



GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- 1950s-style waiter or waitress costume for Host (this could be a full costume, or accessories like a striped apron and a paper diner hat)
- One whole small group
- Larger bin that dishes will fit in
- Dish soap
- 15-20 plastic plates (can be disposable)
- Ketchup packets
- Mustard packets
- 5 sponges or dish wands
- 5 dishtowels

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun diner-style instrumental music

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Service Slide
- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line 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:

- Fill the wading pool with water and dish soap. Squirt some ketchup and mustard on the plates and smear it a bit. Submerge the plates in the soapy water (but leave one out for the Host to hold up). Have the sponges/wands and dishtowels ready to hand out to the contestants.

2. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Storyteller
- Bible
- One large cushion or pillow (for seating)
- Long “road” made from butcher paper or a tarp
- Zip-top sandwich bag filled with dirt
- Zip-top sandwich bag filled with mud
- Zip-top sandwich bag filled with sand
- Two towels
- Bucket of water

Large Group Visuals:

- Blank Bottom Line Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Have the butcher paper, cushion, bucket of water, and towels ready for the Storyteller to set out. When the Storyteller does this, the cushion, bucket of water, and towels should be on one side of the stage and the road should be on the other (leading back toward the cushion, bucket, and towels).

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*

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: “What’s up, everybody? Welcome to the [your environment’s name] Diner. My name is [your name], and I’ll be serving you today. I’m so glad you came!

“This month we’re talking about service.

CG: *Service Slide*

“Service is lending a hand to help someone else.

“Speaking of service, have you ever been to a restaurant before? *(Pause for response.)* Sure! A lot of you have. A restaurant serves a lot of delicious food, which means a lot of dirty dishes.

Move over to the table and bin full of dirty dishes. Hold up a plate covered in ketchup and mustard. (This one can be sitting out instead of submerged in the pool.) Place the plate in the pool with the others.

“Did you ever think about how all those dishes get washed? Well, that’s what our game is about today. I need one whole small group to come up here and help me wash and dry the dishes in this bin. Who wants to do it?

Choose a group.

“Okay, great! You all can come on up here, and bring your Small Group Leader, too.

Have the group stand on the around the table and bin while you explain the directions.

(To the small group) “Contestants, you’ll have one minute to wash and dry as many dishes as you can. That means some of you will be around the bin, scrubbing the food off the plates.

Hand a sponge to about half the kids.

“When they’re done, the rest of you will take the plates and dry them off.

Hand towels to the other half of the kids.

“Then you can stack the clean and dry plates right here.

Point to a spot on the table.

(To the small group) “Contestants, are you ready? *(To audience)* Audience, are you ready to cheer them on? Okay, let’s count it down in three . . . two . . . one . . . go!

Set a one-minute timer on your phone.

SFX: Fun diner-style music (instrumental)

Encourage the kids as they wash and dry the dishes. Help them if they aren’t sure what to do.

“That was awesome! I’ve never seen anything like it. Your group washed and dried [number] dirty dishes in only ONE minute! Great job!

High-five the kids and dismiss them to their seats.

“[Leader’s name]’s group did a great job serving me and serving each other when they washed and dried all those dishes. It reminds me of something Jesus did for some of His friends that was really amazing. I can’t wait for you to hear about it.

Look at the stack of dry dishes.

“I think I’ll serve someone else by putting these dishes away. Why don’t all of you stand up and get ready to sing and worship God?”

Worship Leaders enter. Host exits with the dishes.

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

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! It’s so great to see you all here today. I’ve been really excited to tell you about today’s story from the Bible, so let’s get started.

“Jesus and the disciples were going to celebrate Passover together. The Jewish people celebrated Passover each year because it helped them remember how God had rescued the Israelites from Egypt long ago. They would enjoy a feast together, and then they would share the story again of how God had rescued their people.

“As Jesus and the disciples were traveling, Jesus asked Peter and John to go ahead of the group to find a place for the feast and to prepare it. They met a man Jesus had told them to look for, and he showed them a room they could use for the feast. Peter and John prepared everything for the feast that Jesus and His disciples would share together.”

DIRTY FEET

STORYTELLER: “As Jesus and the rest of the disciples arrived, they were probably very tired from walking such a long way.

“Now, let me explain something about the way people ate a meal back then. They didn’t sit in chairs at a table like we do today. They sat on cushions and lounged around a low table—kind of like this.

Sit down on the cushion with your feet off to the side.

“So you could be eating your food with your friend’s feet right in your face! That’s pretty gross, right? But wait! There’s more. Let’s rewind this situation just a bit.

“As Jesus and His friends were traveling to this Passover feast, they would have been wearing thin sandals . . . or maybe no shoes at all.

