

The Last Supper

Welcome to Large Group Openings for The Last Supper Rotation. Enjoy your time (about 10 minutes) with kids as you sing, learn, and pray together. Choose a song or two to get things started, move into the object lesson that introduces kids to the story, invite kids to discuss a question with their Shepherds, and finish up your time with a prayer.

Spark Songs

Use one or more of the following Spark Songs during your Large Group Opening. Use them in the order that suits your group's size, format, and time frame.

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy (Track 10, Songbook page 55): Serving others results in feeling joy! Sing these alternate verses to this familiar tune:

I've got the joy of serving, joy of serving . . .

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus . . .

Jesus Loves the Little Children (Track 11, Songbook page 62): Jesus washed the feet of his disciples to show his love for them and for all people. Jesus came to earth to love all children, including the kids in your large group!

Hallelujah! Praise Ye the Lord! (Track 8, Songbook page 44): Change the phrase "Praise ye the Lord" to "Serve ye the Lord" as you praise Jesus together. You can also try singing "Love one another" to help your kids remember one of Jesus' important messages to us.

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD

Spark Songbook

Spark Song Lyrics Sheets or
Slides



Supplies

CD player

Introduce the Story

Set Up: Write each of the letters in the word *servant* on a separate piece of paper. Make the letters large and bold enough to fill the entire piece of paper so they will be visible from a distance.

Play Spark Words to introduce the word *servant*. Ask for seven volunteers to come to the front. Give each volunteer one of the pieces of paper with a letter on it. Have the volunteers hold the paper so that the letter is facing their chest. Put the volunteers in order, left to right, so that when their letters are revealed, they will correctly spell out the word. The object of the game is for the other kids to guess the letters and eventually figure out the word.

Ask kids in the large group to raise their hands to guess a letter. If a guessed letter is in the word, the volunteer with that letter turns it around. If an incorrect letter is guessed, move on to another guesser. Once the word has been figured out, give your volunteers a round of applause for helping and send them back to sit with their Shepherd groups.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Paper, 7 sheets

Marker

Our Spark Word today is *servant*. Jesus' last message to the disciples was to be servants to each other and to the world. He lived out that message, serving the disciples by washing their feet. He then told his disciples to go and be servants by helping and giving to other people. We can serve, too, to show Jesus that we love him and appreciate that he died for us.

Shepherd Questions

Pose one or more of these questions to the large group and invite the Shepherds to discuss them with the kids in their small groups. If your group is already small, choose one of the questions and ask the whole group to discuss it together.

- What does a servant do?
- Tell about a time when you did something to help someone. How did you feel?
- Why does Jesus want us to serve others?

Closing Prayer

Have kids echo the phrases of the prayer after you.

**Jesus,
You showed us how to serve
and help other people.
I want to be like you, Jesus,
and love people everywhere.
Help me to serve you
by serving others.
Amen.**



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This Little Light of Mine (Track 16, Songbook page 90): We shine our Jesus light when we love and serve others. Try these verses:

Jesus washed the disciples' feet, I'm gonna let it shine. (x3)
Let it shine! (x3)

Serving others shows God's love, I'm gonna let it shine. (x3)
Let it shine! (x3)

I am a C (H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N) (Track 9, Songbook page 50): Serving others shows that we are followers of Christ, who empowers us to love unconditionally.

Give Me Oil in My Lamp (Track 4, Songbook page 22): Sing these verses:

Give me love in my heart, overflowing . . .
Give me soap for my skin, keep me really, really clean . . .
Give me joy in my heart, when I'm serving . . .

Introduce the Story

Set Up: Make one wash station for each Shepherd group. Fill the wash basins with a couple inches of warm water and set them aside where the Shepherds can easily access them, along with the soap and towels.

Take a look at your shoes. I bet they're a bit dirty. You will probably take them off when you get home. But what do you do when you go barefoot? You can't just take off your dirty feet like you can take off dirty shoes, so you might need to wash your feet. People in Bible times always wore sandals, so their feet got really dirty and stinky! They would always wash their feet when they were a guest at someone's house. A teacher and leader like Jesus would never wash such yucky, stinky feet, but in our story today, Jesus did! Jesus did that to show his love for his disciples and to teach them about serving one another.

Today we are going to wash each other's hands. When we gently wash each other's hands, we show that we care for each other. Allow a few minutes for all to have their hands washed.

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD
Spark Songbook
Spark Song Lyrics Sheets or
Slides



Supplies

CD player

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Wash basins
Soap
Towels

**Jesus told the disciples that they should serve each other, like he served them.
Because we are followers of Jesus, we are called to serve others, too.**

Shepherd Questions

Pose one or more of these questions to the large group and invite the Shepherds to discuss them with the kids in their small groups. If your group is already small, choose one of the questions and ask the whole group to discuss it together.

