



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Two Small Group Leader volunteers
- Two kid volunteers
- Table
- Two chairs
- Two towels
- Plastic table cloth
- Two clear plastic cups
- Two plastic knives
- Two ponchos
- Two pairs of goggles or swimming masks with nose covering
- Five Sundae ingredients (syrup, banana, cherries, sprinkles, ice cream)

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- High-energy music for the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide

Optional Videos (available for purchase through the 252 Media Package):

- Theme Loop Video
- Countdown Video
- Theme Video
- Life App Video
- Theme TransBack Video

What You Do:

- Put a tablecloth on a table to protect it from the sandaes. In the middle of the table, place the ingredients for the Sundaes. Place two chairs with the table for the SGLs.
- Each student and leader team will make their own sundae, then the student will feed it to their leader using only a plastic knife. The leader must keep hands behind his/her back and wear poncho and goggles. After the sundae is completely eaten, kids will also have to help clean up his/her leader before they can win.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Communicator
- Bible
- One kid volunteer
- One clear, empty tub
- One clear tub full of lukewarm water
- One pitcher of lukewarm water
- Chair
- Small bucket of dirt
- Small bucket of sand
- Small bucket of worms (fake)
- Whipped cream pie
- Mixing stick
- Towel

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Two clear tubs: one tub should be empty to dump the contents of the small buckets into. One pitcher of water will be used to mix all the dirty contents together in the empty tub. The second tub will be filled with water to allow the volunteer to wash his or her feet off. The script is written so the kid will wash his or her own feet by dunking them in the water. If you'd prefer someone to physically water the kid's feet, consider bringing up a peer of the same gender to wash the kid's feet.

3. Worship

What You Need:

- We Are Royals
- Through It All

Gotta Serve Somebody

Bible Story: Gotta Serve Somebody (Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet) • *John 13:1-17*

Key Question: Why should you serve others?

Bottom Line: Serve others because of what Jesus did for us.

Memory Verse: "Jesus sat down and called for the 12 disciples to come to him. Then he said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last. They must be the servant of everyone.'" *Mark 9:35, (NirV)*

Life App: Service—Lending a hand to help someone else

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: *Theme Slide*

Opener

HOST: "Friends, I've got to tell you: it's only [*current time*] on Sunday, and my sweet tooth is already acting up. I mean, I had French toast, a caramel mocha, and a big ol' bowl of Starbursts® with milk this morning, and I'm STILL craving something to scratch that sweet, sweet itch! So I've decided to distract my hunger by whipping up something special for all you fine folks this morning. Is there anyone out there who shares my sweet tooth cravings and wants to participate in a sugary relay? (*Pause for response.*) Fantastic! How about I get two of our awesome Small Group Leaders to come to this stage and bring two of their kids with them?"

Host selects two Small Group Leaders to come to the stage. Each Small Group Leader brings two kids from his or her Small Group with them.

"Today, we're whipping up some delicious, refreshing Sundaes!

"Small Group Leaders and students, you have to work together to make your Sundaes using the ingredients on the table... BUT THEN... you will be feeding this to your leader! The leader must keep hands behind his/her back and wear poncho and goggles. After the sundae is completely eaten, kids will also have to help clean up his/her leader before they can win. The first team to successfully create and ingest their Sundae and clean up their leaders face is the winner! Does that make sense? (*Pause for response.*) Sure it does!"

"Seems easy, right? Well . . . there's a slight catch. Each student volunteer be feeding the Sundae to their leader using ONLY A PLASTIC KNIFE!"

Host reveals plastic knives.

“I expect this will be . . . fairly messy but definitely entertaining.”

Host distributes ponchos and protective eyewear to all of the kid volunteers. Have small group leaders get prepped with ponchos and goggles.

“Everyone understand the rules? *(Pause for response.)* Delicious! Then on my mark . . . get set . . . go!”

SFX: High-energy game music

Allow the game to continue until all kids have “enjoyed” their sundaes. Kids will have to dump the drink into their mouths after a minute or so.

“Aaaaand that’s it! Congratulations to our winners and condolences to second place—you all performed admirably! I’ll let you guys get cleaned off, and in the meantime, let’s welcome *[Name of Worship Leader]* to the stage!”

Host helps clean up the mess and exits. Worship Leader enters.

Announcements

Use this as an example of what to say. Make it your own and help the kids feel welcomed. Then take a moment to share any/all announcements.

HOST: “I’m so excited to be here with all of you today and get a little crazy! If it’s your first time here, I want to welcome you and I would love to have a chance to meet you and get a high-five! Your group leaders are here almost every week... they’re pretty amazing. Here at Mission, we believe that this is a place for you and you belong here no matter who you are or what you believe. At the core of who we are as a church, we believe that **JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING FOR EVERYONE!**”

“I have just a few announcements for you all today...”

