

YEAR A | QUARTER 1

11

The Servant Master

Service
We serve self-sacrificially.

POWER TEXT

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:14, 15).

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 22:7-13; John 13:1-17
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 71, pp. 642-651
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 55-64
- Student story on page 122 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 16, The Lord's Supper
- No. 21, Stewardship
- No. 9, The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that Jesus calls them to be servants.
- **Feel** a desire to serve others.
- **Respond** by looking for opportunities to serve as Jesus would.

POWERPOINT

We share God's love with others when we serve them.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus is our best example of service. He comes here to earth to be a servant. When He washes His disciples' feet, He does what no other master would do for a slave, or teacher would do for a student. He does it to show God's love for people then and now.

This is a lesson about service.

We can share God's love with others by doing servantlike acts for our friends, family, and neighbors. When we share God's love with others through acts of kindness, we are serving them.

Teacher Enrichment

Ellen White explains that the foot-washing service is meant to ready us for the Communion service. If pride and competition for leadership are cherished, our minds cannot fully open up to Jesus Christ. "We are not prepared to receive the communion of His body and His blood. Therefore it was that Jesus appointed the memorial of His humiliation to be first observed. . . .

". . . There is in man a disposition to esteem himself more highly than his brother, to work for self, to seek the highest place; and often this results in evil surmisings and bitterness of spirit. The ordinance preceding the Lord's Supper is to clear away these misunderstandings, to bring man out of his selfishness, down from his stilts of self-exaltation, to the humility of heart that will lead him to serve his brother" (*The Desire of Ages,* p. 650).

What does communion mean to me, personally? How does it feel to have another person serve me in this way? Why do I think it is important to follow Jesus' example in this way?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness Activities	10-15	*A. Serving at the Banquet* *B. "What I Need Is"*	movable chairs
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 117. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story Experiencing the Story Exploring the Bible	four copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 158) Bibles Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Foot Washing*	pastor/elder, basins, water, towels
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*The Offer*	paper, pens/pencils
* Closing		Prayer and Closing Comments Reminder to Parents Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ movable chairs

Serving at the Banquet

Arrange chairs in a circle. You'll need one less chair than students.

Have all but one person sit in a circle of chairs. Tell the extra person to stand in the center of the circle.

Say: **Imagine that each of you is a server at a banquet.** Divide students in smaller groups assigning to each of the groups the name of a food item familiar to your students.

Say: **When the caller in the center of the circle calls out what you're serving, you must get up and find a new chair to sit in. The person in the center tries to find a vacated seat to sit in. When all the chairs are full, a new person is left standing. That person is the caller for the next round of the game.** (Large churches: Assign only two or three students to one food type.)

Debriefing

Ask: **How was this activity like how we sometimes treat others?** (We try to get the best seat, run ahead of others, don't put others first.) **How is the way God treats us different?** (God never makes it hard for us to receive things from Him. He is always ready and willing to help us.) **What example did Jesus give His disciples at Passover?** (He displayed true humility in service by washing the disciples' feet.) Say: **By His example Jesus showed us the importance of living in unity and serving one another. This is the principle we learn from the power text. Let's say it together:**

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:14, 15).

Remember the power point,

We share God's love with others when we serve them.

B

"What I Need Is"

Have students sit in a circle.

Say: **Everyone could use a little help from time to time. We are going to go around the circle and, one at a time, say your name and a particular need you have. Next, each of you will try to say, in order, everyone's name and need. For each need you get correct, you'll receive a point.**

Play the game. Have students each count the names and the needs they remembered. Command them for their good effort. Commend students for their good effort. (Large churches: divide into groups of 10-15.)

Debriefing

Ask: **Was it easy or difficult to remember all the names and needs? Explain. What about this game was like or unlike serving others? Explain.** (Accept their responses.)

Say: **Good servants remember the needs of those they serve. Jesus was the Master servant. He recognized the needs of His disciples. By humbling Himself, He showed His disciples the importance of serving one another in love. Let's say together the power text, John 13:14, 15:**

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:14, 15).

We too can share God's love with others by serving them. Our power point reminds us of this. Let's say it:

We share God's love with others when we serve them.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"The Coloring Song" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 61)
"Into My Heart" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 152)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission* for *youth* and adult (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **We can serve others in many different ways. Sharing our resources with others is one way we can serve. The mission offerings help other people to serve others too.**

Prayer

Ask for any new prayer requests and note them. Divide into small groups and ask for one or more volunteers in each to pray. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- four copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 158)

Introducing the Bible Story

(Note: The *Net Kids* are an imaginative way to introduce the Bible story. If you prefer not to use this imaginary element, read over the script yourself and introduce the lesson concept in your own words.)

