

## Age-Level Overview

Tear here for easy use!

### Lower Elementary

**WORKSHOP FOCUS:** Serving others shows Jesus' love.

**SERVANT SOAP:** Kids make bars of soap to give as gifts.

### Open the Bible

**SPARK RESOURCES:** Spark Story Bibles

**SUPPLIES:** Bag that closes or box with a lid, items (or pictures of items) that might be on a formal dinner table (tablecloth, plate, napkin, fork, salt shaker, flowers, etc.), bar of soap

### Activate Faith

**SPARK RESOURCES:** None

**SUPPLIES:** Soap bars, graters, bowl, measuring cups, food coloring, water, vegetable oil, cookie cutters in a variety of shapes, waxed paper, small paper plates, basin for washing, paper towels

### Upper Elementary

**WORKSHOP FOCUS:** Serving others shows Jesus' love.

**TIED UP WITH LOVE:** Kids tie fleece blankets to give to someone in need.

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

**SUPPLIES:** Pencils

**SPARK RESOURCES:** None

**SUPPLIES:** For each blanket you will need: fleece fabric, fabric scissors, ruler, masking tape (optional)

### All Kids

**WORKSHOP FOCUS:** Serving others shows Jesus' love.

**SWEET DREAMS:** Kids design pillowcases with messages of love to be given to families in need.

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

**SUPPLIES:** Mural paper or poster board, scissors, marker, tape

**SPARK RESOURCES:** None

**SUPPLIES:** Pillowcases (white or plain light colors), fabric markers or paints, newspaper, white paper, pencils, paintbrushes (if needed for paint), water containers (if needed for paint), paint shirts



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit [wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS](http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS) to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Bonus CD contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Spark Online annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Bonus CD and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.



**Workshop Focus:** Serving others shows Jesus' 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!
- 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

**Set Up:** Place all dinner-table items and the soap in the bag or box where kids cannot see them.

#### Activity Instructions

**Has your family ever invited other family members or friends to share a special meal at your house? How does your table look different when you are getting it ready for important company?**

Take things out of the bag or box as kids mention them. Leave the bar of soap to show last. **Have you ever put a bar of soap on your table?**

**Today, we'll hear about a special meal that Jesus shared with his friends. We know this was the last time he ate a meal with his friends, so we call the story The Last Supper. Listen for how soap might have been needed in this story.**

Read aloud The Last Supper on pages 462-467 in the Spark Story Bible.

#### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

#### Supplies

Bag that closes or box with a lid

Items (or pictures of items) that might be on a formal dinner table (tablecloth, plate, napkin, fork, salt shaker, flowers, etc.)

Bar of soap

**When was the soap needed in this story?** (*when Jesus washed the disciples' feet*) **In Bible times, people wore sandals—not socks and shoes. How dirty are your feet at night when you have been playing in sandals or flip-flops?** Wait for responses. **Hopping in the tub wasn't an option in Jesus' time, so a servant would wash the feet of the guests. When Jesus did the washing himself, his disciples were shocked! Jesus looked at them and said, "When you love people, you serve them." Serving someone means helping, taking care of, or doing something for that person. The disciples' feet were dirty, so Jesus got water and a cloth—and maybe soap of some kind—and washed their feet. God wants us to serve others! That's what Jesus was showing the disciples by washing their feet.**

Tear here for easy use!

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Servant Soap

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**Set Up:** Optional: Save workshop time by grating some soap before kids arrive.

#### Activity Instructions

**Let's make soap! You'll take some home to give to your family or a friend. The soap can help you remember that Jesus showed us many ways we can love and serve our friends.**

1. Divide the group in half. Have the Shepherd work with half of the group while you work with the other half to make two batches of soap.
2. Grate the bars of soap into the bowl until you have about 3 cups of soap flakes. Supervise kids closely if they try grating.
3. Measure 1/3 cup (about 80 ml) of water. Add approximately 30 drops of food coloring to the water until the desired shade is reached.
4. Slowly add colored water to the soap flakes and mix until it is the consistency of modeling dough. You may need to add more water 1 teaspoon at a time.
5. Rub a couple of drops of vegetable oil onto hands (keeps soap from sticking) and use your hands to mix the soap.
6. Give each child a piece of waxed paper and a lump of soap. Give kids a couple of drops of vegetable oil to rub onto their hands before they begin working with the soap. Let them mix the lump of soap, then flatten it on the waxed paper.
7. Use greased cookie cutters to cut out soap shapes. While they are working, invite kids to talk about the many ways they can serve others.

