TEACHER’S GUIDE
PREKINDERGARTEN-KINDERGARTEN
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)
Why did Jesus act like a servant for his disciples?

Jesus acted like a servant for his disciples to show he loved them.

Application: Jesus wants us to love and serve other people.

Response: We serve others out of love for Jesus and them.

Lesson Summary: On the night before Jesus died, he acted like a servant for his disciples—he did the lowly job of washing their feet. By this Jesus taught the disciples to love and help one another.

Mark 10:45

disciples—men Jesus chose to follow him, learn from him, and tell others about him


Dear heavenly Father, in your Word I see the perfect life of love and service your Son, Jesus, lived for me. Help me follow his example by serving others out of love for them and for you. Forgive me for the many times I am selfish and put my wants ahead of the needs of those around me. Lead me to turn to you for forgiveness. Help my students and me look for and carry out ways to love and serve others. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

Looking Back at Lesson 9

The Workers in the Vineyard
Matthew 19:27,30; 20:1-16

Aim: What does God give his workers?

Truth: God gives his workers amazing love and kindness.

Application: We do not deserve the love and kindness God gives us.

Response: We thank God for giving us gifts we do not deserve.

Lesson Summary: Jesus told the story of a vineyard owner who hired workers throughout the day. The workers hired first agreed to a certain amount of pay. At the end of the day, the owner gave that amount of money to each worker, regardless of when the worker was hired. When those who had worked the longest complained, the owner reminded them of the agreement they had made. He also stated that he could be generous with his own money and pay the workers as he wished.

Memory Treasure: James 1:17

www.nph.net/christlight for Teaching Helps podcast information.
Begin by singing the Verse of the Day (hymnal, page 30). The words and optional actions are printed here:

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
These words are written (hold hands like open book)
that we may believe (point to self)
that Jesus is the Christ, (make cross with index fingers)
the Son of God. (point up)
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

You need a table and chairs, some folded papers (to serve as menus), a serving tray, and some dishes.

Pull out chairs to seat a few children at a table as diners at a restaurant. Then act out serving the diners: giving them menus, taking their orders, bringing their food, checking how everything is, clearing their dishes, and so on. Then have the diners return to their places.

I just pretended to be a servant to people at a restaurant. In our Bible lesson, we will hear about a time when Jesus acted like a servant. We will learn why Jesus acted like a servant for his disciples.
You need a large towel and a dishpan.

Wrap a towel around your waist when telling about Jesus doing so. As you tell the rest of the story, go from child to child, pretending to wash each person’s feet in the dishpan and then to dry them with a towel. The children do not need to remove their shoes.

One Thursday night Jesus and his disciples ate a special dinner together. Jesus knew that the next day he would suffer and die for the sins of all people. He also knew he would come back to life and later leave his disciples and go back to heaven. So during the special dinner, Jesus taught his disciples about loving and serving one another.

First Jesus got up from the meal and took off his robe. He wrapped a towel around his waist. Then he poured water into a bowl and began to wash his disciples’ feet. He used the towel to dry their feet.

When Jesus came to Peter, Peter did not think Jesus should wash his feet. He said, “Lord Jesus, are you going to wash my feet?” Jesus said to Peter, “Right now you do not understand what I am doing. But later you will understand.”

Peter said, “No! You shall never wash my feet!”

Jesus told Peter, “If I don’t wash your feet, then you are not one of my people.” Peter said, “Oh, Jesus, then wash my hands and my head too!”

But Jesus explained that a person who has had a bath and then walks somewhere really only needs his feet cleaned. The rest of the body is not dirty. Then Jesus washed the feet of Peter and of each disciple.

Jesus put his robe back on and went back to his place at the dinner table. Then he said, “Do you understand what I have done? You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord.’ Yes, I am your Teacher and your Lord. I am the one you love and look up to. If I have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. I have shown you what to do. You are to serve others as I have served you. All people will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”

Place each of the following items in a large box: a plate, a cross, a towel, a large bowl, and a paper heart. Show each one at the appropriate time as you tell the story. When telling about Peter saying Jesus should not wash his feet, have the children shake their heads “no.”
Display a picture of Jesus. You need a copy of Copy Master 2 (cut out the arrow and attach it to the circle with a brass fastener), a Bible, and a dishpan. You will draw on the board.