(Refer to Lesson 2 for background and setup information.)

Make four copies of the *Net Kids* script found on page 158 of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity.

Present the skit.

Debriefing

Say: **Today we are going to talk about servanthood. Jesus came to serve us. If we are going to follow His example, we will serve others, even if it means having to put up with things that are unpleasant, or uncomfortable to us.**

YOU NEED:
- Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Have three students read John 13:1-17 aloud. Assign one person to read Jesus' part, another to read Peter's, and another to be the narrator. After they finished reading, say: **The job of washing someone's feet in Jesus' day was one of the lowest jobs anyone could do. People walked everywhere, so their feet were dusty and dirty. They didn't wear shoes in the house, either, so feet had to be washed before entering a room. Only slaves or servants (who were often foreigners or Gentiles, not Jews) or women (who didn't have a very good position in society at that time) did things like that.**

Ask: **What are some jobs that no one wants to do in your town?** (collect trash, care for the dying, serve someone with AIDS, change diapers for babies)

Say: **Jesus washed His disciples' feet with love even though it was a dirty job. In groups of three discuss what would be the worst job you can think of and describe or demonstrate some ways you could perform this service for someone with love.** Give each student a chance to role-play their response.

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3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **Jesus not only leaves us an example of service, but also instructs us about how to serve others. Let's find and read some verses that tell us what spirit we should have when we serve others.**

Have the students find and read Ephesians 6:7, 9 ("serve wholeheartedly," "do not threaten them"); 1 Peter 5:5 ("with humility"); Matthew 11:29 ("gentle," "humble"); Matthew 6:1 (not to show off); Galatians 5:13 ("serve one another in love"). **Let's say together the power text, John 13:14, 15:**

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:14, 15).

YOU NEED:
- ☐ basins
- ☐ warm water
- ☐ towels
- ☐ pastor or elder

Foot Washing

Distribute basins of water and towels or whatever you use for the foot-washing service at your church. Before class, invite the pastor or an elder to come in and explain the meaning and symbolism behind the foot-washing service for the students.

Debriefing

Ask: **Imagine having your pastors/teachers/elders serve you by washing your feet. How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus washed their dirty feet? Why do you think it is important for us to be willing to serve others in this way?** (Serving others in this way helps us to grow in humility more like Jesus.) **Why does Jesus want us to be humble?** (When we are truly humble and rely completely on His strength He can use us in powerful ways to reflect His love while serving others.)

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4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

The Offer

Invite students to share with the class some of the ways they served others last week. Ask: **In what ways did you communicate to a neighbor, a classmate, or an adult that you care? Who was the person whom you've served? How was your service a reflection of God's love?**

Distribute paper and pencils.

Say: **We've discussed servanthood today. We talked about jobs that no one wants to do. Let's choose one job that you know someone needs to do. Write a letter or design a coupon offering to do that job for a family member, a friend, or a neighbor. Do it.**

Debriefing

Ask: **How do you think it might feel to have the opportunity to do what you have offered? What will be the most difficult part of it? What will you enjoy about this opportunity? How would it feel if someone was willing to do for you what you have written on your coupon/letter?**

Say: **This activity will give you a chance to share God's love with another as you serve them.**

We share God's love with others when we serve them.

Today is Global Youth Day!

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Say: **Look for opportunities to serve and share God's love.** Offer a prayer asking God to send His Spirit of love and enable your students to serve Him by helping their neighbors in need.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jesus makes the ultimate sacrifice for us. Service is sharing God's love with others in all circumstances.**

Notes

Student lesson

The Servant Master

Has anyone ever done a job for you that you hate to do? Have you ever done a hated job for someone else? Would you be willing to do that for someone who was unkind to you? That's what Jesus did.

"There he is!" exclaimed Peter. "Just as Jesus said."

"Where?" asked John.

"Near the basket vendor. See? He's carrying a water jar," said Peter.

"I see," replied John. "Quickly. He's going into that house." The two disciples followed the man as quickly as they could. He hadn't been hard to find. After all, how many men carried water jars? That was women's work. Peter noticed that the man was walking into a house that had an upper floor.

