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 perfect love to his disciples in the upper room?

In the upper room Jesus served and cared for his disciples.

*Application:* Jesus’ perfect love moves us to serve him and others in love and humility.

*Response:* We gladly serve and care for our fellow believers.

*Lesson Summary:* In the upper room Jesus washed his disciples’ feet and instituted the Lord’s Supper. He announced that one of them would betray him, thus giving Judas a chance to repent. Jesus also warned Peter that he would deny his Lord three times. Finally, Jesus prayed for his disciples and all believers before leaving for Gethsemane.

*Matthew 26:41
1 Corinthians 10:16
1 Timothy 6:10a
*The Eighth Commandment
*Holy Communion, First
Hymn 111:1,2,5

unleavened—without yeast
betray—to hand over a friend to an enemy
sanctify—set apart for a holy purpose


Dear Jesus, as I think about your perfect love, I marvel at your goodness. Forgive me for the times I haven’t shown love to others. Let the sacrifice you made to earn forgiveness for us lead me to serve and care for others in love. Amen.
Sing: Sing “Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing” (hymn 111:1,2,5) to emphasize that while death on a cross is a horrible thing, to us Jesus’ death is a wonderful blessing because he died for the forgiveness of all our sins.

Pray: Dear Lord, we are privileged again to hear your Word. We thank and praise you for this opportunity to learn more about your amazing love. Amen.

You will need a Valentine card or newspaper wedding announcement (with a picture).

What is love?

Explain that the word love is used in a variety of ways. Then show the card or newspaper clipping. Ask what one type of love is. [Romantic love, love between spouses.] Ask the students to name other types of love. [Family love, friendship, “tough” love when necessary, a strong like (I “love” pizza), false or phony love that isn’t real, etc.] Then ask how people show they love someone else. [Hugs, kisses, kind actions, pleasant words, seeking the best for the other person, taking care of that person, etc.]

Point out that even though we love other people, we will still have disagreements, misunderstandings, arguments, and hurt feelings. That’s because we are imperfect people—sinners who do not always show perfect love. Only one shows perfect love at all times. That is Jesus. He is able to show perfect love because he is without sin.

Today we will hear about a gathering of people in an upper room. We will answer the question, How did Jesus show perfect love to his disciples in the upper (upstairs) room?
**GOD'S WORD**

**John 13:1-17**
Explain that these Bible events took place the night before Jesus died on the cross.

1. It was the lowliest servant’s duty to wash the dusty feet of the sandal-wearing guests. Imagine you are one of the disciples. Write what you might have thought as Jesus began to wash the disciples’ feet. [Why is Jesus doing this? He’s our Lord, not a lowly servant!]

2. When speaking with Peter, Jesus used figurative language. Because sinners are spiritually dirty, Jesus used the example of washing feet to teach an important truth. Cross out the incorrect sentences.
   - Believers have been forgiven and cleansed through Jesus.
   - Believers’ lives of humble service make them clean.
   - Believers still need to “have their feet washed” because Jesus’ forgiveness is not complete.
   - Believers still need to “have their feet washed” because each day they sin and therefore ask God daily for forgiveness.
   [The second and third sentences should be crossed out.]

3. Circle all the correct sentence endings: Jesus washed his disciples’ feet . . .
   - as an example of humbly serving others.
   - as a way of showing the fullness of his love.
   [Both phrases should be circled.]

**KEY POINT** Why did Jesus wash his disciples’ feet? Jesus washed his disciples’ feet as an [example] of humble [love].

**GOD’S WORD TODAY** Serving others
At a church picnic, you are asked to sit with the younger children and help them with their food.
- Circle one statement that best describes what your first thought might be.
  - I’m too old!
  - Ask someone else.
  - Are you serious?
  - Why me?
  - That’s not my job.
  - Not me!

1. Give the explanation before God’s Word 1, item 1 and the first sentence in item 1. Divide the class into pairs. Have one partner pantomime Jesus' actions and the other partner tell what the disciples might have been thinking. [See God’s Word 1, item 1 answer.]

2. Have the students complete God’s Word 1, item 2.

3. Have the students read God’s Word 1, item 3. Tell them both phrases are correct. Then direct them to find the verses in John chapter 13 that prove each phrase and write the reference after the phrase. [Verses 15 and 1.]

**A Servant’s Heart**
Divide the class into small groups. (Small class: Work as a single unit.) Direct each group to work together to compile a list of tasks they could accomplish this week to humbly serve (help) family members (four tasks), friends or classmates (four), teachers (two), and other adults (two). Encourage each student to follow Jesus’ example by selecting at least one task from the list and completing it.
4. Across the board write “Looked like” and “Really was.” Have one student at a time write a description of Judas under one of them. 
[Looked like: a loyal disciple, he loved Jesus, etc. Really was: planning to betray Jesus, loving money more than Jesus, filled with Satan, etc.]

5. Have the students write their own scrambled sentences explaining why Jesus confronted Judas and then exchange their sentences with others to solve.