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Supplies

Soap bars, 5 or 6  
Graters  
Bowl  
Measuring cups  
Food coloring  
Water  
Vegetable oil  
Cookie cutters in a variety of shapes  
Waxed paper  
Plates, small paper  
Basin for washing  
Paper towels

8. Place soap shapes on a paper plate. Tell kids to let them dry and harden overnight before taking them home.

**When you give your soap to someone, tell the story of Jesus washing the disciple's feet. Be sure to say that Jesus told the disciples one way to love people is to help them with whatever they need.**

## Send (5 minutes)

### Wrap Up

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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.

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



**Think about whom you will give your soap to. Next time you use soap—any soap—think how Jesus loved the disciples so much that he was the one to wash their feet. When we serve and help others, we show them Jesus' love. What are some other ways you could serve or help someone this week?**

Supplies  
None

### Prayer Time

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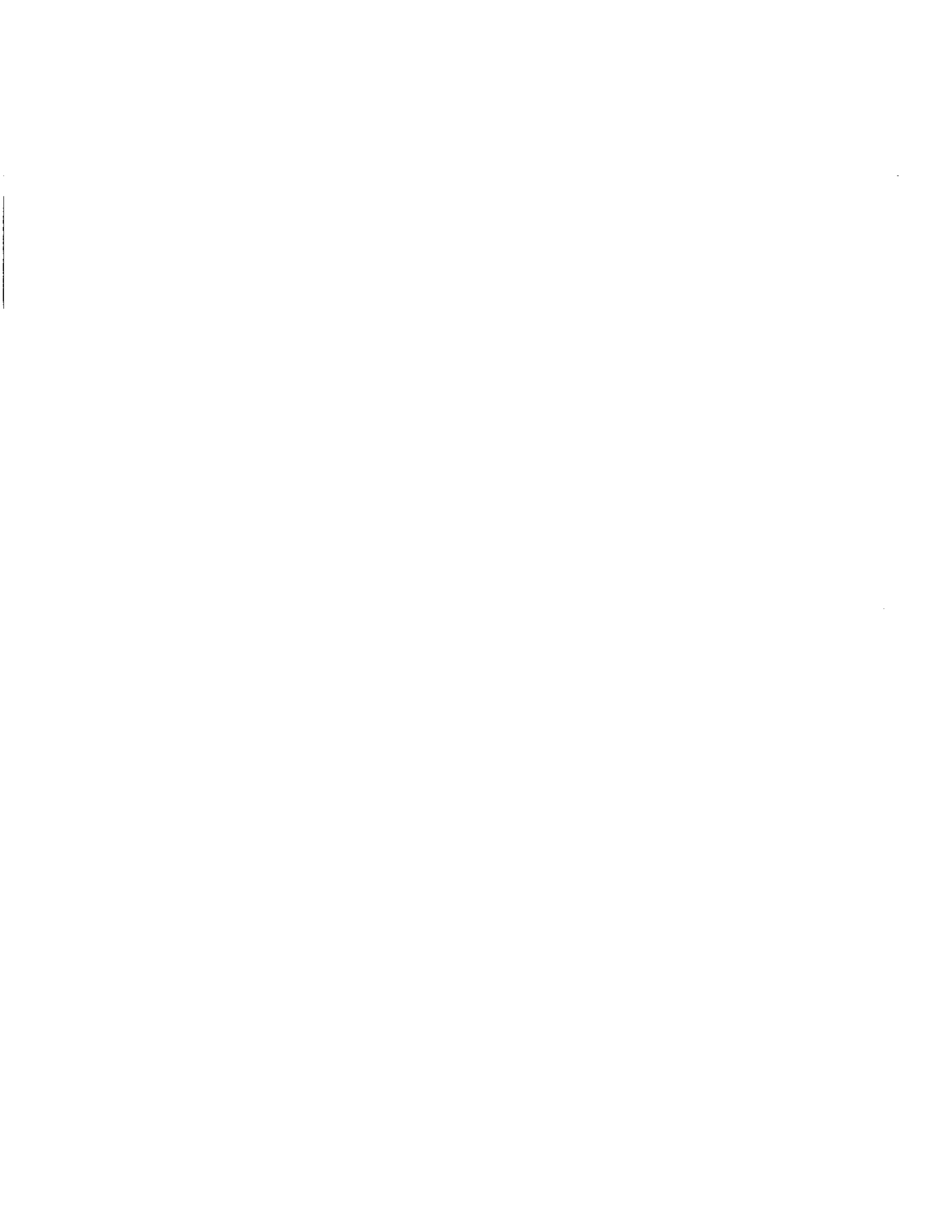
Have kids repeat each phrase of the prayer after you.

