

Day Three: God loves, we love.

Lesson of the Day: God loves us, so we can love each other.

There are so many signs of God's love all around us: in the beauty and diversity of creation, in the foods we enjoy, and the gift of water that we need. We know that we can trust in God's love, and this lets us focus on loving each other by sharing, caring and being there for one another. God's love sets us free to love each other, and God's love shows us how to love each other.

Opening Activity

- What does it mean to love someone?
- How do we show other people that we love them?

One important way to remind others that they are loved is to tell them how much we appreciate the good things they do and are! In this opening activity, participants will get the chance to name the things they enjoy or appreciate about other people and themselves.

Gather around a table, with enough paper plates or blank cards for each person and a set of markers or crayons. Give each person a paper plate (or piece of paper) and invite them to write (or help them write) their name in the center of their plate. Working in a round, pass the plates to the person sitting to the right. On the plate, write or draw something that you love about the person whose plate you have.

After enough time, pass the plates again. Keep going until every person has had a chance to write on everyone's plates.

Remind every participant that God loves them, and that each of us has a special gift to give the world. Maybe it's our sense of humor or our talent for drawing or the way that we can have fun with friends. Everyone has something to share!

Bible Reading

Read John 13:3-15.

³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" ⁷Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." ⁸Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he

said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord — and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

Ask:

- Why did the disciples need their feet washed? (Example: They were walking around dusty paths in sandals all day.)
- Peter at first didn't want Jesus to wash his feet. Why might he not have wanted his feet washed?
- Would you want to wash someone else's feet? Would you want someone else to wash yours?

Read: John 13:33-35.

³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Ask:

- What did Jesus tell his disciples to do? (Example: Love each other as he loved them.)
- How can you show Jesus' love to people?

Loving other people means helping them and being there for them. For Jesus, washing the disciples' feet was a way he could show his love. Maybe we don't need to wash other people's feet, but there are so many ways we can show people we love them and put them first. We can help them when they need help, or we can think of kind things to do for them even when they don't need help. We can also remind each other just how special we are in God's eyes and how each of us makes our community special.

Additional links:

- Go to Bethesda's Website to find coloring pages, crafts, worksheets, videos, and music for Day 3.

Closing Prayer

Ask the children to think about a friend or family member for whom they want to pray. Tell them that there will be time in the prayer for them to say their prayer, aloud or silently.

Dear God, thank you for always being with us. Today we give you thanks, especially for these people. [Invite the children to add their own prayers.] Thank you for all the people in our lives who love us. And thank you for your Son, Jesus, who teaches us to love. Amen.

VIDEO:

This video is part of ELCA World Hunger's "River of Life" Vacation Bible School and is a great way to share the story of the day with children participating either online or at home.

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/7224146/video/540859055>

MUSIC: (download music from ELCA website: <https://elca.org/hunger/resources#VBS> On Earth As in Heaven" Vacation Bible School Day 3 Music) or listen on CD

EVERYONE IS IN THE KINGDOM**VERSE 1:**

If you're in the Kingdom, come on stomp your feet

Stomp your feet

Stomp your feet 2x

VERSE 2:

If you're in the Kingdom, come on clap the beat

Clap the beat

Clap the beat 2x

CHORUS:

Every - one God loves, God loves every - one

God loves, God loves Every - one God loves, God loves every - one

VERSE 3:

If you're in the Kingdom, shout, "Praise the Lord"