- How did it feel to have someone wash your hands?
- How did it feel to wash someone else's hands?
- What other ways can we serve others besides washing hands and feet?

Closing Prayer

The words for this prayer are taken from the hymn "Will You Let Me Be Your Servant?" by Richard Gillard. Have kids repeat each phrase after you.

**Jesus,
Let me be a servant.
Let me be Christ to others.
Help me to accept
the help of others
when I need it, too.
Amen.**



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Jesus Loves the Little Children (Track 11, Songbook page 62): Jesus washed the feet of his disciples to show his love for them and for all people. Jesus came to earth to love all children, including the kids in your large group!

Hallelujah! Praise Ye the Lord! (Track 8, Songbook page 44): Change the phrase "Praise ye the Lord" to "Serve ye the Lord" as you praise Jesus together. You can also try singing "Love one another" to help your kids remember one of Jesus' important messages to us.

Spark Resources

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Spark Songbook
Spark Song Lyrics Sheets or
Slides



Supplies

CD player

Introduce the Story

I need a volunteer who would like to come up here and pretend to be our king or queen. Choose a kid to come to the front. Put the crown on his or her head. Ask the volunteer: **If you were a real king or queen, what kinds of things could you do?** Get a few responses. Let the large group offer some ideas as well. **Kings and queens have a lot of power. They can dress fancy, and they can tell other people what to do.**

People expected Jesus to be the kind of king that we just talked about. They wanted him to defeat their enemies and save them from a hard life. But Jesus was a different kind of king than the kind we just talked about. Instead of ordering people around and having riches and power, Jesus loved and helped people. Take the crown off the volunteer's head and have him or her kneel. **Jesus was the kind of king who served others. Sometimes we call Jesus the servant king because he washed the disciples' feet and instructed them to serve each other in the same way. Jesus knelt down at the disciples' feet. Jesus did the yucky work of washing someone else's stinky, dirty feet to show us that he was a different kind of king. People loved him even more for being a servant king.**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Crown

Shepherd Questions

Pose one or more of these questions to the large group and invite the Shepherds to discuss them with the kids in their small groups. If your group is already small, choose one of the questions and ask the whole group to discuss it together.

- What other stories do you know that have a king in them?
- What are some other ways that Jesus is not like the first kind of king we described?
- How can you serve people like Jesus did?

Closing Prayer

Have kids respond with the phrase “We love you, Servant King” after each petition in the prayer.

Jesus, you are the king the people had waited for. (*We love you, Servant King.*)

We want to serve a king like you. (*We love you, Servant King.*)

Help us to love you by serving others. (*We love you, Servant King.*)

Help us to love others by serving you. (*We love you, Servant King.*)

Amen.



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This Little Light of Mine (Track 16, Songbook page 90): We shine our Jesus light when we love and serve others. Try these verses:

Jesus washed the disciples' feet, I'm gonna let it shine. (x3)
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I am a C (H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N) (Track 9, Songbook page 50): Serving others shows that we are followers of Christ, who empowers us to love unconditionally.

Spark Resources

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Spark Songbook
Spark Song Lyrics Sheets or
Slides



Supplies

CD player

Introduce the Story

Set Up: Invite someone who helps prepare communion in your church to come and talk to the group. Give the guest a copy of the questions in advance. Encourage the guest to bring any appropriate supplies along to demonstrate the process of preparing for communion.

At the Last Supper, after Jesus washed the disciples' feet, Jesus did something else. He took a loaf of bread and some wine and shared them with the disciples. Jesus told them to share this kind of meal with each other to remember him. We share a meal like this at our church. Can anyone think what that meal is? (communion) Whenever there is a special meal prepared, someone has to do the work to get it ready. The same is true about communion at our church—someone has to get that ready for us. I have invited a guest to visit today. This is _____, and she/he helps prepare things for communion at our church.

- **What do you do to help get communion ready for our church?**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

- **Are there any special things you do or don't do with the bread and wine when you are preparing them?**
- **Why do you serve our congregation in this way?**

Thank you for coming and talking to us today. Holy Communion is a meal that we share as a way to remember that Jesus loves and forgives us and that he wants us to do the same for others.

Shepherd Questions

Pose one or more of these questions to the large group and invite the Shepherds to discuss them with the kids in their small groups. If your group is already small, choose one of the questions and ask the whole group to discuss it together.

- What happens at your house when someone is preparing a special meal?
- How do you help? How do you behave?
- What do you think of when you think of Holy Communion?

