

Age-Level Overview

Tear here for easy use!

Lower Elementary

WORKSHOP FOCUS: We want to be like Jesus!

GUESS WHAT I CAN DO! Kids play telephone charades to discover ways that they can serve others.

TEA PARTY: Kids take turns serving and being served at a tea party.

Open the Bible

SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles

SUPPLIES: None

Activate Faith

SPARK RESOURCES: None

SUPPLIES: List of age-specific things that kids can do, pitchers of water or other beverages, cookies or some other snack (nothing fancy!), paper cups, napkins, paper plates

Upper Elementary

WORKSHOP FOCUS: Dear Jesus, help me to see my chance to serve!

SHOE SCRAMBLE: Kids serve others by putting their shoes on them.

APRON RELAY: Kids enjoy a relay race with aprons, spoons, and balloons.

SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers

SUPPLIES: None

SPARK RESOURCES: None

SUPPLIES: Aprons, plastic spoons, balloons

All Kids

WORKSHOP FOCUS: If Jesus serves, then so can I!

SET THE TABLE RELAY: Teams learn to set a proper place setting.

RHYME TIME! Kids discover other ways to serve at home, at school, and in their neighborhoods.

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

SUPPLIES: None

SPARK RESOURCES: None

SUPPLIES: Paper plates, paper bowls, paper cups, plastic utensils, napkins, placemats, small slips of paper



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SOSS 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: We want to be like Jesus!

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.

Tear here for easy use!

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Last Supper Storytelling

Today, you will show kids that even though they may be young, they can serve others. They'll serve each other at a tea party and act out ways to serve at home and school.

As kids enter your space, greet them with good manners. Be sure to have all leaders available for greeting. All kids should be helped off with their jackets, have their chairs held out for them, have doors opened for them, and other gracious gestures. Let the kids experience being served as they enter the room.

Good morning! I'm so glad you're all here today! Today is a very special day. We're going to talk about what it means to be a servant. Can anyone tell me how you were served this morning? Allow kids to respond. Encourage them to recall how they were served when they entered the room. **Those were all things that were special, different, maybe things that you aren't used to. How did those things make you feel?** (*special, welcome, etc.*) **Did you know that Jesus was a servant? We're going to read about a very special way that he served his friends.**

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Invite kids to open their Spark Story Bibles to page 462. **Today, we're going to read the story The Last Supper. Please follow along as I read.** Read the story. Allow kids to comment on the pictures. **How do you think it would feel to have your feet washed by someone else?** (*weird, tickly, etc.*) **Why do you think Jesus washed their feet?** Accept answers. **When Jesus was alive, there were no cars. Most people traveled on foot. They wore sandals or went barefoot, so their feet would always be very dusty. Many people had servants who would wash the feet of their guests to make them feel comfortable and welcome. Even though there were probably servants in the house, Jesus washed the feet of his friends himself.**

Sometimes, the best way to show someone how to act is to act that way yourself. Jesus wanted his friends to learn to serve others, so he was showing them that even though he was God, he was serving them! One of Jesus' friends didn't want his feet washed. Do you remember who that was? (*Peter*) **Why didn't he want Jesus to wash his feet?** (*He knew that Jesus was very important, and he was trying to show Jesus respect and love by not allowing him to serve him.*) **But Jesus told Peter that one day Peter would understand what he was doing. So Peter let Jesus wash his feet.**

It's fun to be served sometimes, isn't it? But following the way that Jesus showed us means we should serve others, too. Some children might think they're too young to serve. What do you think? Are there ways you can serve other people? Today, that's just what we'll find out!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Guess What I Can Do!

Set Up: Have all of the kids sit on the floor in a circle.

Activity Instructions

This activity combines the telephone game with charades. A leader will start the telephone part by whispering one of the activities from the list into the ear of the first kid. The kids will pass the message around. When the message gets to the last kid, that kid should act it out. Then you ask the first kid if that looks like what you whispered to him or her. If it doesn't, the first kid gets up in the middle of the circle, acts out the activity, and everyone guesses what he or she is acting out. Then briefly talk about how, where, or when kids can serve by doing that activity. Be sure to start the message with a different kid each time, so that it ends up with a different kid to act it out each time.

We're going to find out some things that we can do to serve others. Let's play telephone! I'm going to start a message going around. It's going to be about something we can do to serve others. You'll all pass the message around by whispering it into the ear of the person next to you. Try to speak slowly, softly,

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

List of age-specific things that kids can do:

- Put away groceries
- Pull weeds
- Make a bed
- Rake leaves
- Sweep
- Walk the dog
- Dust furniture
- Clean a toilet
- Feed a baby
- Pass out papers at school
- Wash dishes
- Water plants

and clearly, so that your neighbor can understand what you're saying. When the last person hears the message, he or she will act it out. If the message gets jumbled up, the last person may not have heard the right message. If the message is wrong, the person who started the message will act it out, and we'll all try to guess what it is.