6. Ask how Jesus showed love to Peter. [Jesus warned Peter that Satan wanted him to fall from faith and that in weakness of faith Peter would deny Jesus.]

**God’s Word**


4. Explain how Judas was a “disciple in disguise.” [Outwardly Judas looked like a loyal disciple, but he had plotted with Jesus’ enemies to betray Jesus for money and Satan had entered his heart.]

5. Jesus knew Judas’ heart and plan. Unscramble the order of these words to form a sentence that explains why Jesus confronted Judas about his plan.

Judas for of repent Out to him wanted Judas love

[Out of love for Judas, Jesus wanted him to repent.]

6. Of what did Jesus warn Peter? Above each “Warning!” write the correct word.

a. Warning! wanted Peter’s faith to fail.

b. Out of weakness of Peter would deny Jesus times.

[Answers: a. Satan, fail; b. faith, deny, three.]

**Key Point**

How did Jesus show love toward Judas and Peter?

Jesus gave warnings to Judas and Peter not to fall into Satan’s traps.

**God’s Word Today**

**A Sneaky Situation**

Imagine that a Christian classmate tells you that he’s been hanging out with friends who sneak beer out of their houses and that he drinks beer with them. He tells you that because you’re his friend, he’s trusting you not to tell anyone—especially his parents—about this. Read the two options below, and circle the better way to show Christian love for your classmate.

• Keep his secret and pray that he’ll stop.
• Warn him that he’s sinning by drinking (breaking the law and disobeying his parents), tell him that Satan wants him to sin in this way, and tell him he needs to talk to his parents about this.

Explain your answer: [The students should have circled the second option because warning a fellow Christian about sin, as Jesus warned Judas and Peter, is a necessary and loving thing to do.]

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7. Jesus’ actions that follow show perfect love for his followers. Select the correct verses that match each statement.


a. Jesus assured his disciples of a place for them in heaven. [John 14:1,2,]
b. Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper so that his followers would receive its forgiving benefits through the bread (Jesus’ body) and wine (Jesus’ blood). [Luke 22:19,20,]
c. Jesus prayed that God the Father would protect his disciples from spiritual harm. [John 17:9,11b,15,]
d. Jesus prayed that all future believers would remain in faithful unity. [John 17:20,21,]

Point out how awesome it is that Jesus prayed for us the night before he died on the cross!

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**KEY POINT** How did Jesus show love for the disciples and all believers?

Jesus instituted the [Lord’s] [Supper], gave the disciples and us the assurance of [heaven], and [prayed] for us.

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**Prayer Phrases**

How could you make praying for others a more regular and important part of your life? The phrases below might give you ideas. Choose one phrase, circle it, and use it to write a goal for increasing the amount you pray for others.

- prayer notepad
- prayer group
- prayer time
- hymnal prayers (pages 123-131,134-139)

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7. Divide the class into four groups. Assign one passage from God’s Word 3, item 7 to one person within each group. As you read each of Jesus’ actions, the students with the matching passages should raise their hands. If you have fewer than four students, read each reference and have the students complete God’s Word 3, item 7.

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**Paper Pass**

Have the students pass several sheets of paper around the room. Tell them that each time a paper comes to them, they are to quickly write on it one way that they can serve or care for fellow believers. The catch: They must read the ideas already on the paper and not repeat them. [Examples: Pray for people who are sick, warn people who are sinning, help people who are sad, etc.] Encourage the students to show their appreciation for Jesus’ perfect love by serving and caring for others in love.
Ask the students to read aloud with their parents Jesus’ prayer for all believers (John 17:20-26). Afterward they could pray with their parents for fellow believers they know.

On the board write “Serve—Warn—Assure—Pray—Love.” Ask the students to tell how each of these words from today’s lesson applies to us. [Serve: Jesus wants us to humbly serve one another. Warn: Sinners need to be warned of Satan’s attacks. Assure: We are assured a place in heaven. Pray: Jesus prayed for us and we ought to pray for others. Love: We show love to others out of love and thanks for Jesus’ great love for us.]

In unison pray the first prayer under “For Love of Others” on page 137 in the hymnal.

My goal: I will [Example: find a notepad to use as a prayer notepad. I’ll keep it and a pen in my pocket and write down prayer ideas as they come up each day and pray those things at night.]

**Aim:** How did Jesus show perfect love to his disciples in the upper room?

**Truth:** In the upper room Jesus [served] and cared for his disciples.

**Application:** Jesus’ perfect love moves us to [serve] him and others in [love] and humility.

**Response:** We gladly [serve] and [care] for our fellow believers.

Tell your parents how Jesus served his disciples, and then work together to list ideas for how your family can anonymously serve others. (Examples: Donate food to the food bank or church “help” pantry, donate clothes or toys to a charity, send a religious encouragement card to a believer, pray for someone.) Keep in mind that as followers of Jesus, we want to perform all service out of love, not for praise or recognition.

In unison pray the first prayer under “For Love of Others” on page 137 in the hymnal.