Closing Prayer

Pray the Lord's Prayer together with these actions. You may choose to recite your church's version of the Lord's Prayer, if desired.

Our Father in heaven, (hands raised to heaven)
Hallowed be your name. (hand over mouth)
Your kingdom come. (hands outstretched in front of you)
Your will be done (hands lowered to sides)
on earth (sweeping motion in front of you)
as in heaven. (hands raised above you)
Give us today our daily bread. (make eating motion)
Save us from the time of trial (hand in front of you in "stop" position)
and deliver us from evil, (hands over heart)
for the kingdom, (sweeping motion with hands)
the power, (make muscles)
and the glory are yours, (hands overhead making small circles)
now and forever. (hands in prayer position in front of chest)
Amen.



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Introduce the Story

Set Up: Fill the water pitcher with water. Color the water by adding drink mix or food coloring.

At the Last Supper, Jesus showed the disciples how much he loved them by washing their dirty feet. Then he told them to go out and love other people in the same extravagant kind of way. When you love people in an extravagant way, it means that you love them more than they deserve. We can love people extravagantly because that is the way Jesus loves us. Let's pretend that the water in this pitcher is love. This glass is a person. When we receive love from other people, we get filled up like this glass. Fill glass with colored water. **Then we give other people love by sharing some of the gifts we have, like time, talents, or money.** Pour some water into the bowl. **And we need to get filled up again before we have more to give.** Place glass inside bowl.

But with Jesus' love, it is different. When Jesus fills us with his love, that love just overflows. Pour more water into the glass, nested in the bowl, until it starts to overflow into the bowl. **We stay full of love, like this glass is staying full of water,**

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD
Spark Songbook
Spark Song Lyrics Sheets or
Slides



Supplies

CD player

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Water pitcher
Drinking water
Colored drink mix or food
coloring
Clear drinking glass
Clear bowl

and we have extra love to give away, like the water that is overflowing into the bowl. Jesus' love is not like anything else. It never ends and there is always enough—especially when we share it by serving others.

Shepherd Questions

Pose one or more of these questions to the large group and invite the Shepherds to discuss them with the kids in their small groups. If your group is already small, choose one of the questions and ask the whole group to discuss it together.

- Who is it easy for you to love extravagantly?
- Who is it hard for you to love?
- How do we get filled with Jesus' love?

Closing Prayer

Have kids echo the words and actions of this prayer.

Jesus,

Fill my heart with your love (bring hands in an arching motion toward heart)

so that it overflows. (move hands away from heart in an arching motion)

When I am weak and empty, (squat down)

fill me with your joy and life (stand with arms stretched to sky)

so that I can love (cross arms over heart)

and serve others extravagantly. (sweep arms wide in front of you)

Amen.



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Slides



Supplies

CD player

Introduce the Story

Set Up: Place the whiteboard or mural paper in the front of the gathering area. Draw a large heart shape on it. Give each Shepherd a stack of sticky notes and writing utensils for their groups.

Jesus surprised the disciples at the Last Supper by washing their feet. That was the kind of job that a household servant usually did for guests and probably something that no one really wanted to do. There are lots of jobs that no one really wants to do: cleaning the bathroom, picking up garbage at the park, sitting by the kid no one likes at lunch. Jesus chose to do one of the yucky jobs for the disciples to show them how much he loved them. Then he told them—and us—that he wants us to do the same thing.

I want you to think of some jobs at home or at school that you don't like to do. Pick one that you are going to do this week, and write it on a sticky note. That is a great way to show God's love to others. Give everyone a minute to write.

Spark Resources

Spark Song CD

Supplies

Whiteboard or mural paper
Marker
Sticky notes
Writing utensil for each kid
CD player

Stick your note on this big heart. Let's sing together, Jesus Loves the Little Children (Track 11) **while group members add their notes to the heart.** Allow time for everyone to come forward.

Look at all of the ways that you all are going to show love this week! Jesus wants us to serve each other, and you will be doing that this week when you do all of these jobs!

Shepherd Questions

Pose one or more of these questions to the large group and invite the Shepherds to discuss them with the kids in their small groups. If your group is already small, choose one of the questions and ask the whole group to discuss it together.

- What are some jobs that no one wants to do?
- How would you feel if you had to do those jobs all the time and no one helped you?
- How does it feel to be able to help someone?

Closing Prayer

Have kids repeat each phrase after you in this prayer.

**Jesus,
Help me to follow your example
by serving someone I love this week.
Give me courage
to do the yucky job
that I said I would do.
Thank you for loving me.
I love you, Jesus!
Amen.**



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