That was great! You did a great job acting out different things that you are all big enough to do at home and at school.

Tea Party

Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

Set Up: Divide the kids into two groups—servers and guests (if the group is large, you may want to have two groups of servers and two groups of guests at separate tables). The groups will switch, so each kid will have a chance to be a server and a guest. Have tables and chairs ready nearby if you don't typically have those things in the area.

Activity Instructions

Like Jesus did with his friends, we are going to have a special party. We'll call it a tea party. Has anyone ever been to a real tea party? Allow brief answers. **We're going to have a tea party, but we won't be having tea. We'll have** (water and cookies, or whatever you're having). **You'll each have a chance to serve and be served.** Move the servers and guests into two separate areas.

If possible, have one leader go with the servers and one with the guests. The leader with the servers should talk to the kids about nice manners and how to treat their guests with respect. If there isn't a second leader available, move between the two groups to facilitate discussion. Select a few of the servers to be seaters, a few to pour drinks, and a few to pass out cookies. The leader with the guests should talk to the kids about having nice manners and being respectful to their servers. Have the seaters seat the guests. When guests are seated, have the drink kids serve the drinks, pouring carefully. Then the cookie kids should pass out the cookies. Encourage the servers to speak to their guests in this way: "Would you like a (drink/cookie)?" Guests should be encouraged to say, "Yes, please," or "No, thank you."

You have all received your instructions, so we are ready to begin. Enjoy your tea party!

When all of the guests are about done with their snack, have all of the servers collect plates, cups, and napkins and dispose of them in the trash. Have one or two servers wipe tables after the others have cleared them.

Wonderful, boys and girls! Nice manners were used, and I think the guests all had a delightful time being served. Now it's time to switch places! Have the kids regroup, have the leaders review the same instructions for servers and guests, and repeat the process.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Pitchers of water or other beverages
Cookies or some other snack—nothing fancy!
Paper cups
Napkins
Plates, paper

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.

Now that everyone has had a chance to be a server and a guest, which role did you like better? Accept answers. **Sometimes, serving means that we have to wait for what we want until others get what they want. How does that make you feel?** (*frustrated, etc.*) **One thing that can help us when we're serving is to remember Jesus' example. He was a patient, caring servant. What are some things you can do this week to be a patient, caring servant like Jesus?** (*Do the dishes, help my teacher, etc.*) **It's definitely very nice to be served. But when we serve others, we're following Jesus' way, showing love by caring for others.**

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

Prayer Time

Dear God,

We want to follow Jesus' example. We want to love and serve others just like he did. But sometimes it's hard to remember to serve, and it's hard to put what others need before what we want. Help us this week to look for ways to serve our families, our friends, our teachers, and others. We want to show our love for you by serving others. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: Dear Jesus, help me to see my chance to serve!

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.

Tear here for easy use!

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

The Last Supper Storytelling

As kids arrive, greet them. Serve them by helping them off with jackets and hanging them up or putting them away for them. Have all leaders available to serve kids by pulling chairs out for them, opening doors, and other gracious gestures. Let the kids experience being served when they arrive.

Is it fun to be served? (*yes/no*) **Is it hard to serve others?** (*yes/no*) **When is it most difficult to serve other people?** Accept all answers. **In today's story, we will see a perfect example of a servant. Let's open our Spark Bibles to the Gospel of John, chapter 13:1-20 on page 1190.** If Bibles need to be passed out, pick a few kids to serve in that way. **Who would like to serve our group by reading this story for us?** Pick one or two good readers to read The Last Supper. Tell the kids to watch for good places to put a sticker.

Who was the servant in our story? (*Jesus*) **And whom was he serving?** (*his disciples*) **Do you know when this story was taking place?** (*the night before Jesus was crucified*) **Jesus had been with his disciples for three years—teaching them and ministering to all kinds of people—and now he knew the time had come for him to die on the cross. Jesus was sharing his last meal with his friends. Since**

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

he knew he was going to die the next day, how do you think he was feeling? (*scared, sad, etc.*) Even though he felt the stress of what was coming, it was very important to him to have this meal with his friends and to teach them the importance of serving others.

Who is easier to serve: people who are kind to us, or people who are mean to us? (*people who are kind*) Jesus knew Judas was going to betray him, yet he washed Judas' feet anyway. Why do you think he did that? Jesus wants us to show love to people—but not just people who are nice to us. Being a Christian can mean we need to do difficult things, like showing love to people who are unkind to us. By his example, we know it's not impossible to serve people who are unkind to us—it's very possible!