Just as the man passed through the door, the owner came into full view. As Jesus had instructed them, Peter said, "The Teacher asks: 'Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?' "

Just as Jesus had said, the owner led them up the stairs to a large, furnished upper room. Entering the room, Peter and John looked around. There wasn't a lot to do, but they were glad that they came when they did. They arranged the tables and placed the cushions so that everyone could recline comfortably. Peter almost tripped over a basin and the water jar the man had carried. Peter realized that the man had carried it for them to use before eating. Soon everything was ready—except for the food.

Then Peter and John started making the necessary preparations for the Passover meal. As the unleavened bread and the grape juice were placed on the table, the rest of the disciples began to arrive. The men crowded into the room, surveyed the arrangements, and argued over who was going to sit where. They didn't even notice when Jesus walked in, looking sad. If they had, they would have realized that His thoughts seemed to be somewhere else. Judas pushed his way toward the spot nearest Jesus.

Gradually the disciples stopped talking among themselves and grew quiet. Looking at Jesus, they waited for Him to say something. The silence seemed to last forever. Then Jesus stood up, took off His outer coat, and wrapped a towel around His waist. He walked over to the basin that Peter had tripped over—and that everyone had ignored when they came in. He filled it with water from the jar. Jesus then picked up the basin, knelt down in front of Judas, and began to wash his feet. Even though Jesus already knew that Judas was going to betray Him, that didn't stop Him.

Judas was shocked. But he didn't say anything. He hoped his face wouldn't give away what he had done before coming there.

The other disciples were shocked into silence also. Jesus slowly made His way around the group and lovingly washed and dried each man's feet. When Jesus reached Peter, Peter put out his hand as if to hold Jesus off. "No," he broke the silence, "you shall never wash my feet."

Looking at him intently, Jesus said, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Peter burst out, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

"Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean," answered Jesus (John 13:8-10).

With these words Jesus explained the distinction between what baptism and the ordinance of foot washing represent. In other words, Peter had been baptized already. He just needed to daily renew his commitment to God through prayer, confession of sins, and receiving God's grace.

Peter sat back, his face started to let go of its frown, and he allowed Jesus to finish. As Jesus washed John's feet, He could see the gratitude in the eyes of this disciple.

When Jesus finished, He sat down again and looked at everyone around the table.

"You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet," said Jesus.

"I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them" (verses 13-17).

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 22:7-13; John 13:1-17
- *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 71, pp. 642-651
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 55-64
- Our Beliefs nos. 16, 21, 9

POWER TEXT

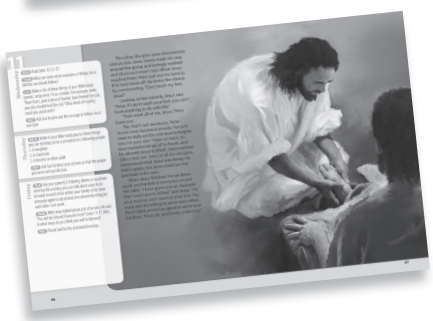
"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:14, 15).

POWER POINT

We share God's love with others when we serve them.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 88.

Sunday

READ Read John 13:1-5 and this week's story, "The Servant Master."

TALK Ask an adult what is a servant's attitude.

REVIEW Review the power text, John 13:14, 15.

PRAY Pray that Jesus would use you to be a servant.

Monday

READ Read John 13:6–9.

WRITE Write the power text on a small index card. On the other side of the index card, rewrite the power text in your own words.

CARRY Carry the card with you so you can memorize the power text during the day.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray the words of the text as a prayer.

Tuesday

READ Read John 13:10, 11.

THINK How did Jesus show His love for the disciples by washing their feet? Why didn't He give them gifts such as money, land, or clothing instead? What do you do to show your friends that you appreciate and love them?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you understand and follow Jesus' example of service.

Wednesday

READ Read John 13:12–17.

THINK In what other ways can we follow Jesus' example of service?

LIST Make a list of these things in your Bible study journal, using verse 14 as a model. For example, "As Jesus provided me with food and clothing, I will give food and clothing to those in need."

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you follow Jesus' example.

Thursday

READ Read Matthew 20:25–28.

SERVE Think about things you can do today to be a servant to: (1) a neighbor, (2) a classmate, and (3) a teacher/adult. Serve them by doing these kind acts.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that the people you serve will see God's love.

Friday

READ Read Luke 22:25-27.

TALK During dinner or sundown worship this evening, talk about ways to be servants to each other within your family circle. Have everyone agree to start doing for each other acts of caring and kindness that reveal a servantlike attitude.

THINK After Jesus talked about acts of service, He said, "You will be blessed if you do them" (John 13:17). How do you think you will be blessed?

REPEAT Say aloud by memory the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the blessings He promised to us.