

Bible background

John 13:1-5, 14-16; Matthew 20:27; Luke 22:14-27

Aim of lesson

To show that the greatest is the one who serves.

Preparation required

You will need pencils and sheets of paper large enough to draw feet on.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Set the background to the story briefly by telling the children that Jesus was celebrating the Passover Feast with his disciples explaining how much he wanted to do this and that he knew this was the end of his life. (You can tell them simply that the bread and wine were used here just as we remember Jesus in our Sunday morning meeting every week if you feel this is appropriate to your class.)
2. Discuss the argument the disciples were having, reminding the children that they were doing this in front of Jesus. You can talk about oldest and tallest etc, with the class and obviously use this in the activity when comparing feet sizes.
3. Explain why it was necessary to wash feet and that it was normally a servant's job. Describe how the disciples would feel about Jesus washing their feet.
4. You can then go on to explain what Jesus told them about serving one another, stressing that none of us is too important to serve.

Alternative activities

1. If you have the facilities and sufficient adult help, make some paint footprints. (This can be very messy!)
2. You could use items 4 and/or 5 from Additional Ideas lesson 127.

Relevance to the children's lives

Tell the children that Jesus says we should not think we are too important to help others. How can they help at home, at school or in their neighbourhood?

Prayer

You can use the song 'Help Us To Serve Like You' as a prayer with the children singing the refrain 'Help us to serve like you' after each line that you sing.

Verse

'Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.' Matthew 20:26.

Song

Help us to serve like you (Tune: Our Father)



- v.1 Lord Jesus, you took a towel,
Help us to serve like you.
You took a bowl and you filled it with water.
Help us to serve like you.
- v.2 You knelt before your disciples
Help us to serve like you.
Then you washed their dusty feet
Help us to serve like you.
- v.3 You are our Lord and our master
Help us to serve like you.
We want to love and serve as you did

Help us to serve like you.

Music: Traditional.