Share any/all announcements.

“One of the things we do each week to help us focus on God is to sing... some of you will know the words to the songs, so we want you to shout and sing them out really loud. If you don’t know the words... they’ll be on the screen for you. Feel free to clap, jump, sing and shout along with us! The best part about this is the message of the song and how good God is! Let’s all stand up and sing together!”

Worship Leaders enter. Host exits.

Worship

WORSHIP LEADER: “Thank you, *[Name of Host]*. Let’s get up and get loud as we sing and dance for who God is and what he’s done for us!

We Are Royals

WORSHIP LEADER: “That was amazing! (*Take a moment to say something about the next song*). So let’s give everything we have and worship God together!

Through It All

WORSHIP LEADER: *PRAY*

Communicator enters as Worship Leaders exit.

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

COMMUNICATOR: “Hey, hey, everybody. It’s good to be here with some of my all-time favorites! And speaking of favorites, what are some of your favorite things to do for fun? (*Pause for response.*) Those are some really great favorites! Video games, sports, and so much more were mentioned. You know what was not mentioned? Getting sick! Why? Because getting sick is a LEAST favorite, am I right?”

“When I was about your age, there was a time where I got SO sick I had to stay home for two weeks. At first glance, it might sound nice missing ten days of school. Well, it’s a lot less nice when you’ve got a stomach virus and an ear infection at the same time. I was straight up miserable, and it was only compounded by my anxiety over missing SO much schoolwork. I was actively dreading going back to class and having to catch up on everything I missed . . . until someone came knocking at my door.”

“A classmate of mine, someone to whom I had only rarely spoken to up to that point, had dropped by to hand off the classwork that I had been missing and then told me that she had been taking extra detailed notes during ALL of our classes so I wouldn’t fall behind. I was honestly floored: here was a classmate that I BARELY knew, yet she was going out of her way to take diligent notes not just for ONE of my classes, but for EVERY SINGLE ONE? *Then* she hand-delivered them to me and sat with me while we wore hospital masks and explained the work in greater detail. Thanks to her service, I was able to come back to school after my illness and pick up like I had never been away.”

TENSION

COMMUNICATOR: “Now, this girl could have just said ‘tough break’ and let me come back to class and figure it out on my own, but she DIDN’T. She risked catching the same tummy bug when she opted to bring over my notes and explain what I missed. Even though it was burdensome and added to her workload, she did it anyways. Why on earth would she do that?”

“Come to think of it, why would anybody go out of his or her way to help someone else out? Serving others isn’t always easy—sometimes you have to do something that’s difficult or unpleasant. So why do it? If you have to put in the extra effort, is serving others REALLY worth the trouble? Why should you bother? Nobody likes extra work.

“It doesn’t make sense at all, UNLESS you know about this one moment from Jesus’ life. We can read about a time when Jesus does something down-right gross to serve others around Him.”

TRUTH

COMMUNICATOR: “We find this story in the book of John, the last of the four gospels that tell us about some of what happened while Jesus was on earth. This moment in particular is in John 13. At the time, the people were celebrating a Jewish holiday called the Feast of Unleavened Bread or Passover. Over several days, individuals will gather to celebrate the time in Israel’s history when God rescued them out of slavery. Throughout the course of this holiday, people prayed, took a break from work, ate a meal together, and remembered God’s faithfulness to their ancestors. This is exactly what Jesus and His friends, the disciples, were preparing to do.”

“Jesus gave specific instructions for Peter and John to go into the city and follow a man carrying a jar of water to his home. This was to be the location for their Passover meal. At this house, there was a large room where Jesus and his friends could comfortably sit.”

“Jesus and His friends had gathered around the table prepared for the evening meal when Jesus did something none of the disciples saw coming. Check this out. In John it reads, *(Open Bible and read John 13:4-5) ‘So he got up from the meal and took off his outer clothes. He wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a large bowl. Then he began to wash his disciples’ feet. He dried them with the towel that was wrapped around him.’* This is TOTALLY disgusting. To illustrate just how dirty this would have been, I need a volunteer.”

Communicator selects a volunteer who can quickly take off his or her shoes and not be offended by getting his or her feet gross. Volunteer comes to stage, removes shoes/socks, and places feet in a clear, empty plastic tub.

“I don’t know about you, but after the end of a long day, when I take off my shoes and socks, my feet get pretty ripe. But back in Biblical times, most people didn’t have shoes and socks to keep their feet relatively clean. No, it’s before Adidas®, Converse®, and Vans®. In fact, the best you would have, assuming you had the funds to purchase them, would be sandals. And people walked EVERYWHERE, and when you’re walking all over tarnation with nothing to keep your feet clean . . . they can get pretty dir-TAY! First, all feet would have seen the likes of rain and lots and lots of feet sweat . . .”

