

The Servant King

March 22, 2020

*****This lesson may look very familiar to you, since the story is the same as last week's lesson. We utilize repetition in our preschool and toddler classes to help our kids get a firm hold of the story. The text and discussion are the same, but the activities have changed! Take a look.***

Connect as a Family:

Give everyone a blank circle. Have every family member draw their face on the circle, to show how you are feeling. Let your kids have some time to share what all the things they drew on their face mean, allowing them space to process their emotions. You will likely get a different response than this time last week. Our feelings are always in motion! Remind our kids that God created all of our feelings and emotions so every single one of them is GOOD!

Read together:

From the Jesus Storybook Bible: The Servant King, page 286-291

Also available as a video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mCbBQDvSQQ>

"I love spending time together and I also love learning about our great, big God together! We get to talk about our Jesus! The Bible is God's big love story for us. We are ALL part of the same big God story as the people we read about in the Bible. The Bible is our Light. It helps us see."
Tip: Consider lighting a candle as you read the text together. When you are done reading, you can blow it out together.

Let's talk about it:

Passover was a special time for Jesus and his friends. They were going to have a special meal. But they weren't talking about food. Do you remember what they were talking about? (Feet. Who should wash their feet.)

We wash our hands before we eat. Why did they need to wash their feet? (Barefoot, sandals, dirty streets)

Did any of the friends want to wash everybody's feet? (No)

Who washed everyone's feet? (Jesus)

Why did Jesus do that? (He was showing them love. He was teaching them to help others,)

One friend had a bad plan. Do you remember his name? (Judas)

He was going to help some men capture Jesus. Did Jesus know about Judas' plan? (Yes)

Memorize together:

"A new command I give you: Love one another." John 13:34.

- Watch "Love One Another" music video and encourage everyone to sing and follow the motions. Play the music video several times as the kids start to learn the song and motions.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_isl0vaGso&feature=youtu.be
- Ask: How did Jesus show his friends that he loved them?
- Ask: What do you think it means that our Bible says if we love one another, people will know that we are God's Disciples?
- Ask: How can we love one another?

Experiment Together: "Jesus forgives our sin!" demonstration

In our Bible story, Jesus washed the disciples' feet. He did this to serve them and teach them to serve others.

But the great thing about the Bible is that one story can teach us many lessons. Jesus washing their feet was also a symbol of how he forgives our bad choices (sin) and cleans our hearts. (Since preschoolers are concrete thinkers, you may want to explain that Jesus doesn't go inside our bodies to scrub us but rather forgives us and helps us make good, loving choices.) He does this so we can have friendship with God. He wants to get the hurtful choices we make out of the way, so we can enjoy all the wonderful things about him and the life he has given us.

Do this science experiment to help you remember that Jesus forgives our sins because he wants us to enjoy a relationship with him.

Materials:

Towel

Clear Bowl

Paper

Salt/Pepper

Dish Soap

Instructions:

- 1) Gather your materials.
- 2) Lay down a towel and a paper that says "GOD." On top of that, place a clear bowl and pour some water in.
- 3) Let each family member shake a little pepper from the pepper shaker into the bowl. As they shake, you could say something like, "We all make bad choices and have unloving thoughts sometimes. These pepper flakes are a symbol of our sin. It can make it hard to see God clearly."
- 4) Show them a bottle of dish soap and say, "The soap is a symbol of Jesus's forgiveness. When we ask him to forgive us, he does!"
- 5) Tell everyone to look into the bowl and squirt a drop of dish soap into the middle. The pepper will spring to the sides of the bowl making the word "GOD" at the bottom more visible. Say, "Jesus forgives our sin and gets it out of the way, so we can understand God better and have a wonderful friendship with him."
- 6) You could make the point that Jesus doesn't just push our sin to the side--he's even better than soap with pepper because he washes away our sin completely!

The science behind the demonstration: (This explanation will likely be too advanced or time-consuming for the kids, but in case the parents are curious, here is a cool explanation of surface tension from Christianity Cove (christianitycove.com)).

Water molecules generally adhere to each other—until something comes along that is either heavy enough or powerful enough to separate them. When this is not the case, water molecules will line up in a way that gives the top of the water surface tension. Because pepper flakes are so light and do not absorb water, they will float in the tension.

Soap is able to break down the surface tension of water, which is a reason why soap is such a good cleaner. As the soap moves into the water, the surface tension starts to change. In attempt to maintain what surface tension it can, the water molecules pull back away from the soap and carry the pepper along with them.

Play Together: “Jesus is my friend forever” Parachute Game

MATERIALS: Bed sheet, one or two stuffed animal friends

Game play: Place the animal(s) in the center of the sheet, play various parachute motions with the sheet (up/down, fast/slow) and explain that once the animal(s) fly off we all shout “Jesus is my friend forever!” as everyone scrambles to hide underneath the sheet together.

Pray Together: Thankful Hand stack Prayer

The disciples in our story today were so thankful for Jesus. We have a lot to be thankful for too! Have one person place their hand in the middle of the table, then have everyone else in the family place one hand on top to create a “stack” of hands. Start your prayer, “Dear God, Then the person whose hand is at the base of the stack goes first, thanking God for a single thing. As they pull out their hand out and place it on top of the “hand stack.” Then, the next person, whose hand is now on the bottom, prays, thanking God for one thing, as they pull their hand out and place it on top of the stack. When you sense it is time to stop, raises up the pile of hands. That’s the signal for everyone to say “Amen!” and high five the person next to them.

More Ideas:

Take communion together, allowing each family member to serve and lead, using our communion words (The body of Christ, broken for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.)

Create cards for friends and family that love far away and mail them. Talk about how it will make the person who receives their card feel. This is a great way to love one another!