Praise the Lord

Praise the Lord 2x

If you're in the Kingdom, come on jump up high

Jump up high

Jump up high 2x

CHORUS**VERSE 4:**

If you're in the Kingdom, play air guitar

Air guitar

Air guitar

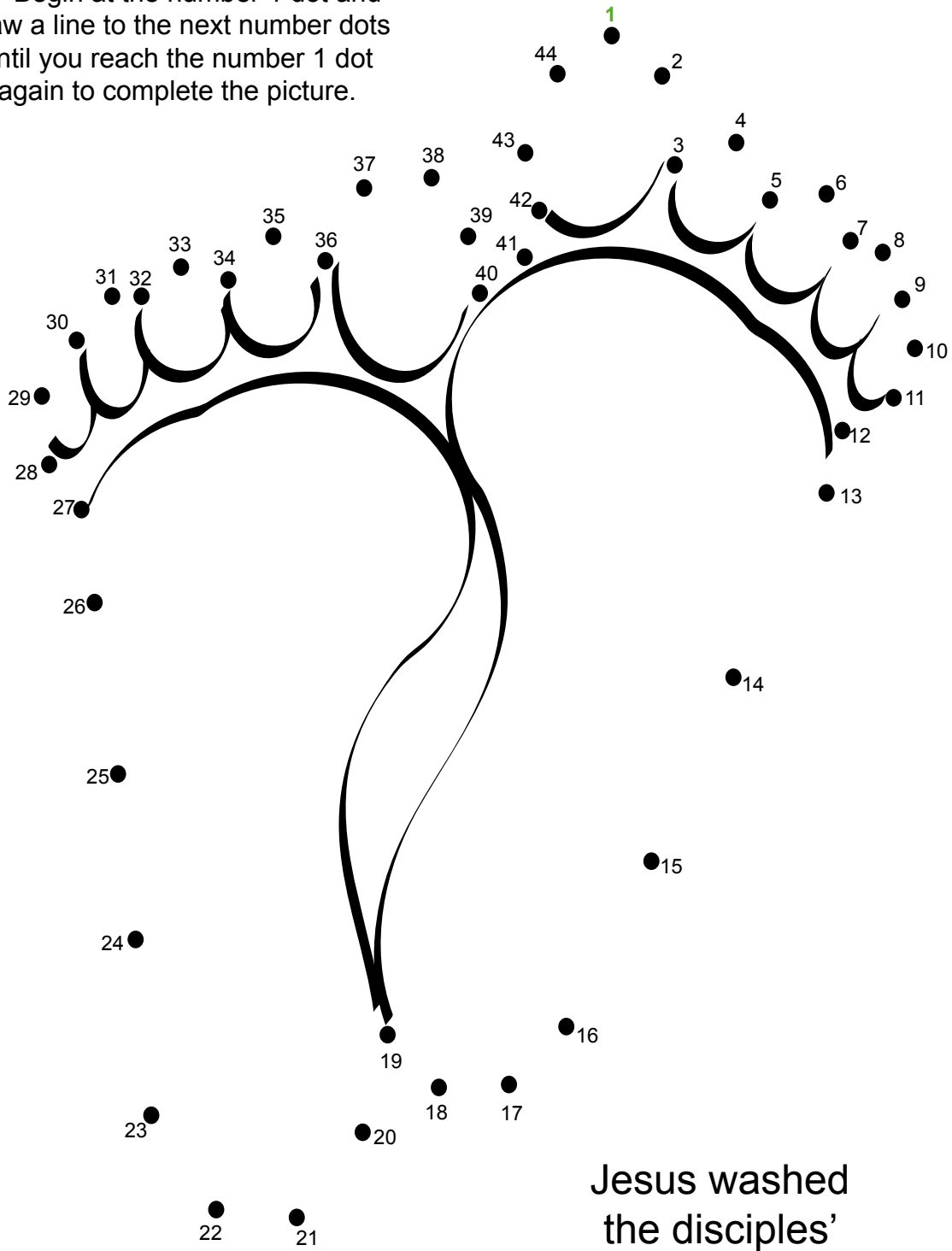
(SPOKEN/YELLED "LET ME SEE YOUR AIR GUITAR!" ROCK ON! RIGHT ON!)

(SPOKEN/YELLED "CRAZY DANCE!")



Connect the Dots

Begin at the number 1 dot and draw a line to the next number dots until you reach the number 1 dot again to complete the picture.