Do Open a Bible to Mark 10:45.
Say Listen to part of God’s Word that calls Jesus (point to Jesus) the “Son of Man.”
Do Read the memory treasure.
Ask What does it mean to serve someone? [To help that person.]
Say Jesus did not come to earth to have people serve him and do things for him. Jesus came to serve sinners like the disciples and you and me.
Do Show a dishpan.
Ask What did Jesus do to serve the disciples? [Washed their feet.]
Say Usually a servant did the job of washing people’s feet. But Jesus, God’s Son, acted like a servant for his disciples. He washed their feet to show the disciples that he loved them.
Do Lead the children in saying the passage. (You may choose to use “Jesus” instead of “Son of Man.”) Then draw a cross.
Ask What did Jesus do to help all people? [Died on a cross to take away all sins.]

Discuss
You need a student lesson picture, a Bible, a paper heart, and a large box filled with many or all of the following: a washcloth, an adhesive bandage, a Bible story book, a plate, a pair of shoes with laces, a small gardening shovel, canned food, and some crayons.

Do Show a student lesson picture and ask what is happening. [Jesus is washing the disciples’ feet.]
Say Jesus was doing the job that a servant usually did. Jesus, God’s Son, was acting like a servant to show his disciples that he loved them.
Do Open a Bible to Mark 10:45. Read the memory treasure.
Ask Did Jesus come to earth so people could do things for him or did he come to earth to help sinners like you and me? [To help sinners like us.]

What great thing did Jesus do to help all sinners? [Died on a cross to take away all sins.]

Do Have the children form a cross with their index fingers.
Say Jesus did not come to earth to have people be his servants and do things for him. Jesus came to serve others and to take away the sins of all people.
Do Say the passage for and then with the children. Suggestion: Have the children say “Jesus” instead of “The Son of Man.”
Ask After Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, what did he tell the disciples to do? [Serve others.]

Say Jesus also wants us to serve other people.
Do Show a paper heart.
Say When we do that, we show love to Jesus and to others.
Do Show the box of items. Pull out one item, and tell how you could use it to serve others. [Example: A child could use a washcloth to help a little sister wash her hands.] Place the item back into the box. Then hand the paper heart to a child. Have that child choose an item and give an example of how to use it to serve others. That child then places the item back into the box and hands the paper heart to someone else. Repeat until several (all) of the children have had turns. Items can be used more than once since people can use them in different ways as they serve others. For example, a plate could represent clearing dishes for Mom, taking a plate of cookies to an elderly neighbor, or helping a younger sibling set the table.
Say Jesus served us in the best way by loving us so much that he died to take away our sins.

Do Show the paper heart.

Say We show love to him as we serve other people.

CLOSE Give one child a towel and a dishpan.

Do Have the child pretend to wash and dry another child’s feet.

Ask What did Jesus do for his disciples to show he loved them? [Washed their feet.]

Say Jesus did the job of a servant. He taught his disciples and us to love and serve other people.

Ask To whom do we show love when we help and serve other people? [To those people and to God.]

Say Each day let’s look for ways to serve other people out of love for them and Jesus!

Do Pray: Dear Jesus, you have shown us how to love and serve others. Help us look for ways to serve other people to show our love to them and to you. Thank you for showing us the greatest love by saving us from our sins. Amen.

Do Draw a large heart.

Say Jesus showed his great love by dying to save sinners.

Do Show the dishpan again.

Say After Jesus washed his disciples’ feet, he told the disciples to serve other [people]. Jesus also wants us to serve other people. When we do that we show love (point to heart) to them and to Jesus. (Point to Jesus.)

Do Show the circle made from the copy master. Have a child move the arrow to point to one picture. Have that child call on another child to explain how the picture shows a way to serve someone. Continue for the remaining pictures. [The pictures show that a child can sweep his family’s or an elderly neighbor’s sidewalk; pick up trash at home, at church, or in the neighborhood; help a parent make and take food to a sick or lonely person or someone new in the neighborhood.]

Say By loving and serving others, we are also loving and serving our Savior.

Show a student lesson picture. You will draw on the board.

Ask Why did Jesus (point to him) act like a servant and wash his disciples’ feet? (Point to disciples.) [To show he loved them.]
Draw a heart. Jesus wants us to love and serve others. When we do that, we also show love to God.

Have the children practice their response before closing with the following litany:

Teacher: Jesus, help us serve people we know
Children: To show love to you and to them.
T: Jesus, help us serve people we do not know (response).
T: Jesus, help us serve all people, even those who are not kind to us (response).
T and C: Amen.