**Student’s initials: ____  **  **Parent’s initials: ____**

**CLOSE**

You will need a **cotton ball** and an **abrasive cleaning pad**.

Show the cotton ball and abrasive cleaning pad. Ask which one the students would want to use to clean a wound, and tell why, [Cotton ball. It is softer and gentler. The cleaning pad would hurt the wound.]

Explain that every day we act in harsh, nasty ways (show the cleaning pad) instead of gentle, loving ways (show the cotton ball) toward one another. However, Jesus gave us the perfect example of serving one another with his perfect love that was strong yet gentle and humble. Out of thankfulness to him, we also want to treat others in kind, gentle, and humble ways.

Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for teaching us how we can show Christian love for each other. Help us follow your example today and every day. Amen.
Lesson Activities

1. Review

Follow Jesus’ Footsteps

*Purpose:* Students will review the lesson through a true-false exercise.

*Procedure:* Have each student complete Copy Master 1. The answers are as follows:

[All sentences are true except numbers 8, 11, 14, and 17. “Just as Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, we should serve each other in love.”]

2. Application

Ready to Receive Holy Communion

*Purpose:* Students will examine the blessings of the Lord’s Supper.

*Procedure:* Have each student complete Copy Master 2. The answers are as follows:

[1. pastor (or vicar, teacher, parent); 2. Bible (God’s Word) and Luther’s Catechism; 3. bread and wine; Jesus’ body and Jesus’ blood (or bread and Jesus’ body, wine and Jesus’ blood); note that in Luke 20, “cup” refers to wine; 4. Circle: b, c, d, f]

*Matthew 26:41

Where is this written?
The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the apostle Paul tell us: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Hymn 111:1,2,5
For hymn texts, use the hymnal or the electronic memory treasure files for your grade level.

*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.

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion*

*First:* What is the Sacrament of Holy Communion?
It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ for us Christians to eat and to drink.

*Where is this written?*
The holy evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and the apostle Paul tell us: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Hymn 111:1,2,5
For hymn texts, use the hymnal or the electronic memory treasure files for your grade level.

Memory Treasures Exercises

• Put a dollar sign by the reference for the verse that describes a reason for Judas’ downfall.
  [1 Timothy 6:10a.]

• Draw praying hands by the reference for the verse that warns us about Satan’s strategy against us.
  [Matthew 26:41.]
Class Service Project

Purpose: Students will be encouraged to think of service to others.

Procedure: Encourage the students to follow Jesus’ example by selecting a service project to do for the church or some members. Brainstorm a list of possibilities: cleaning the church, planting flowers, making cards for shut-ins, holding a food drive, shoveling sidewalks for elderly members, etc. Vote on the project(s) to complete. Ask some parent volunteers to help make it happen.

3. Music

Sing the Good News

Purpose: Students will examine the contents of Communion hymns.

Procedure: Have the students look at the hymnal’s “Holy Communion” section and tell which hymns they like to sing during Communion. Discuss how different hymns reflect the “real presence” (Jesus’ body and blood is in, with, and under the bread and wine) and the spiritual blessings of Communion. Let the students vote to select one hymn to sing together.

4. Writing

Choosing Jesus’ Way

Purpose: Students will select a writing option to illustrate one of the truths Jesus taught.

Procedure: Have each student select one of the following categories to express a truth that Jesus taught in the lesson.

- Write a newspaper “help wanted” ad describing the qualities Jesus expects of his believers. (See newspaper “help wanted” ads as examples of how such ads are written.)
- Create a poster warning against Satan’s temptations. Use Bible verses, Bible examples, and your own words.
- Write an explanation of what the Lord’s Supper is and its benefits/blessings. (See “The Lord’s Supper” in the catechism and Copy Master 2.)

- Write a paragraph explaining why you have the assurance of heaven and why you are thankful for that assurance.
- Write a prayer in which you pray for other believers and their spiritual welfare.

Intercessory Prayers

Purpose: Students will write an intercessory prayer on behalf of another person.

Procedure: Have the students look up the meaning of *intercede* or tell them that it means to “plead or speak on behalf of someone else.” Explain that prayers prayed on behalf of someone else are called intercessory prayers. Ask them to identify the two intercessory prayers in today’s text. [Jesus prayed for his disciples (John 17:9-19) and for future believers, including us (John 17:20-26).] Students are to take a moment to think of a person for whose spiritual welfare or encouragement they could pray. Point out that praying is “talking” to God (casual) and not always a formal prayer. Direct them to write a casual intercessory prayer to God concerning the person they thought about.

5. Bible Study

Jesus Teaches Us

Purpose: Students will match Bible references with their meanings.

Procedure: Have each student complete Copy Master 3. This activity can be completed individually or in small groups. The answers are as follows:


Part Two:

1. Be humble, gentle, patient (long-suffering), and loving.
2. In everyday life, on the playground, with brothers or sisters at home, during competitive games, when we talk to one another, etc.

3. God forgives us through Jesus and gives us strength to resist Satan’s temptations.