Jesus washes the disciples' feet

H D Y H T B Z B J A N J K X P B G T E E F F P Z
 S Y R S T A Z H V M O N I Q V A I K F M M Q V N
 R A B V I T F O F J T B M W J Z U E T G B C E S
 T S Q J N H N R F L C Q C S J R P I F J W T E Y
 X D V W K E I L I Y E E Q J J N J Y K G H B I Y
 N O Y J O D F X Q E T T B L K Y T N G R A M D Z
 Y I Y L T X F Y Z B W Q D E S S E L B H L Y L C
 K J P F S C R I P T U R E A A B X Y R B M H X B
 U O R V C S N M E S O P I J Z N Z W A W X J N A
 G Y Y G X A V B P K W E J R N M Y D G U C E U Q
 S T S I M A M Q E K B T E Q E R K I Y A L W W K
 A T T M C Y Y J R O S E L Z Z H V U H K E S K F
 H O Z X N M H X R H D R P Z X F C C A G A E Z S
 H I D Y C N Y L Y O F N X N S S C A B U N F C E
 Y R X J L C O U G V P K O E F B G E E N P B L T
 A A I L A U U B O X E L V Z S Q N O S T G O H N
 X C V Q S Z R Y D R P I U C D V Q T K T X Y L V
 T S T J C M I T B L E Y X O U E C S S T L O Y N
 G I M F F U C C K C J V Q F F P A S S O V E R J
 W B T E Y W L R E J K R O Z K G B S E G H X A D
 C L W R W J R R T K R Q B I M G A E E S A G W D
 F U L N V R V I D I Q X J G G F E O A W W K H U
 E O D W I B I K F N P B Z Z M N M W H J S Y H I
 A I O B W T C L S B D P D T V G Q G E X W F W V



truly

feet

clean

bathed

receives

scripture

blessed

Teacher

wash

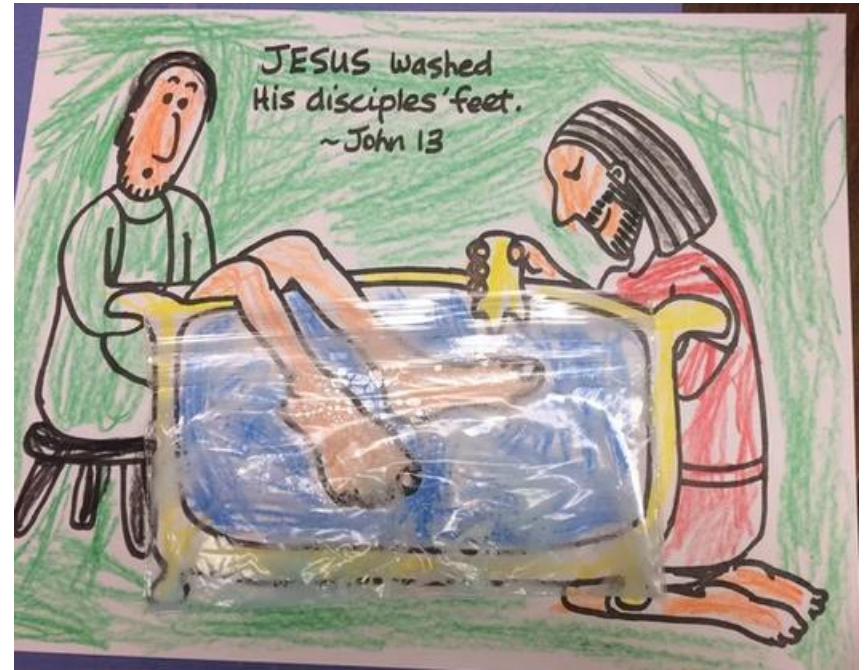
Peter

Passover

Iscariot

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- White copy paper or card stock
- Template (below)
- Crayons or markers
- Snack-size Ziploc baggies (but you could make the regular size work)
- Blue food coloring
- Foaming hand soap (dish soap and a tiny bit of water works too)
- Double-sided tape is helpful



DIRECTIONS:

- **BEFORE CLASS, Put ONE drop of blue food coloring on a non-porous surface. Using a toothpick or other tool to put the TEENSIEST SPECK of food coloring inside of each baggie. I must emphasize that it should be SO TINY! Otherwise the suds will be a fakey blue color. One drop ought to be enough for about 10-12 baggies.**
- **Copy coloring page onto card stock (pref.) or regular paper.**
- **Have the children color their papers.**
- **Bubble time! Put about 3 squirts of foaming hand soap into their baggie and RESEAL IT COMPLETELY, pressing out excess air. (They can pump the soap, but you should close the bag for them.)**
- **Let them squish the suds around and work the food coloring throughout.**
- **Using tape loops or double-sided tape, fasten the baggie over the washtub in the picture. (I put the seal facing down just to keep it out of the way.)**

WOO! Squishy, soapy fun with NO MESS!

**Jesus taught His
disciples to
serve each other.**

READ THE STORY IN JOHN 13