Tear here for easy use!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Shoe Scramble

Set Up: Divide the group into two teams, preferably boys and girls, if those teams would be fairly even. Each team sits on the floor in a circle. Everyone removes a right shoe and places it in the center of the circle. Leaders scramble up the shoes within each team's circle so that they are all mixed up and not near their owners.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Activity Instructions

This is a race. The object is for each team to return shoes to their rightful feet. Choose one person on each team to be the "shoe starter." When the game begins, the shoe starter will pick up a shoe and pass it to the kid on the right. The shoe should be passed around the circle until it gets to the kid to the left of the owner of the shoe. Kids should pay attention so they can match the shoe to the kid on their right.

Jesus washed the feet of his friends. We are going to put our friends' shoes on for them! Sometimes it's hard to put shoes on other people's feet. Some feet are ticklish, and some shoes are hard to get on. Good luck!

The object of the race is for each team to get all their shoes on. The first team with everyone's shoes on is the winner! Remind kids who the "shoe starter" is for each team. **You two kids will start the shoes going around in your circle. You'll pick up a shoe and pass it to the kid on your right. When you are holding the shoe that belongs to the person on your right, you must put that shoe on the person's foot. Shoe starters should keep the shoes coming, but not too fast or we'll get backed up! Any questions?** Begin the game when everyone understands the idea.

That was fun! You can see that sometimes it's tricky to help someone else, isn't it!

Apron Relay

Set Up: Divide the group into at least two teams. Each team should have an apron, a spoon, and one inflated balloon for the team. *Be aware of latex allergies. Use mylar balloons if kids have latex allergies.*

Activity Instructions

Who remembers what Jesus put around his waist in our story today? (a towel)

Today when people serve, they may use something similar. Can anyone think of what that might be? (apron) Today we're going to have an apron relay race!

1. This is a relay race. Each team will line up at the starting line. There should be a turn-around point at the other end of the room with a table so the team members can leave their balloons for the next members of their teams.
2. When the race begins, the last person in each team's line comes forward, puts the apron on the first kid in the team's line, and returns to the end of the line. Once the apron is on the first kid in each line, that racer holds the handle of the spoon places the balloon on the other end of the spoon (the eating end), and then *walks* to the other end of the room while trying not to drop the balloon. If the balloon is dropped, the racer has to pick it up and put it back on the spoon before continuing toward the table at the other end of the room.
3. Then racer puts the balloon on the table, holds on to the spoon, runs back to the team line, takes off the apron, puts it on the next kid, and gives the spoon to him or her. The new racer runs to the table, puts the balloon on the spoon, and returns to his or her team line. She or he gives the spoon and balloon to the next kid, puts the apron on that kid, and the race continues. It is won when the last team member completes his or leg of the race.

I hope you all had fun playing that game! You did a great job!

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Aprons, 1 for each team

Plastic spoons, 1 for each team

Balloons, inflated, 1 for each team

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.

Sometimes it's really hard to serve other people. Did anyone have a hard time putting the apron on a teammate? Sometimes people we want to serve feel like they have to help us, when they should just let us do what we're trying to do for them. Sometimes people want to do something for us instead of letting us do something for them. Who was a person like that in our story today? (Peter) He wanted to serve Jesus rather than let Jesus wash his feet. But Jesus wanted Peter to learn that the best way to show our love for Jesus is to serve others. He wanted Peter to live his life serving others, and that's what he wants for us. What are some ways that you can show your love for Jesus by serving other people this week? Accept all answers. Encourage kids to remember ways to serve at home.

Serving others is not something we have to do to get God to love us. God already loves us! Serving others is a way for us to show our love for God. When we do something for someone else, the Bible tells us that we're also doing it for Jesus (Matthew 25:45).

Prayer Time

Let's pray and ask God to give us a heart to love and serve others.

Dear God,

You showed your love for us by sending your Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. We love you so much, and we want to show our love for you. Help us see chances to serve others this week, and help us remember that those chances are things to look forward to. Help us put others above ourselves by meeting their needs. We love you and worship you. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

Workshop Focus: If Jesus serves, then so can I!

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

As kids arrive, greet them warmly and have leaders seat kids by pulling chairs out for them, bringing them to their places restaurant style. Since this week's lesson is on service, enlist the help of kids in the group as much as possible. Have kids pass out Bibles, papers, and anything else you may need. When anyone helps, be sure to offer a thank-you.

I'm so glad you're all here today. We've got a very important story to learn. Let's turn to Matthew 26:17-30 in our Spark Bibles, the story of the Last Supper, on page 1093. Encourage older kids to help younger kids, share Bibles, etc. We're going to read from the Spark Bible, but let's also open our Spark Story Bibles to pages 462-467 and look at the pictures while we read. **Would someone please read the story for us?**

This was a very important time for Jesus' disciples. They didn't realize it completely, but this was the last meal they would eat with their beloved Lord. He had spent a few years with them, teaching them about God, and now it was time for Jesus to die on the cross. How do you think Jesus may have been feeling?