Communicator dumps a small bucket of lukewarm water in the same clear tub being used by the volunteer’s feet.

“People were stepping in dirt all the time . . .”

Communicator dumps a small bucket of dirt in the same clear tub being used by the volunteer's feet.

"If it wasn't dirt, their toes were digging into sand . . ."

Communicator dumps a small bucket of sand in the same clear tub being used by the volunteer's feet.

"Oh! And bugs. All kinds of bugs . . . like worms. . . and they'd walk through the grass and the leaves, and THOSE would get stuck to their feet . . ."

Communicator dumps a small container of fishing worms (plastic or real) in the same clear tub being used by the volunteer's feet.

". . . And I'm not sure how to say this, but there were all sorts of camels and donkeys and cattle running around all the time leaving their . . . uh, special surprises for people to unwittingly drop their bare feet right into. I'm sorry to say I don't have a cow pie to put [Name of Volunteer]'s feet into, but I do have this REGULAR pie which should illustrate my point well enough."

Communicator dumps a whipped cream pie in the same clear tub being used by the volunteer's feet.

"All of this mess would have mixed together to form the everyday norm for their feet. Needless to say, peoples' feet would get REALLY dirty. Traditionally, washing guests' feet was a job for a household servant and not their rabbi like Jesus or leader or friend. But Jesus willingly cleaned the feet of His disciples, and they were shocked. With each friend, Jesus knelt down beside him, removed his sandals, and washed the muck off his feet, including the mud, worms, and whipped cream pies. When He finished, Jesus took the time to dry off their feet."

"When Jesus moved to Peter, Peter straight up told Jesus, (Open Bible and read John 13:8a) "You will never wash my feet." Jesus' response was clear . . . (Open Bible and read John 13:8b) "Unless I wash you, you can't share life with me." Peter had spent the last three years of his life with Jesus, sharing everything. If he had to let Jesus wash his feet to continue, well, that's what he'd do. And He did it: Jesus washed the feet of every single one of his disciples."

Communicator reveals another clear tub full of clean, lukewarm water. Communicator instructs volunteer to dunk his or her feet in the clean water to remove all the dirty. Communicator hands volunteer a towel to dry his or her feet. Dismiss volunteer once his or her feet are clean.

"When Jesus finished, He put his robe back on and returned to His place at the table. He continued by imparting some words to help his friends understand what He'd just done. Jesus said, (Open Bible and

read John 13:13-17) “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord.’ You are right. That is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another’s feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you. What I’m about to tell you is true. A slave is not more important than his master. And a messenger is not more important than the one who sends him. Now you know these things. So you will be blessed if you do them.””

APPLICATION

COMMUNICATOR: “Let’s not forget who Jesus was to His friends. He wasn’t JUST their friend. He was their leader . . . their teacher . . . their Lord . . . the Son of God. The disciples followed Jesus to learn from Him and watch His actions. On this day, His actions and words spoke loudly and clearly. Jesus wasn’t on earth to be served, but He chose to serve others even if it meant washing their nasty feet. This was His posture even though He is the one who deserves to be served. While the disciples were the ones who benefited from Jesus’ service, they were NOT more important than Jesus, and neither are we.”

“Jesus showed not only His friends this example of service, but He also showed us. Jesus is the one who died on the cross for OUR sins so we can have a relationship with God. This picture of service seems completely backwards when you stop to think about who Jesus is and what He did for us. But we’re supposed to follow His example. Now don’t get me wrong. I’m not suggesting this entire room needs to enter your school tomorrow morning wearing a robe and carrying some towels and clean water to scrub the dirt off your classmates’ feet. But it does mean we can look to help others no matter how unpleasant, difficult, or time-consuming the task might be.”

“It’s a shift in your reason for doing things. When you and your mom help a stranger carry his groceries to their car, you’re not doing it so they’ll owe you one. When your elderly neighbor can’t seem to make it out of the house to take care of her yard work, you don’t offer to mow her lawn because she might pay you for your efforts. When you offer to scrub the toilet on cleaning day, you aren’t doing it to impress your dad. You do it to serve.”

LANDING

COMMUNICATOR: “This begs the question why. As we head to our small groups this morning, chew on this question.”

CG: Key Question Slide

“Why should you serve others? What should compel you to go out of your way to lend a hand to help someone else? You’ll have some time in Small Group to talk more about that. Before you head there, let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus to save us and be such an awesome example of service.”

Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard then dismisses them to small group.

SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

