**Saved 2 Serve All**

**Sword Drill: John**

* Have the children find John in the Bible.

**Learning Activity:**

Set up two folding tables and do a relay to set the table. Each table had six places including: plates, napkins, cups, and forks. This was simple and effective. Give one team a “Burger King crown” set to the smallest setting that must be worn as they work to set the table. If the crown falls off, they must stop and put the crown back on their head before they continue working. The first team to complete the task wins.

**Transition:** The point of this exercise is that it is really difficult to serve others effectively when we think so highly of ourselves. Jesus was and is the king of Heaven, but when he came to this earth he humbled himself and became servant to ALL. He did this as an example to his followers that we must learn to humble ourselves and live in a mindset of service to others.

**Transition Curriculum logo:** The gospel is a “Truth believed that changes everything”. The gospel can be summarized in five simple truths: *(Refer to Five finger gospel lesson)*   
1) I am a sinner.  
2) God will judge my sin.  
3) Jesus was not a sinner.  
4) He died for my sins and rose the third day.  
5) If I turn from my sin and receive him, God will save me.   
When God saves us he begins changing our attitudes, character, service, and priorities. In tonight’s lesson we will turn our attention to service.   
**The world is filled with people who are mostly concerned with themselves, but through the gospel, God is changing believers into people who exist for the benefit of others.**

**Our phrase for this lesson: Who first? You First!** (Have the children repeat this with you)

**Worship:** Let this Mind be in You, If you Know These Things (CEF: The Do Song); Make me a Servant

**Sword Drill: John 13:17**

“If you know these things, happy are you if you do them.”

**Transition:** tonight we’re going to look at just one example of how Jesus had a heart to put others first.

**Our phrase for this lesson: Who first? You First!** (Have the children repeat this with you)

**Background:**

**How many of you spend lots of time in flip flops or Crock’s during the summer? What do your feet look like at the end of the day?** **(picture of dirty feet)** In ancient times, people had open toed shoes, after walking around on dusty roads all day, the dirt would cling to clammy feet which would smell, be dirty, and uncomfortable. It was customary that the lowest servant in a household would be responsible for washing feet. The context is the last supper. Jesus is very near the end of his life, his disciples are gathered for their final meal, they are in a rented room with no servants, one by one as the men arrived, the men reclined around the table but nobody took the responsibility to wash feet. Jesus uses the opportunity to teach his followers a lesson that they were to follow.

READ John 13:12-17 **(picture)**

Three observations:

Ask: Who is Jesus?

1. Jesus is a king servant. V.14
   * There is no doubt that the greatest man in the room was Jesus. Peter protested and did not want the humiliation of having his Lord wash his feet. (13:8)
   * Jesus affirmed that he was their Master and their Lord…they were correct (13:13) BUT THIS DID NOT STOP HIM FROM SERVING THEM!
   * Our culture esteems being served, but in God’s kingdom (culture) the one who serves, the one who is last is the one who is first.

Ask: What did Jesus do and why did he do it?

1. Jesus set the example. V.15

* What He did for them, they were responsible to do for one another (13:15)
* If Jesus the king of the universe can wash the stinky, dirty, disciples feet, then they (who are not kings) can certainly wash one another’s feet.
* There is no job too low for any of us.
* **What are some jobs around your house that you don’t like to do?**
  + God wants to produce in us a **willingness** to do even the **lowest of jobs**.
    - Do you think it was fun for Jesus to wash feet?
      * Does service have to be fun in order for us to obey?—the nature of serving is doing what others avoid.
        + Our goal is not enjoyment, but obedience.

Ask: What did Jesus say would be the fruit of following his example?

1. Serving brings happiness. V.17

Refer back to the song: “if you know these things happy are you if you **do** them.”

* It’s not good enough just to **know** that we are to serve, we must roll up our sleeves and **do** servant hood.

Jesus wasn’t saying you will be happy if you wash feet, **Jesus was looking at the** **larger principle applied over time**. He was saying, you will be happy if you learn to develop a servant’s heart—that’s the intent behind the phrase “these things” (Jn.13:17)

* It is a strange thing about life, as much as we all desire and appreciate it when others serve us, the reality is, the people who are mostly concerned with self are usually **very miserable people**, while those who develop a lifestyle of serving others are generally happy and cheerful people. **The key to happiness is learning to put others first—Jesus says so!**

**Our phrase for this lesson: Who first? You First!** (Have the children repeat this with you)

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What lesson was Jesus trying to teach by washing feet? What example did he set by doing this?
2. What are some jobs you typically avoid around your home?
3. What are some other ways you can practice the phrase: Who first? You first!