

Age-Level Overview

Tear here for easy use!

Lower Elementary

WORKSHOP FOCUS: Jesus loves us!

CARING FOR OTHERS: Kids draw a picture of someone doing for others.

Open the Bible

SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles

SUPPLIES: None

Activate Faith

SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles

SUPPLIES: Computers with KidPix or similar software, printer, paper

Upper Elementary

WORKSHOP FOCUS: Following Jesus' example gives us joy!

DOING FOR OTHERS: Kids make cards for pastors to take to homebound church members.

SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers

SUPPLIES: None

SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles

SUPPLIES: Computers with KidPix or similar software or a card-making software, color printer, paper

All Kids

WORKSHOP FOCUS: Jesus teaches us about love.

THANKING GOD: Kids write a "Thank You" prayer.

SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers

SUPPLIES: None

SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles

SUPPLIES: Computer with KidPix or similar software, printer, paper

Workshop Focus: Jesus loves us!

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Last Supper Storytelling

Welcome kids as they arrive and show them where to sit. Remember to introduce yourself because this may be the first time that some of the kids have been in your workshop. Pass out the Spark Story Bibles.

Welcome to the Computer Lab Workshop. It is great to have you all here today. We are going to make some special drawings today. How does it feel when someone does something kind or special for you? How does it make you feel inside? How does it make you feel when you do kind things for others? How do you think they feel? Today's story is about the great love that Jesus had for his disciples and for us. Our story today tells us about one special thing Jesus did for them and how they felt about it. Let's open our Spark Story Bibles and read what Jesus did for his 12 friends. Let's begin reading The Last Supper on page 462.

After reading, ask: **Do you think Jesus would have washed your feet if you had been in that room? He certainly would have. He would want you to know how much he loves you, and he would ask you to love others that much, too!**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Caring for Others

Set Up: Turn the computers on and have the program ready to go.

Activity Instructions

If the kids need to share computers, have them sit evenly among the computers. Be sure that they are all familiar with the KidPix software.

We just read how Jesus washed his disciples' feet to prepare for the Passover meal. Why do you think people washed their feet when they entered a home? What happens to your feet when you play barefoot outside? They probably get dirty or dusty, right? That is what happened when the people walked around in sandals in Jesus' time. People washed their feet when they entered a home because their feet would get very dusty.

Most people washed their own feet, but this night, the night of the Last Supper, Jesus washed the disciples' feet. How do you think that the disciples might have felt about having Jesus, the Son of God, wash their feet? What did Peter say?
Allow time for the kids to respond.

Why did Jesus wash their feet? He wanted to show them how much he loved them. He was also setting an example for them. He wanted them to do for others. He wanted them to care for people. Jesus wants us to care for others because that is what he did. When we love Jesus, we want to do good things for him. He told us if we do good things for others, it is like doing those things for him. Jesus said that he set an example for us and that we can do as he did.

Many people care lovingly for other people. I am sure you care lovingly for other people, too. Today, we are going to draw some pictures with KidPix that show someone caring for someone else. What are some things that you might like to draw? Are there some people you have seen do something special for someone? What were they doing?

1. Have the kids make suggestions. If the kids have trouble coming up with ideas, here are some suggestions.
 - Playing with a new student to make him or her feel welcome
 - Making cookies to take to someone who has to stay home all of the time
 - Playing with your little brother or sister while your mother is trying to prepare supper
 - Visiting a sick neighbor with your mother or father, or with their permission
 - Giving a toy to another child who does not have one
 - Collecting food for a food pantry

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
Computers with KidPix or similar software
Printer
Paper

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2. As kids work on their pictures, remind them to take turns drawing. You and the Shepherds can go to each computer to offer encouragement and assistance as needed. Using the text tab on KidPix, they can write a short sentence about the picture and then push the green arrow to play back what they wrote.
3. When the kids are finished, ask them to gather in groups with their Shepherds and share what they drew and why.

You have drawn some very good pictures of people helping other people. Caring for others is what Jesus wants us to do.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

We do good things because we love Jesus. We do good things because that is what Jesus asked his followers to do. Jesus died for each of us, and doing things for others is a way to say thank you to them. It was so good to have you all here today. Hope to see you next time. Care for someone this week!

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for showing us how we are to treat others. Help us to follow your example. Show us ways we can serve others. In your name we pray.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: Following Jesus' example gives us joy!

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Last Supper Storytelling

Welcome kids and be sure to introduce yourself because this may be the first time that some of them have been in your workshop. Distribute the Spark Bibles.

Welcome to the Computer Lab. It is great to see you all here today. You are all old enough to care for others, and I imagine that all of you have done so. How did you feel when you did it? Allow time for the kids to respond. **How does it make you feel when someone takes care of you?**

Today's story tells about Jesus doing something special for his disciples. Jesus was showing us how we should care for others. Let's get out our Spark Bibles to read what Jesus did and how his disciples responded. We will begin on page 1190, John 13:1-20. Be sure to put your stickers by the verses that are meaningful to you and that you want to remember or memorize.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Doing for Others

Set Up: Turn on the computers and have the program ready to go.

Activity Instructions

If the kids need to share computers, make sure they are sitting evenly among the computers and that they are all familiar with KidPix or the card-making program you have chosen.

In Bible times, people wore sandals or were barefoot, so it was the custom to wash their feet when they entered a home. People usually washed their own feet, or a servant in the house was assigned that task. As we learned in today's story, Jesus washed his disciples' feet. Jesus knew it was almost time for him to die, and he wanted to set an example for his disciples. He wanted them to do for others just as he had done for them.