Accept answers.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

None

Jesus did the same thing with his friends. Why do you think he washed their feet, instead of just telling them to serve others? (so they could see him serving, giving them an example, etc.) **Sometimes the best way to teach people something important is not just to tell them, but to show them as well. What sticker might be appropriate to put in this story?** Accept all answers.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Set the Table Relay

Set Up: Gather supplies for a place setting for each team and place them in separate piles on a table, one pile for each team. Have a complete place setting somewhere visible in the front of the room so that each team can see it easily. There should be a table or tables at the opposite end of the room with enough space for each team to set up its place setting. Divide the group into at least two teams. Each team will have a different colored placemat—the teams can be named based on the color of their placemats (Red Team, Blue Team, etc.).

Activity Instructions

This is a relay race. Each team lines up at the starting point. That is where their pile of place setting items is located. When the race begins, the first kid on each team should run to the table with its team placemat on his or her head, place it on the table, then run back to the team line. When the first kid returns to the line, the second kid chooses an item from the pile, places it on his or her head, runs to the table, and places it in the appropriate position on the placemat. This continues until the entire place setting is completed. Kids can use their hands to help balance an item on their head. If an item falls off, a kid can pick it up, put it back on his or her head, and continue on to the table. The first team to complete its place setting correctly (according to the example) is the winner.

We're having a relay race! We're going to learn the correct way to set a table, and we're going to have fun doing it. Divide the group into teams. Show each team its placemat and pile of supplies, naming each item. **Each of these things is part of a place setting. This example shows where each item goes.** Give the kids a moment to look at the example. **We're going to have a relay race, and the first team to complete their place setting just like mine will win!** Explain the game. When everyone understands the game, begin. Encourage the kids to consider the order in which they bring things over to their spot on the table.

Wonderful effort! You all did a great job, and you learned one way that you can serve others at home!

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Paper plates
Paper bowls
Paper cups
Plastic utensils
Napkins
Place mats, different color for each team

Tear here for easy use!

Rhyme Time!

Set Up: Each kid gets one or two pieces of paper.

Activity Instructions

Each kid gets one or two slips of paper. Kids will take turns coming up with a phrase that rhymes with their phrases (to be used as a hint), acting out their actual phrases, and having other kids try to guess their service actions. For example: For the phrase "set table," a kid could say "wet fable," and then act out setting the table motions. Other kids will try to guess the phrase. Shepherds may need to help kids to come up with rhyming words.

Setting the table at home is one way that we can serve others. Now we're going to find out other ways we can serve others. You each have a piece of paper with a job written on it. Take a good look at it without showing it to anyone else. Now think of a phrase that rhymes with the words on your paper. For example, my phrase is "wash car." To give a hint about what my service sounds like, I will use the rhyming phrase "squash far." For my turn, I will say "squash far" and I will do car-washing motions. Demonstrate this. Everyone else will try to guess "wash car." If you think you know what I'm doing, be sure to raise your hand, and then I'll call on you. When it's your turn to do a rhyme and an action, you get to call on kids to guess your phrase. If you're having trouble thinking of a rhyming phrase, raise your hand and I will help you or the Shepherds can help you. When everyone understands, begin the game.

That was great! You all did a great job! And now we all have a great list of ways we can serve others.

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 can all do a lot of things. But sometimes people think that we might be too young to do things. What are things you are too young to do right now? (*drive, get a job, etc.*) **But today we talked about a lot of things that you are all big enough and old enough to do. Let's see what things we remember.** Allow kids to name things that were talked about: washing car, feeding dog, and so on. **These are things each of us can do. When we do things for others, we are serving them, and we're showing God our love. I'd like to encourage each of you to think about ways you can serve others in your family, your school, and your neighborhood. What is one way that you would like to try to serve others this week?** Accept answers.

Spark Resource

None

Supplies

Small slips of paper with a phrase or word on each:
set table, serve food, serve drink, pick up, wash feet, prepare food, say prayers, pull weeds, wash dishes, walk dog, dust furniture, fold clothes, make bed, sweep floor, rake leaves, clean toilet, feed baby, water plants (other phrases you choose)

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Jesus served his friends so that they could know the importance of serving others. When we serve others, we're following Jesus! And if Jesus served others, then SO CAN I!

Prayer Time

Dear God,

Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to earth so that we can know about you. Thank you for his example of serving. Even though we may be young, we can still do so many things. Help us remember that we're never too young to do things that serve other people. Help us look for ways to show your love to others by serving them this week and always. In Jesus' name.

Amen.

Tear here for easy use!