Take off your shoes and socks, and roll your pant legs up to your knees.

“And they would have been walking on dirt roads that were VERY dirty.

Walk over to the beginning of the “road.” Dump the dirt, mud, and sand (in order) onto the road leading back toward the cushions.

“While walking on the roads, Jesus and His disciples would have stepped in dirt, for sure.

Walk through the dirt.

“There was probably also lots of mud—especially if it had rained recently.

Walk through the mud.

“That’s pretty gross! They would have been close to some sandy deserts, too, so they probably would have walked through some sand.

Walk through the sand.

“And, you know, back then there were lots of animals walking around on the streets, and those animals didn’t really have bathrooms to use . . . so . . . yeah. By the time Jesus and His disciples arrived at the Passover meal, their feet weren’t just dirty. They were DISGUSTING! (*Point down at your feet.*) I don’t know about you, but I would NOT want to eat with those gross feet anywhere near my face!”

scrub-a-dub-dub

STORYTELLER: “People didn’t have boots or shoes that would keep their feet clean, so they showed up everywhere they went with dirty, smelly, gross feet. It was very normal for this to happen. It was also normal for the person hosting the event to have a servant available to wash everyone’s feet before the meal.

“But on this particular day, there was no servant available. The disciples probably started arguing about who should do the foot washing. It was usually a job for the least important person in the room, because—well—it was gross! I can just imagine the disciples saying, ‘Not it!’ ‘Not me!’ ‘No way, man!’

Pick up the bucket of water and one of the towels.

“(*Speak slowly and softly for emphasis.*) But Jesus, the Son of God, stood up. He picked up the bowl of water, wrapped a towel around His waist, and began washing their dirty, smelly, gross feet.”

Kneel down on one knee, and start washing the dirt off your feet—first one foot and then the other. Take some time to do this silently. When you’re done, stand up and continue to the next part of the script. (Use the other dry towel to dry off your hands.)

say whaaaaaaat?

STORYTELLER: “The disciples were completely shocked! They couldn’t believe that Jesus, the most important person in the room, was doing the job of a servant! They didn’t understand why Jesus would do this—especially because none of THEM wanted to do it. But listen to what Jesus said to them.

Open the Bible to John 13:12-15 (NirV) and read.

“Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “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.”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Jesus washed His friends’ feet for an important reason. He was showing them how to serve others and put them first.

“He wanted the disciples to understand that they shouldn’t be competing with each other to be first. They shouldn’t be fighting over who was more important. Instead, Jesus wanted them to understand that they should follow His example and choose to serve.

“The disciples couldn’t believe that Jesus would serve them by washing their feet. But what they didn’t realize was that Jesus was about to lay down His life for them. Just a few days after Passover, Jesus would die on the cross to pay the price for the sins of everyone in the whole world—including us. The greatest act of service Jesus ever showed was when He gave His life for us.

“When we think about what Jesus did for us, it makes us want to show love to other people, too. It makes us want to lend a hand and serve.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

“We should **[Bottom Line] serve others because of what Jesus did for us.**

“Let’s pray and ask God to help us serve the people around us.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “God, it’s so easy for us to want to be first—to want to be the most important. But we know that Your way is so much better! We know that You want us to serve. That’s what Jesus showed us when He washed His friends’ dirty feet. Help us to follow His example and serve the people You’ve put in our lives. We love You, and we ask these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “When Jesus washed the disciples’ feet, He showed them what service looks like. Jesus is the Son of God, so He was definitely the most important person in the room. But Jesus chose to serve everyone else instead of trying to prove He was more important. We should serve others like He did.

“Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for our sin so that we could have a relationship with God that will last forever. When we choose to serve others, it’s one way we can show how thankful we are for everything Jesus did.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Serve others because of what Jesus did for us.

“Now, that doesn’t mean that we should necessarily go around washing each other’s feet. That isn’t something we really need to do in 2019. But we do have lots of chances to serve each other—to lend a hand to help someone else. Every day, you can choose to **[Basic Truth] treat others the way you want to be treated.**

“So, the next time your mom asks for help setting the table for dinner or your little brother asks you to help him find his favorite toy, remember what Jesus did for us. Choose to show love by serving others.

[Bottom Line] “Serve others because of what Jesus did for us.

“One of the ways you can serve RIGHT HERE AT MISSION is by being a personal who is welcoming to NEW KIDS each week in your groups. Find ways that you can help your Small Group Leader every week... maybe it’s helping clean up after group time... or setting a good example by listening well during large group time.

“Also, each month, we have a chance to give to a ministry called Open Arms and we bring in food for our 3rd Sunday Charities that we support... you can bring something the 3rd Sunday of each month!

“Now it’s time to head to Small Group and find out some ways YOU can serve. Have fun!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

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