Parent Idea: Trace your child’s hand on a sheet of paper. Then draw an outline around the fingers to make praying hands. Inside those praying hands, print the words of the prayer found under the first student lesson activity. Start each day by saying or singing those words with your child. Before long, you’ll both have the prayer memorized!

Parent Idea: Do the second student lesson activity to help your family practice thinking of ways to serve other people. During our next class, we will be listing examples of ways to love and serve others.

Note: Do this activity during your next class.
Use Activity 3 (Love and Serve) under Lesson Activities to begin.

Use Activity 1 (Water Drop Questions) under Lesson Activities to review the story.

Before class, cut a large paper or poster board heart into puzzle pieces. You need one puzzle piece for every two children and one for you. On each puzzle piece write down a person we can love and serve. Possibilities include mother, father, a new neighbor, a classmate without a lunch, a sick sibling, a sitter, a woman pushing a stroller up to a closed door, a teacher, a family whose house was destroyed in a storm, an elderly neighbor whose driveway is covered with snow, a mom with a brand-new baby, a poor person, and a family whose dad is a soldier in a faraway country.

During class, recall that Jesus wants us to serve others. Show one puzzle piece and read the person on it. Explain a way you could serve that person. [Sitter: A child can pick up toys and get pajamas on without being asked.] Then attach that puzzle piece to a large sheet of paper.

Pair the children. Give each pair a puzzle piece, and read the description of the person whom they are to think about serving. After each pair has a puzzle piece, give the partners a short time to discuss ways they could help and serve their person.

Once the allotted discussion time has ended, have a pair of children stand in front of the class. One partner should tell about the person described on the puzzle piece and then give an example of how to serve that person. Have the other partner attach the pair’s puzzle piece to the paper. (Give help, as needed, to form a heart.) Repeat for each set of partners. Then have the children identify the shape of the completed puzzle. [Heart.] Say that the heart reminds us to serve others out of love for them and for Jesus.

Use Activity 2 (Serve in Love Litany) from Lesson Activities to close.

Choose and use the Lesson Activities that best meet the needs of your students.
Lesson Activities

1. Review

Water Drop Questions
Purpose: To use questions to review the story.

Procedure: Cut out several paper water drops. On each one write a question from the story. Put the drops into a dishpan or large bowl. Have a child select a water drop. Read the question and have that child answer. (If necessary, allow the child to ask a friend for help.) Repeat until all the water drops have been used. Possible questions follow:

- Who ate a special dinner together? [Jesus and his disciples.]
- What would happen to Jesus on the day after the special dinner? [He would suffer and die to take away all sins.]
- What did Jesus wrap around his waist? [A towel.]
- What did Jesus pour into a bowl? [Water.]
- What two things did Jesus do to the disciples’ feet? [Washed them in water; dried them with a towel.]
- Who usually did the job of washing feet? [A servant.]
- Which disciple did not want Jesus to wash his feet? [Peter.]
- What did Jesus want his disciples to do? [Love and serve others.]

Story Song
Purpose: To sing a song based on the story and its application.

Procedure: Sing the following words to the tune of “Take the World, but Give Me Jesus” (hymn 355).

Who’s there, serving the disciples?
Who’s there, washing all their feet?
Jesus, serving the disciples;
Jesus, washing all their feet.

Who will want to serve like Jesus?
Who will help the ones we meet?
We will want to serve like Jesus.
We will help the ones we meet.

2. Application

Following Jesus’ Footsteps Discussion
Purpose: To discuss ways we can be like Jesus and serve others.

Procedure: Make three copies of Copy Master 3. Draw each of the following pictures on a separate footprint: the face of a yelling boy, lots of toys, two girls standing under a bright sun. Show each picture, and use the scenarios that follow to help the children understand what the pictures describe. Ask if the person in the scenario is following in Jesus’ footsteps by serving others. If someone is not following in Jesus’ footsteps, discuss what that person could do differently to love and serve others.

- A boy pushes to be first in line for a drink. “Me first!” he yells. “I need a drink now!” [Not following; just go to the end of the line or let someone else go first.]
- A boy has many toys. He sees a boy with few. The first boy says, “I would be glad to share with you. Would you like to play with me?” [Following Jesus’ footsteps.]
- Two girls are outside on a nice day. One girl says, “I know it is a nice day, but let’s go inside. My neighbor is sick, and I do not want to bother him with our noise.” [Following Jesus’ footsteps.]

