



WEEK ONE – FEBRUARY 2019 – PRETEEN

Bible Story: *Gotta Serve Somebody • John 13:1–17*

Key Question: *Why should you serve others?*

Memory Verse: *“Jesus sat down and called for the twelve 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 NIV*

Life App: *Service – Lending a hand to help someone else*

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

Summary: We start the month in John 13:1–17 where Jesus offered an incredible example of service. When the disciples show up to the meal with Jesus, their feet would have been dirty from walking the roads of Jerusalem. Their feet would have been disgusting! Instead of allowing a servant to come and wash their feet, Jesus took a basin and a towel and did the work Himself. The disciples were astonished that their Lord would stoop to such a level.

8:50–9:00 | 10:20–10:30 | 11:50–12:00 – EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Get Your Head in the Game

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: Blanket

What You Do:

- Create a curtained area by having two students hold a sheet or blanket so that the bottom edge is about two-feet off the floor.
- Invite someone to stand behind the sheet so that only his legs are showing from the knees down.
- Whisper an action for the student to act out using only his feet: “Foot Charades.”
- Challenge the remaining students to guess what he’s doing.
- Allow everyone to take a turn holding the sheet as well as doing a “Foot Charade.”
- Use some of the actions listed below or let students come up with their own.
 - Limping
 - Walking on hot sand
 - Doing a happy dance
 - Ballet dancing
 - Itchy feet
 - Snow skiing
 - Stepping in gum
 - Kicking a ball
 - Jumping jacks
 - Walking in deep mud
 - Marching
 - Slipping on ice

What You Say:

“In our Bible story today, Jesus wanted to make sure the disciples understood something important. Oddly enough, He used feet to get His point across. Let’s go to Large Group and check it out.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10–9:45 | 10:40–11:15 | 12:10–12:45 – LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Key Question: *Why should you serve others?* Service often includes going above and beyond to help someone in need. For many preteens, they might wonder why they should go to all that work. This question gives them a chance to discuss why it's worth it to go out of their way to serve and help point others to Jesus.

9:45–10:05 | 11:15–11:35 | 12:45–1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. Take a Snapshot

[Application Activity]

Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Large serving spoon; small plastic spoon

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - What are some situations when a person might think he or she is more important than someone else? (Answers might include when they win a game, get a better grade than someone else, get invited to a party with the popular kids, or get a cool phone.)
 - Why is a “better-than-you” attitude wrong? What can happen when you have this sort of attitude?
 - What can you do to avoid having an attitude where you feel like you’re better than others?
- Sit or stand in a circle and give the large and small spoons to two different students.
- Explain that, at your signal, they are to quickly pass both spoons around the circle in opposite directions until you signal them to stop, at which point you’ll ask the students holding the spoons to stand up.
- Read one of the scenarios listed below.
- Invite the person holding the large spoon to share the way someone might respond who is proud and unwilling to serve others.
- Invite the student with the smaller spoon to share how someone who is willing to serve might respond in the same situation
 - You and your best friend auditioned for the school play. She got a part but you didn’t.
 - No one realizes that you are the only kid in your class who got an “A” on a really hard math test.
 - Totally out of the blue, your parents bought you an amazing phone. Your friends are in awe.
 - Someone you don’t like needs help picking up something he spilled at lunch. You can tell he’s embarrassed.
 - You just got a new laptop and now your little brother wants to borrow it.
 - It’s your birthday but no one seems to want to do anything special for you.

- You look at yourself in the mirror and really like your new outfit.
- You're wondering why no one ever picks you to be on his or her team.
- The only seat left is next to a kid who always smells like old cheese.

What You Say:

“Jesus showed us an example of service when He washed His disciples’ feet. He served them even though HE was the one who deserved THEIR service. None of us is more important than Jesus, right? So, we should serve others like He did. One way to do that is to treat others like they’re more important than you. Following Jesus’ example of serving others is one way we grow to be more like Him.”

2. Bible Story Extension

[Bible Story Review]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play

What You Need: Bibles, paper, pens

What You Do:

- Give students a Bible, a piece of paper, and a pen.
- Ask them to work individually to list 10 key words they feel were important to the story of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet. The words can be the name of a person who was part of the story, an object, place, or feeling. They can look up the story in John 13:1–17 if they need ideas or to review the details.
- When finished, ask everyone to come together and bring his or her list.
- Explain the following directions then challenge the group to work together to retell the story:
 - Tell the story one sentence at a time.
 - Each person must take at least two turns.
 - The sentence must include one word from his or her list.
 - If someone else uses a word that is on his or her list, they must cross it off and can’t reuse it.
- Go around the circle as many times as needed to complete the story.
- Discuss the Bible story.
 - Why did Jesus washing the disciples’ feet take them by surprise?
 - Do you think it would have been hard for the disciples to let Jesus wash their feet? Why?
 - In what ways was Jesus being an example to the disciples?
 - What are some jobs we might think are beneath us or that we expect others to do instead of us? Why do we think like that?
 - Foot washing isn’t something we do today when we have guests for dinner, but if Jesus was here now, what might you see Him doing to serve others

3. Discussion Questions

[Bible Story Review]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Ask:
 - Why should you serve others?
 - Through Jesus, God has done more for us than we could ever do for him. Name some things God has done for you.
 - What would you tell someone who asked, “What does it mean to serve God?”
 - Finish this sentence, “I want to serve others because _____.”
 - Who are some people who are great examples of serving others the way Jesus did? What did they do?

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4. Verses to Take With You

[Memory Verse Activity]

Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Bible, note cards, pens

What You Do:

- Give each person a note card and pen.
- Ask everyone to write a sentence that shares one thing they learned about serving others from today's lesson.
- Tell them to use at least five words and to not let anyone see what they are writing.
- Ask them to draw a quick picture on the back of their note cards to illustrate their sentences.
- Invite the students to take turns reading what they wrote but to do so by reading their sentence beginning with the last word and ending with the first, while holding up the picture for the others to see.
- Challenge the others to listen carefully then try to decipher the forward version of the sentence. If needed, the reader can repeat his sentence.
- Point out that reading a sentence from the end to the beginning is not only difficult to do, it's completely out of the ordinary. Often, Jesus did things that were out of the ordinary. For example—when He washed the disciple's feet! No one was expecting Him to do that.
- Read (or ask a student to read) Mark 9:35 to the group.
- Ask:
 - What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last?"
 - How can we be the "servant of everyone"?
 - Sometimes we think that being a servant isn't cool. Why is that?
 - What are some reasons that a follower of Jesus should feel that serving others is one of the coolest things he or she can do?
 - What's one way you could follow Jesus' example and serve someone in the next 15 minutes? What about in the next two hours? How about before you go to bed tonight?

5. Make It Personal With Prayer

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- Remind students that in order to put others first we may need to take a backseat or let another person have his or her way instead of us. This is one of the ways we follow the example Jesus gave us of serving others.
- Instruct everyone to stand in a circle then turn to the left so they are facing the back of the person in front of them.
- Ask each person to pray a short prayer (silently or aloud) for the person in front of them, asking God to give that person opportunities to serve someone this week.
- Invite everyone to turn and face the opposite direction then pray the same prayer for the person they are now facing.

What You Say:

“Dear God, help us to serve others this week without complaining or expecting something in return. You have shown us what it’s like to put others first. You even sent Jesus to take our place on the cross and die for our sins before we were ever born. Show us how to follow His example and serve our family, friends, and those we meet this week. In Jesus’ name, amen.”