How did Peter respond? Allow time for the kids to respond. **Peter said that he did not want Jesus to wash his feet. Why do you think he said that? Did he understand why Jesus wanted to wash his feet? Did he finally let Jesus wash his feet?**

This story has two messages for us. One is that Jesus loves us. The second message is that he wants us to follow his example by showing love to others. What are some things that you can do to show people that you care for them? What are some ways we are able to show love to people we don't even know? Allow time for the kids to respond. **They can be simple things. They do not have to cost money. They can be acts of kindness. They can be kind words. You can make something for someone.**

If you have a card-making program, the kids can use it to make cards. If not, kids can draw pictures for people who are sick or cannot leave home using KidPix. You can mail the cards, have the person who makes congregational visits take them, or encourage children and their caregivers to make a visit themselves.

Today, we are going to make something for someone who is sick or someone who cannot leave home without help. People who can't leave home sometimes get lonely. Do you know anyone who is lonely right now? Allow time for answers. **What are some things that you can write on your card?**

Let the kids come up with some ideas. **What are some things that you could draw on your card?** A lot of people who are homebound are not necessarily sick, so most of the cards should be general, like these examples:

- Thinking of you today
- Wishing you a wonderful day
- Jesus cares about you and so do I/we
- May God bless you today

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles

Supplies

Computers with KidPix or similar software or a card-making software
Color printer
Paper

Tear here for easy use!

- Jesus loves you
- Hope you are feeling better

KidPix has a lot of nature stamps that could be used:

- Sun
- Flowers
- Trees
- Butterflies
- Hearts
- Animals

As the kids work on their cards, you and the Shepherds can go to each computer to offer encouragement and assistance as needed. If there is more than one learner at a computer, be sure that they are taking turns. If time allows, let each of the kids make two cards.

When kids finish their cards, print them and let all of the kids look at them.

You made some very thoughtful cards. I am sure that the people receiving them will be very happy. By making these cards, you are following Jesus' example to do for others. We can send the cards to some of our people who are sick or who cannot come to church, or you can take yours home to give or send to someone your family knows.

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Why do we do things for others? We do them because we love Jesus. Doing for others is a way that we can thank Jesus for all he did for us. Jesus set an example for us and reminded us to do the same. It was great having you here today. Do many good things for others!

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for being an example for us. Help us be examples to others by the things we do and say. Help us do at least one special thing for someone today. In your name we pray.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: Jesus teaches us about love.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids, it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
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- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Last Supper Storytelling

Be sure to introduce yourself because this may be the first time some kids are in your workshop. Distribute the Spark Bibles and Spark Story Bibles.

Welcome to the Computer Lab Workshop. It is wonderful to see you all here today. Has anyone ever done a special thing for you? Allow time for the kids to respond. **What do we say or do when someone does something nice for us? We say thank you. Sometimes, we respond by doing something nice, too.**

In today's story, Jesus did something special for his disciples. He was teaching them about love. Let's read what Jesus did in our Spark Bibles beginning on page 1190, the story of the Last Supper. The older kids can place their stickers by the verses they want to remember or memorize. Have the younger kids share the pictures in their Spark Story Bibles with the older kids, beginning on page 462.

What did Jesus do for his disciples? Allow time for the kids to respond. **He washed their feet. Why was that so special? Years ago, people would wear sandals or go barefoot. Their feet would become very dirty or dusty, so whenever they went into someone's home, they would remove their sandals and wash their own feet, or a servant would do it for them. When Jesus washed**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

the disciples' feet, he was showing them how much he cared for them. It was a very humble thing for Jesus to do. He told them that he was setting an example for them. He now wanted them to go and do good things for others. Jesus was setting an example for us, too. He wants us to go and do good things for others. Jesus showed his love to us in many ways, and one way to thank him is to do as he has asked us to do. We can also thank him in our prayers.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Thanking God

Set Up: Turn the computers on and have the program ready to go.

Activity Instructions

If the kids are sharing computers, show them where to sit. If possible, pair up an older kid and a younger kid at each computer. Be sure that the kids are familiar with KidPix or the software that you are using.

What are some things that God has done for us to show how much God loves and cares for us? Allow time for the kids to respond. **Sending Jesus to die for us is the most important thing that God has done for us. Today, we are going to write thank-you prayers.** If you are using KidPix, have the kids use the text tab so that they can hear the prayer read back to them. Give them time to illustrate a special part of their prayer.

What are some things for which you would like to thank God? Kids can address their prayers to God or to Jesus. Some suggestions:

- Sending Jesus to die on the cross for us
- Jesus being an example for us
- Our health
- All of creation
- Family, especially our parents
- Friends
- Our church and our pastors
- Our teachers and Sunday school teachers
- Food and gardens
- Our pets and toys

The kids can be more specific about the people and things for which they are thankful. Kids may also name animals and foods. Allow all responses.

When you are finished writing your prayer, you can illustrate a special part of it. We will print your prayers so you can take them home and share them with your families.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles

Supplies

Computer with KidPix or similar software
Printer
Paper

Tear here for easy use!

As the kids work on their prayers, you and the Shepherds can go to each computer to offer encouragement and assistance when needed. If you have younger and older kids at each computer, be sure that they are working together and taking turns.

When the kids are finished with their prayers and illustrations, print them so the kids can take them home. **You have all created thoughtful thank-you prayers and illustrations. Be sure to share them with your families. You might want to pray your prayer with your parents at bedtime or at mealtime.**

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for Wrap Up.

Why do we do good things for others? We do good things because we love Jesus and it is a good way to thank him for his unending love for us. When we pray, we should also remember to say thank you. It was good having you all here today. Remember to thank Jesus often by doing something nice for other people.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Dear God,

There is so much for which to thank you. We especially thank you for sending Jesus so we can learn about your love. Help us to follow Jesus' example and do nice things for others. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