**When I use my soap  
to wash my dirty feet,  
help me remember to serve others  
as I walk down the street.**

**When I use my soap  
to clean my busy hands,  
help me remember to love my neighbors  
all across the land.**

**When I use my soap  
to wash my smiling face,  
Help me always shine for Jesus  
And fill me with your grace.**

**Amen.**



**Workshop Focus:** Serving others shows Jesus' love.

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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### The Last Supper Storytelling

**How do you show love? What do you do to show your love to someone on a birthday or a special holiday?** (*Give them a hug, bring breakfast in bed, do their chores, etc.*) **Those are all really great ways to show love to someone.**

**Today we'll read about a special way that Jesus showed the disciples that he loved them. Open your Spark Bibles to John, chapter 13, verse 1, on page 1190.** Assist kids who need help. Ask a volunteer to read aloud verses 1 through 7. Ask a second volunteer to read aloud verses 12 through 15. **At the very beginning, this story tells us that Jesus loved his friends. Look at the second part of verse 1. What does it say?** (*Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.*) **What "end" is Jesus talking about?** (*the end of Jesus' life*) **Jesus' whole life showed how he loved people. He healed them and fed them. He listened to people and told them how much God loved them. In this story, Jesus did something that shocked the disciples. What did he do?** (*He washed their feet.*) **They were shocked because washing someone's feet was a job for the household servants, the people who took care of the house.**

Spark Resources  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies  
Pencils

**Look again at verses 12, 13, and 14. Turn to a neighbor. Use your own words to say what you think Jesus was trying to tell the disciples about love.** Give them about 30 seconds to share. **What did you decide?** (*Serving people means doing what they need. Jesus served his disciples by doing what they needed. His disciples can do the same thing by doing what other people need.*) **What does that mean for us? Do we have to wash people's feet?** (*We serve others by paying attention to what they need and then doing it.*)

**Find a Makes Me Feel sticker. Place it by this story and write how you feel, knowing that Jesus showed us how to serve others.**

**Now look on page 1190 of your Bible. See the orange box? Who can read the TRY IT! challenge?** Choose one kid to read aloud and "practice" with the kids by pretending that you are a parent. Choose random kids and say, "Do the laundry." Kids say, "Okay." Repeat with different kids and different chores.

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## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Tied Up with Love

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**Set Up:** Contact a local shelter or hospital to see what blankets they will accept. Animal shelters and fire or police stations may also take blankets. Decide how you will divide your group. Groups of 4 kids work well because each kid will have his or her own side of the blanket to tie. Have enough materials for each of your groups to make one blanket.

#### Activity Instructions

**Serving others can be fun in many ways. One way to make it fun is to do the work together. Let's work together to make some fleece blankets that we will give to**

\_\_\_\_\_.

Talk about how the people or animals at the agency you give the blankets to will benefit from them.

**We'll work in small groups to tie blankets. Being wrapped up in a warm, fuzzy blanket makes me feel cozy and loved. We might never know which people get our blankets, but when they wrap up in our blankets, they may know that someone cared about them.**

Tying blankets works best when people sit on the floor around the blanket.

1. Lay the pieces of fleece fabric one on top of the other. If needed, trim either piece of fleece so that both pieces are the same size.
2. Cut a 4-inch (10-cm) square out of all four corners of both layers of fleece.

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Supplies

For each blanket you need:  
Fleece fabric, 2 pieces the same size  
Fabric scissors, 1 or more per blanket  
Ruler  
Masking tape (optional)



3. Cut strips that are 1-inch (2.5-cm) wide and 4-inch (10-cm) long through both layers of fleece on all four sides. (You can use masking tape to mark the 4-inch [10-cm] line where kids should end their strips on each side.) The blanket will look like it is bordered by 1-inch (2.5-cm) fringe.
4. Begin tying at the corners. Tie a strip from the top piece of fleece to its matching strip on the bottom piece of fleece. Tie a simple double knot.
5. Continue tying the top strips to the bottom strips until completed.
6. Depending on the size of the blanket, four or more people can easily work on one blanket at a time, with one sitting on each side of it on the floor.

