion service can be meaningful for the children. [They can join in and think about the liturgy and the wonderful Communion hymns. They can also think about Jesus’ suffering and death and how Jesus earned forgiveness for their sins.]

**CLOSE**

**Say** Do you remember from your Old Testament lessons how God described the lamb that the Israelites were to eat for the first Passover meal? It was to be a male without any bad marks or defects. The blood of that lamb was used to save the Israelites’ oldest sons from death.

**Ask** Whom did the Passover lamb point ahead to? [Jesus, the Lamb of God, a male without sin whose blood would save us from death.]

**Say** Now Jesus had come and was about to die, so this was the last time the Jews needed to celebrate the Passover. At that last Passover meal, Jesus showed love for his disciples in two ways.

**Ask** How did Jesus show love for his disciples before his suffering and death? [Jesus washed his disciples’ feet and gave them the Lord’s Supper.]
Say 
Jesus also gave his body and blood for us for the forgiveness of our sins. Just as Jesus served us, let’s show our love for him by serving others.

Do 
Sing “O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee” (hymn 316) to praise Jesus for giving his body and blood for us.

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*Matthew 26:41

Memory Treasure Choices

**The Eighth Commandment**
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean?
We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

Judas broke this commandment when he betrayed Jesus to his enemies. We break it every time we speak sinfully about others. God wants us to speak well of others.

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Mark 10:45

Galatians 5:13b

OPTIMAL mid-week Lesson

- Begin by reciting the Mark 10:45 memory treasure together. Discuss its meaning by asking the following: Who is the Son of Man? [Jesus.] What was not a reason he came to earth? [To be served.] For what two reasons did he come to earth? [To serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.] What is a ransom? [A price paid to free someone.] What price did Jesus pay to free us from the devil? [His body and blood.]

Give the children a few moments to silently pray their own prayers thanking Jesus for coming to earth to save them.

- Use Activity 1 (I’m a Reporter) under Lesson Activities to review the story.

- Use Activity 2 to encourage the children to serve one another out of love for Jesus.

- Sing “O Master of the Loving Heart” (hymn 491), with which we ask Jesus to help us serve one another.
Lesson Activities

1. Review

I’m a Reporter

*Purpose:* To review the story by interviewing the students as if they were Jesus’ disciples.

*Procedure:* Point out that Jesus was very well-known, so when he died on the cross, it was big news. Tell the children that you are going to pretend to be a newspaper reporter in Jesus’ time, and the children will be Jesus’ disciples. It is the day after Jesus’ death, and you’ve managed to track down the disciples so that you can find out about their last evening with Jesus. Ask the children questions that review the story. Here are a few to start with:

• Where did you spend your last evening with Jesus?

• Since Jesus knew he would be put to death the next day, was he feeling sorry for himself that night?

• Did you have a servant there to wash your feet?

• Jesus washed your feet? Why did he do that?

Time Line

*Purpose:* To begin a time line that will help the children understand and review the events of Jesus’ passion.

*Procedure:* As a class project, start a time line of the important events of Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection. For each event, give a child a duplicate of Copy Master 2. He or she should draw a picture of the event and write a brief sentence about it. You may choose several important events from one lesson. For example, events chosen from this lesson might include Jesus washing the disciples’ feet and the first Lord’s Supper. Attach a thick strip of black construction paper to a wall or bulletin board, and add each event in order either above or below the line. Continue adding events to the time line as upcoming lessons are studied.

2. Application

Serving Wall

*Purpose:* To make a “serving wall” that will encourage the children to serve Jesus by serving one another.

*Procedure:* Help the children brainstorm ways they can serve one another. Possible ways include helping the teacher with classroom duties, speaking kindly to others, and helping classmates with memory treasure memorization. They should write each idea on a sheet of construction paper that has been cut to resemble a stone. The individual stones can then be attached to a classroom wall or bulletin board to form a stone serving wall. Use this serving wall to encourage each other to serve Jesus by serving one another.

3. Music

“Make Me a Servant”

*Purpose:* To sing a prayer that God would lead us to serve others humbly.

*Procedure:* Teach the children to sing “Make Me a Servant” (*Let All the People Praise You*, Northwestern Publishing House). Point out that with this song we pray that God would lead each of us to be a humble servant, as Jesus was.

4. Art

Lord’s Supper Posters

*Purpose:* To make posters that will remind the children of the meaning of the Lord’s Supper.

*Procedure:* Have the children make Lord’s Supper posters using pictures of a Communion cup and bread or Communion wafers. Have them add captions such as “Given for me.” The children could choose one of the following methods:

• Solidly color a sheet of paper with crayons. Cover the sheet with black poster paint, let the paint dry, and then use a blunt pair of scissors to scratch in the design.
• Cut the symbols and the letters for the captions out of wallpaper samples, and glue them on a dark background.

• Solidly color a sheet of paper with dark-colored crayons. Place it, colored side down, over a clean sheet of paper. Draw the design on the back of the colored sheet. Press heavily to transfer it to the clean sheet below.

5. Review and Apply

Jesus Shows His Love

**Purpose:** To summarize the lesson by filling in blanks and completing an acrostic.

**Procedure:** Have each child complete Copy Master 3. The answers are as follows:


That Reminds Me Of . . .

**(Challenge)**

**Purpose:** To write sentences that summarize the lesson and its meaning for us.

**Procedure:** Have each child complete Copy Master 4. The answers are as follows:

Part One: Answers will vary. Examples of possible answers:

1. Jesus washed the disciples’ feet. He told them to serve one another.

2. Jesus told John that he would give bread dipped in sauce to the one who would betray him. Jesus gave the bread to Judas.

3. Jesus broke bread and gave it to his disciples. He said that the bread was his body.

4. Jesus gave the disciples wine. He told them it was his blood, poured out for the forgiveness of sins.

Part Two: Answers will vary but should be similar to the following:

By washing his disciples’ feet, Jesus taught me to serve others humbly.

I’m thankful that Jesus gave his body and blood for me because now my sins are forgiven.

6. Other Ideas

Jesus’ Last Days

**Purpose:** To keep a record of the ways Jesus served us in the last days of his life.

**Procedure:** Have each child make a booklet as follows:

• Make the booklet by folding sheets of 8½” x 14” paper in half.

• Add a cover made of construction paper, and write on it the title “How Jesus Served Me.”

• On the first page, write a short sentence stating that Jesus gave his body and blood through the Lord’s Supper. Then draw a picture to go with the sentence.

• Continue adding to the booklet as upcoming lessons are studied.