

YEAR C | QUARTER 1

11

Unexpected Servant

Service
Jesus is our example in service.

POWER TEXT

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26-28).

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 20:20-28
- John 13:1-17
- *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 71, pp. 642-651
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 55-60
- student story on page 122 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 16, The Lord's Supper
- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 11, Growing in Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that the best leaders are servant leaders.
- **Feel** a desire to serve others.
- **Respond** by learning how to serve.

POWERPOINT

We learn to serve by following Jesus' example.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus and His chosen 12 enter the upper room after a long and tedious day. As Jesus contemplates the events of the following day, His disciples argue over earthly positions of importance. The meal He was about to eat with them was to be His last supper, and He longed to see a spirit of unity and love among them. Amid their obvious confusion, Jesus takes off His coat and begins to serve His friends as only a paid servant might. A wide range of responses fills the room, from Peter's embarrassed hesitancy to the obvious disgust of Judas at this display of humility. Jesus teaches them (and us) the meaning of godly leadership through service.

This is a lesson about service.

At the Last Supper Jesus taught the disciples that service is the key to godly leadership. We learn to serve as we follow Jesus' example in helping others.

Teacher Enrichment

"The whole life of Christ had been a life of unselfish service. 'Not to be ministered unto, but to minister' (Matthew 20:28), had been the lesson of His every act. But not yet had the disciples learned the lesson" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 642).

"The disciples made no move toward serving one another. Jesus waited for a time to see what they would do. Then He, the divine Teacher, rose from the table. Laying aside the outer garment that would have impeded His movements, He took a towel, and girded Himself. . . . This action opened the eyes of the disciples. Bitter shame and humiliation filled their hearts. They understood the unspoken rebuke, and saw themselves in altogether a new light.

"So Christ expressed His love for His disciples. Their selfish spirit filled Him with sorrow, but He entered into no controversy with them regarding their difficulty. Instead He gave them an example they would never forget" (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 644, 645).

What am I doing to give my students an unforgettable example of servant leadership? How can I serve others as Christ did?

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 door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Finding a Way*	magazines, newspapers, newsprint, glue, yarn/string, pens, pencils, white paper
		B. Follow Which Leader?	newsprint, pencils
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 117. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	index cards, basin, towel, Bible costumes, bread, grape juice, coin bag
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	spiritual gifts materials (optional)
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Keep Up the Good Work*	continuing project materials
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

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

A

YOU NEED:

- ☐ magazines
- ☐ newspapers
- ☐ newsprint
- ☐ glue
- ☐ yarn/string
- ☐ pens
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ white paper

Finding a Way

Prepare in advance a large piece of newsprint with the title "Finding a Way," several magazines and newspapers (or pictures and articles cut from them), small pieces of white paper, and a ball of yarn/string. Ask the students to make a collage of pictures containing people, stories, or places with needs. These pictures should be glued to the middle of the newsprint. Each picture should have a length of yarn attached to it that leads out to the edges of the newsprint. When the collage is finished, give each student several small pieces of paper and ask them to choose a few of the "needs," writing on their paper a way that they could help to serve in this area of need. (Example: a news story of an ongoing war—a student could purchase and donate some supplies to be sent to that area.) When finished, each picture within the collage should have at least one way a student could serve to meet the need.

When Jesus washed His disciples' feet, He filled a need in the group. Ask the students to write a list of needs in their community that they are able to fill.

Debriefing

Say: **When Jesus lived on this earth He was constantly meeting the needs of people around Him. On one occasion He washed His disciples' feet, something only a servant was supposed to do. He was teaching them that God's leaders are always looking for ways to serve others.**

Ask: **How many ways did you discover that you could meet the needs of those around you?** (Give each student a chance to share.) **Who is someone in your life that God might be calling you to lead by serving? Our power point today is:**

We learn to serve by following Jesus' example.

Accommodation for students with special needs

Allow students with special needs to work with a partner.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ newsprint
- ☐ pencils

Follow Which Leader?

Tape two pieces of newsprint on the wall. Label them "Characteristics of Leaders According to Worldly Standards" and "Characteristics of Leaders According to Christian Standards." Divide the students into two groups. Ask each group to brainstorm a list of characteristics for their paper.

Debriefing

Ask: **What is the same about the lists? What is different? Do you think a Christian leader can succeed in a typical leadership position in the business world? Why or why not? Do you think Jesus would have met the qualifications on either one of the lists? Our point today is to learn what Jesus' leadership style was.**

We learn to serve by following Jesus' example.

Prayer and 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

"Step by Step" (*Praise Time,* no. 67)
"Humble Thyself" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 81)
"He Will Carry You" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 82)
"Great Are You, Lord" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 25)

Mission

Use *Adventist Mission* magazine for the mission story. You can go to https://am.adventistmission.org/mq-children or go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **There are many ways of serving others to meet their needs. Jesus met His disciples' need by washing their feet. We can serve today by giving our offerings to help other people through missions.**

Prayer

Have your students think of one way they can serve others this week. Ask the students to pray silently as you thank God for giving us an opportunity to serve others.