While kids make the knots, talk about other ways they can serve in your community. Encourage kids to follow Jesus' loving example by organizing a plan to carry out one of the ideas that they discuss.

## Send (5 minutes)

### Wrap Up

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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.

**When we were making the blankets, I said we'll probably never know who receives them. We can ask God to bless the blankets so that the people who need them will feel safe and comfortable. Jesus' love comes to them through us and through these blankets.**

Spark Resources  
Family Pages



Supplies  
Blankets made during  
Activate Faith

### Prayer Time

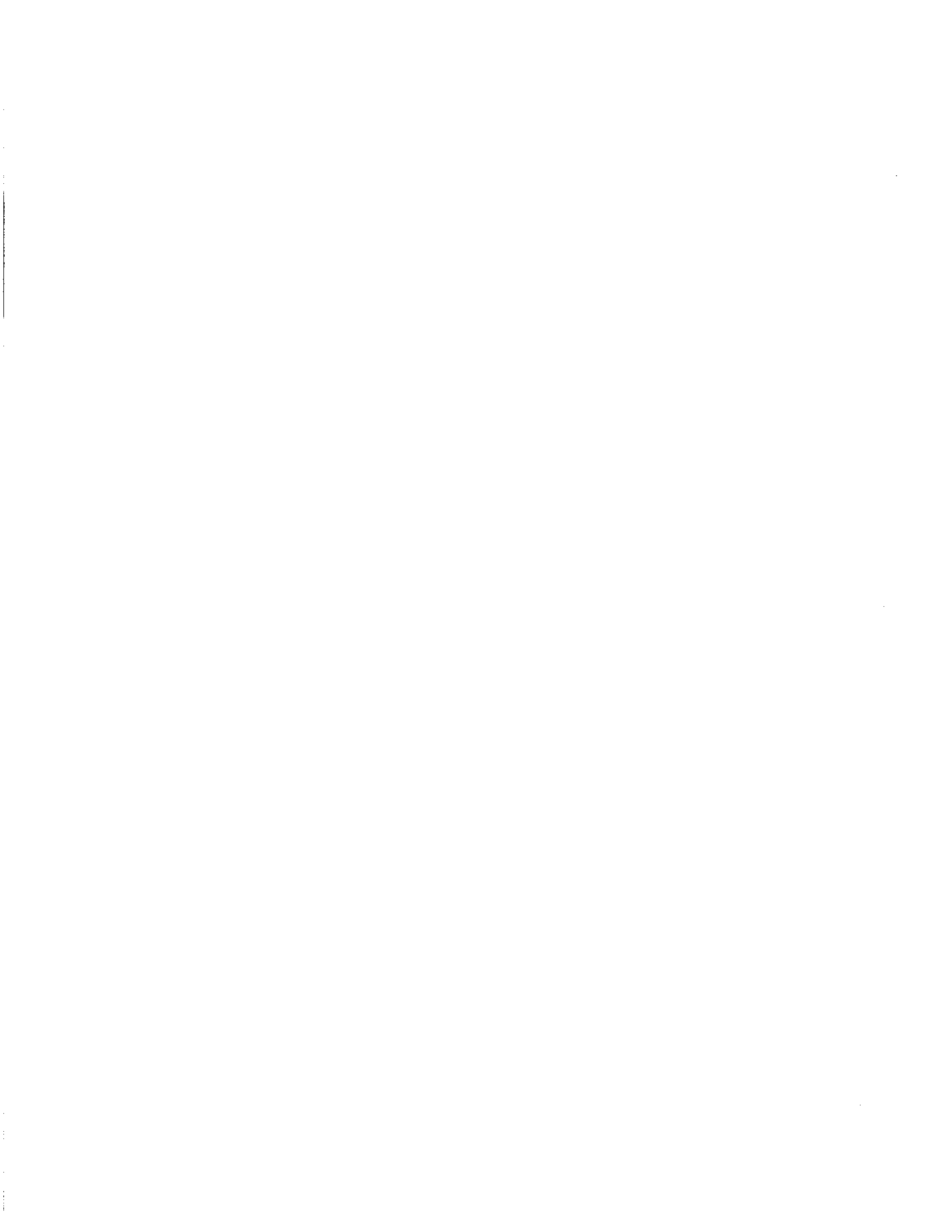
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Gather the blankets in the center of the group. Invite kids to place a hand on the blankets as you pray. Ask if one of the kids would like to pray a blessing on the blankets for the group. If there are no volunteers, you can pray:

**Dear Lord Jesus,**

**Thank you for loving each one of us. We pray that you will bless the people who receive these blankets. Help them feel warm as they wrap up, feeling God's love through your arms and our work.**

**Amen.**



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## Open the Bible (10 minutes)

### The Last Supper Storytelling

**Set Up:** Cut a large heart out of the poster board or mural paper. Tape it to the wall.

#### Activity Instructions

**Today we will explore a love story in the Bible. But first, let's talk about how we show love. What do you say or do to show your love to your mom or dad?** Write the responses on the heart.