Serve in Love Litany
Purpose: To say a litany about serving others out of love for them and God.
Procedure: First teach the children their response and the suggested actions. Then say the litany.
Suggestion: Use the litany at a certain time each day to encourage the children to love and serve one another. This litany might be especially helpful on a day when the children are having trouble getting along!

Teacher: Because God loves us, we
Children: Serve one another in love. (hold hands out, palms up; cross fists over heart)
T: Our friends are blessings from God, so we (response).
T: Because we love our friends, we (response).
T: Dear God, always help us to (response).

Service Project
Purpose: To carry out a service project.
Procedure: Plan and then carry out some type of service project: a food drive, a visit to a nursing home to sing for the residents, a clean-up day (children wear plastic gloves and pick up litter). Recruit parents and other volunteers to join you in this labor of love.

3. Music

Love and Serve
Purpose: To sing about loving and serving others.
Procedure: Teach the following words to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”
Love, love, love, and serve—
That is what we’ll do.
Happily, happily serve other people.
Serve our Savior too!

Musical Prayer
Purpose: To sing a prayer asking for Jesus’ help in serving others.
Procedure: Sing the words of the following prayer to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.”
Jesus, let me be like you,
Showing love in all I do,
Giving help to people here,
Serving them with joy and cheer.
Help me gladly show my love
To people and to God above. Amen.

Other Songs
Purpose: To sing other lesson-related songs.
Procedure: Teach one or more of the following:
• “A Little Kindness (Recipe of Love)” from Copy Master 4.
• “Be Kind” from Copy Master 5.
• Stanzas 1 and 2 of “Praise Him, Praise Him” from Little Ones Sing Praise (Concordia Publishing House).

4. Art

Serve in Love
Purpose: To make a reminder that Jesus tells us to serve others in love.
Procedure: Show the children how to fold a sheet of red construction paper in half and cut a paper heart from it. Have the children cut out their own hearts and glue them to sheets of white paper with “Serve in love” written on them. Then have each child trace a hand on paper of a different color, cut out the hand, and glue it onto the middle of the heart. Finally, have each child either draw a cross in the middle of the hand or cut out a black cross and glue it there. Explain that the cross reminds us of Jesus serving us, the heart reminds us to love him, and the hand reminds us to serve him and others.

“Following in Jesus’ Footsteps” Bulletin Board
Purpose: To illustrate ways we follow Jesus’ example of loving and serving others.
Procedure: Discuss some ways to love and serve others. Then give each child a large footprint or shoe print made from light-colored paper. Make sure some are left feet and others are right. On the footprints have the children illustrate ways they can serve others. Attach a picture of Jesus to
a top corner of a bulletin board. Then attach the children’s footprint pictures so they are in a path following Jesus. Add the heading “Following in Jesus’ Footsteps!” Optional: Scatter happy faces, hearts, and crosses on the bulletin board to represent our faith in Christ and our gladness to serve him by serving others.

Class Book
Purpose: To make a book about ways to serve others.

Procedure: Have each child draw a picture of a way to love and serve someone. Have the children tell what their drawings are about. Write their words on their pages. Then bind all the pictures in a class book entitled “What Can I Do to Serve Others?” Read the book to the class. Have the children take turns taking it home to read with their families.

5. Other Ideas

Work Out the Wiggles
Purpose: To act out ways to serve others.

Procedure: Duplicate Copy Master 2. Glue the copy to heavier paper to make the pieces sturdier. Cut out the arrow and the circle. Use a brass fastener to attach the arrow to the circle at the center. Have a child spin the arrow, and then lead the class in doing the activity indicated by the arrow. Repeat until several (all) of the children have had turns. The picture of the mother and daughter represents taking cookies to a sick or lonely neighbor or to someone new in the neighborhood.

Serving Action Rhyme
Purpose: To learn an action rhyme about serving our friends.

Procedure: Teach the following words and actions:
- Because of God’s love, (cross fists over heart)
- We will serve our friends.
  (hold hands out, palms up)
- We’ll share God’s love, (cross fists over heart)
  Which never ends!
  (move hands in circles again and again)

Serving Others Hopscotch Game
Purpose: To play a game of hopscotch based on serving others.

Procedure: Make a hopscotch board like the one pictured. Put each verse on a separate piece of cardboard. Tape the five hopscotch sections to the floor so they will not slide out from under the children’s feet. Demonstrate how to step onto one set of footprints and say the rhyme. Then do the other four sections. Then have the children do it one at a time. Say the rhyme until they can say it with you.