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **Have you ever been in a situation in which you had to be the one to sacrifice your comfort, your safety, to help others? Can you share a time when you had to go out of your way for someone who wasn't very kind or pleasant? Name some times when you have to do things for other people. Today we will find out what makes us a leader like Jesus. Jesus calls a true leader a *servant*.**

Experiencing the Story

YOU NEED:

- ☐ index cards
- ☐ basin
- ☐ towel
- ☐ Bible costumes
- ☐ bread
- ☐ grape juice
- ☐ coin bag

Prepare in advance 14 index cards each with the name of one of the disciples, Jesus, and John's/James's mother. Have the following props arranged on a table:

Bible costumes (if available)
basin
Jesus' coat
towel
bread
grape juice
money pouch with coins

Give each card to a student. Explain that while you read the story, they each should listen and act out the part of the person on the card, using whatever props they need from the display on the table. (Example: The 10 disciples angry with James and John could be demonstrated by 10 students facing two other students, with angry looks.) Be sure to read slowly or pause periodically to give the students time to "re-enact" the scene.

Read aloud Matthew 20:20-28; John 13:1-17.

Debriefing

Ask: **How easy was it for Jesus to serve these men in this situation? What were some possible reasons that He was able to do so? Why did He choose to do the servant's job? What was He trying to teach His friends? How did they respond? What do you think they remembered about this last meal together?**

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Say: **Let's turn to our Bibles now and see what Jesus was trying to teach us about being a servant leader. Let's look at John 13:4-9 again.** Wait for students to find the passage and read along with you. Ask: **What did Jesus do that illustrated His new concept of a servant leader? In which verse did Jesus spell out this new concept of a master being willing to serve and help others? Let's compare this verse with Matthew 20:25-28.** Wait for students to find the text and read along with you. **How was this servant-leader concept different from that of the princes of the Gentiles?** (Leaders ruled people; people served rulers, existed to make their lives good.) **Remember that everything about Jesus' life teaches us how to serve others.**

Say: **Let's say our power text together:**

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26-28).

Accommodation for students with special needs
Use the Bibles with tabs so that they become familiar with finding the books of the Bible on their own.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ spiritual gifts materials (optional)—see teacher's note on p. 110

Scenario

If you have begun a study of spiritual gifts, continue now, or read the following scenario to your students:

Jesse and Cheyenne were finally finished with a long day of testing. As Mom was driving them home so Jesse could meet his friends for street hockey, it started to rain. Along the way Cheyenne noticed an old woman in a wheelchair pushing herself along the street with a large bag of groceries on her lap. The woman was soaking wet and seemed to be struggling to get uphill in the rain. Mom decided to offer the woman a ride home, and Jesse was very surprised when the woman said angrily, "No! I don't get in a car with people I don't know."

Mom then asked if they could push the woman to her house. The woman agreed crossly, and Mom turned to Jesse. "Jesse, would you push this woman while I follow you in the car? I don't want to push her and leave you and your sister alone."

Debriefing

Ask: **What do you think Jesse should do? What would Jesus do? How would you have trouble following Jesus' example in a situation like this one?**

We learn to serve by following Jesus' example.

4 SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ continuing project materials

Keep Up the Good Work

Say: **As we discovered in our lesson, serving others is very important. We are following Jesus' example when we participate in** _____ . (Refer to last week's program for an ongoing service project you and your class have selected for this month.)

(It is suggested that this project last through these four weeks in which the lessons focus on the dynamic of service. Each student should be directed to an area of the project that most fits their gifts. Plan service times as a group during the week if possible.)

Debriefing

Ask: **What have you enjoyed most about our service project? What difference has your serving made? How has your participation made you a better leader?**

We learn to serve by following Jesus' example.

Reminder, next week is Global Youth Day. Are you ready?

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray that God will help each student understand that the commandments, guidelines, and principles that He has given us are to help us love and respect God, ourselves, and one another. God loves us and treats us with grace; He wants us to treat one another the same way.

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 guide your children spiritually. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane. Our dependence on God is the key to serving others.**

Notes

Student lesson

Unexpected Servant

How would you feel if you offered to help someone in need and they were rude in return? Would you help them anyway? How do you think that following Jesus' example would lead you to do some unexpected things?

Jerusalem was overcrowded that night. Jews from around the world were gathered to celebrate Passover. Every Jew tried to be in Jerusalem for this festival. This was the time they recalled the great day when the Israelites were released from Egyptian slavery.

Jesus and His 12 disciples entered the upper room. The disciples had great expectations. Jesus had been talking about establishing His kingdom. The disciples believed this meant He was about to rise up against the oppressive Roman rulers, and set up His government. And at Passover He would have the largest crowd to witness His coronation.

The question the 12 disciples were arguing about was "Who will Jesus appoint as His chief ministers in His cabinet?" This question had prompted John and James to request their mother to talk to Jesus for them.

The others had been able to hear her pleading with Jesus. "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at Your right and the other at Your left in Your kingdom."