**How would you show love to a friend?** Write any new or different responses on the heart. **These are great ways to show love. If you have a Spark Bible, open it to John 13:1-20 on page 1190 .** Assist kids who need help locating the passage.

**This part of the love story starts at the beginning of chapter 13 and continues to the end of the chapter. I am going to read it out of the Spark Story Bible, but keep your Spark Bible open for a few minutes. Close your eyes while I read it and see pictures in your mind of actions that show love to someone else.**

Read The Last Supper, beginning on page 462 in the Spark Story Bible.

#### Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles  
Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers

#### Supplies

Mural paper or poster board  
Scissors  
Marker  
Tape

**Open your eyes. What pictures of love did you see in your mind while I was reading?** (*sharing a meal together, Jesus washing the disciples' feet, disciples promising to stay by Jesus, etc.*)

**Will someone who has the Spark Bible open read verses 14 and 15 from chapter 13 for us?** Have someone read the verses. **Can you tell us, in your words, what you think those verses are trying to say?** Allow time for responses. **Everyone thought that Jesus was the most important person in the room, but he did the job usually done by people who were not considered to be important at all—washing dirty feet of guests before eating together. He was showing his disciples they should do whatever someone really needed. It doesn't matter if people think you're really important or if people think you're really unimportant. What really matters is loving people by doing what they need.**

**If you have a Spark Bible, find one of your stickers that says Makes Me Feel on it. Stick it next to verses 13 and 14 and write next to the sticker how you feel, knowing that Jesus showed us how to serve others.**

Tear here for easy use!

## Activate Faith (25 minutes)

### Sweet Dreams

**Set Up:** Contact a local shelter or a helping agency to find out if they can use the decorated pillowcases. Make arrangements to deliver the completed cases.

#### Activity Instructions

**We are going to make a gift to give away to someone who needs to feel safe and loved. Each of you will design and make a pillowcase, and we will give it to someone who needs it.**

Tell about the shelter or agency where the cases will be donated and about the people who receive help there. **When the person who receives your pillowcase goes to bed each night and sees your pillowcase on his or her pillow, he or she may feel safe and comfortable. God loves everyone. Jesus showed us many ways we can share that love with others.**

**Let's brainstorm some ideas about what we can put on a pillowcase. What words or symbols would help someone know that we care about him or her?** (*Words: "Sweet dreams," "You are loved," "Jesus loves you," etc.; Symbols: hearts, clouds, smiley faces, etc.*)

1. Give each child a piece of plain white paper and a pencil to practice a design. When they are happy with their designs, kids can draw or paint them on the pillowcases.

#### Spark Resources

None

#### Supplies

Pillowcases, white or plain  
light colors, 1 per kid  
Fabric markers or paints  
Newspaper  
Paper, white  
Pencils  
Paintbrushes (if needed for  
paint)  
Water containers (if needed  
for paint)  
Paint shirts

2. **Put a section of newspaper inside the pillowcase so that the marker or paint doesn't bleed through to the other side.** Give everyone a paintshirt.
3. **Use markers or fabric paint to decorate the pillowcase.**

## Send (5 minutes)

### Wrap Up

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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 will probably never know who receives our pillowcases, but God knows! We can ask God to bless the pillowcases so that the people who receive them will feel safe and comfortable. Jesus' love comes to them through us and through these pillowcases.**

**Spark Resources**  
Family Pages



**Supplies**  
Pillowcases made in Activate  
Faith

### Prayer Time

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Gather the pillowcases in the center of the group. Invite kids to place a hand on the pillowcases as you pray. Ask if one of the kids would like to pray a blessing on the pillowcases for the group. If there are no volunteers, you can pray:

**Dear Jesus,**

**Thank you for loving each one of us. We pray that you would bless the people who receive these pillowcases. Give them calm and restful nights of sleep, knowing that you love them and knowing that we care for them, too.**

**Amen.**