The other 10 disciples were angry with James and John. They had demanded an explanation from them. By the time they all arrived at the upper room they were not talking to one another. They all competed to sit closest to Jesus, just like brothers and sisters fighting to sit on their father's knee.

When Judas pressed next to Jesus on the left, John hurried to the seat on Jesus' right. Judas was determined to prevent James and John from taking the highest positions. *I am the most educated in the group*, he thought.

Meanwhile Jesus' attention was on the events that would be unfolding the next day. He was going to die a cruel death. The meal He was about to eat with them would be His last supper. He wanted to see a spirit of unity and love among them. He wanted them to be more conscious of one another's needs.

It was customary at a feast for a servant to wash the feet of the guests. In this room the basin, towels, and the pitcher of water were provided. But no servant was present.

Judas looked at Peter as if he meant to say, *"Hey, Peter, this is your job. After all, you have been a fisherman."* Peter looked down as if he were unconscious of what needed to be done. Jesus glanced at each of His disciples. They were all busy thinking, *Only a servant can do such a task.*

Then Jesus got up from the table and quietly removed His coat. He wrapped a towel around His waist and poured water into a dish. The disciples began to scratch their heads, wondering what Jesus was about to do.

Jesus knelt beside Judas, indicating that he needed washing and asked him to place his feet in the basin. Judas felt the warmth of Jesus' hands as He washed his soiled feet.

Jesus continued around the table disciple by disciple. When He came to Peter, Jesus asked him to put his feet into the water.

"Lord, are You going to wash my feet?" Peter asked.

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," Peter pulled his leg back. "You will never wash my feet."

"If I don't wash your feet, then you aren't really one of My followers," Jesus explained.

Peter put both his feet into the basin. "Then, Lord," he replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

But Judas despised Jesus' humility. Jesus, Judas thought didn't seem fit to be the expected Messiah. He didn't seem about ready to be crowned a king.

At a convenient time Judas walked out of the room to find the high priest. He was determined to act quickly. That very night he would hand Jesus over to the priests.

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 20:20-28
- John 13:1-17
- *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 71, pp. 642-651
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 55-60 ("Feet Jesus Washed")
- Our Beliefs, nos. 16, 14, 11

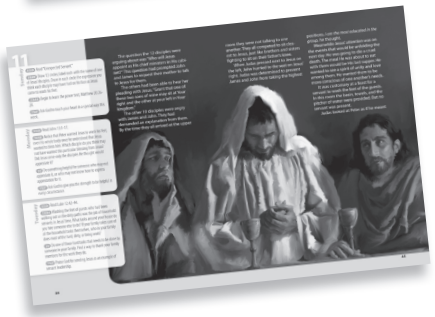
POWER TEXT

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26-28).

POWER POINT

We learn to serve by following Jesus' example.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 88.

Sunday

READ Read John 13:1-8 and this week's story, "Unexpected Servant."

DRAW Draw 12 circles; label each with the name of one of Jesus' disciples. Draw in each circle the expression you think each disciple may have had on his face as Jesus came to wash his feet.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, Matthew 20:26-28.

PRAY Ask God to touch your heart in a special way this week.

Monday

READ Read the story in John 13:9-17.

THINK Notice that Peter wanted Jesus to wash his feet, even his whole body once he understood that Jesus wanted to bless him. Which disciple do you think may not have wanted this particular blessing from Jesus? Did Jesus serve only the disciples He thought would appreciate it?

DO Do something helpful for someone who may not appreciate it, or know how to express appreciation for it.

PRAY Ask God to give you the strength to be helpful in every circumstance.

Tuesday

READ Read Luke 12:42-44.

THINK Washing the feet of guests who had been walking out on the dirty paths was the job of household servants in Jesus' time. What tasks around your house do you hire someone else to do? If your family takes care of all the household tasks themselves, who in your family does most of the hard, dirty, or tiring work?

DO Do one of those hard tasks that need to be done by someone in your family. Find a way to thank your family members for the work they do.

PRAY Praise God for sending Jesus as an example of servant leadership.

Wednesday

READ Read Mark 10:42-45

THINK Think about how Peter felt when he realized that Jesus was doing what he could have done. He had been busy worrying about being important in Jesus' kingdom.

LIST Make a list of all the things that others do for you that you could do for yourself or for someone else. Choose three things from this list and do them.

PRAY Thank God for all He does for you.

Thursday

READ Read Isaiah 52:13.

WRITE Write your power text in big letters and hang it as a banner in your room.

LEARN Read your power text 10 times and try to say it without looking.

PRAY Thank Jesus for choosing to serve you even though you don't always deserve or appreciate it. Ask Him to help you become a better servant.

Friday

READ Read Matthew 20:20-28.

LIST List in your Bible study journal all the ways that you feel God has gifted you to serve. List the people in your life that you can lead by serving.

THINK What kind of work would you like to do when you finish school?

PRAY Commit yourself to God as a servant leader, one who follows Jesus' example.