

# Feet First

**Bible Story:** Feet First (Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet) • *John 13:1-17*

**Bottom Line:** I can put others first by serving them.

**Memory Verse:** "Don't do anything only to get ahead. Don't do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble. Value others more than yourselves." *Philippians 2:3, NIRV*

**Life App:** Humility—putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.

**Basic Truth:** I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

## Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

*Before kids arrive, pray for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Ask God to show kids some opportunities where they can put others first. Pray that your few would have hearts of humility, allowing them to serve others with eager attitudes.*

1. Coloring Sheets
2. Humility Verse Challenge
3. Slapjack
4. **One Goes with the Other** – Each person rationalizes how their item goes with the person's item next to them.
5. **That's Gross!** – Kids draw the grossest or messiest food that they can think of.

## Small Group Connect

*This is a brief time for you to welcome and connect with the children in your group and to introduce visitors to the rest of the group. Feel free to ask a fun question or share something interesting about yourself. There will also be an ice-breaker question on the screen to get conversation started if you need it. This time helps our children know you are glad they came and that you want to get to know them better. We also encourage you to sit with your group during large group time.*

## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

### **1. Silly Socks Service (*application activity / review the Bible story / can be environment-wide*)**

**What You Need:** Large adult socks, Bible

#### **What You Do:**

- Guide kids to get into groups of six to eight and line up at one end of your environment.
- At the far end of your area, place a chair facing each team.
- Direct the last child in line to be “It” and sit in his team’s chair. Give him a pair of socks to put on over his shoes.
- At your signal, the first child in line runs to the seated child, takes off both socks, and trades places with It.
- The original It then puts the socks on the new It, runs back to his team, and tags the next child in line.
- Then that child goes down to the newly seated child and takes off the socks.
- They trade places and the kid who’s now standing puts the socks on the seated child.
- The game continues until the original It is once again seated with the socks on.

#### **What You Say:**

“You did a great job serving each other by taking off the socks and putting them on. In today’s Bible story, how did Jesus serve His disciples? (*He washed their feet.*) What made Jesus’ service so surprising? (*Servants usually washed feet, and Jesus wasn’t a servant.*)

“Jesus, the Son of God, the One who created everything you see, did the job of a servant and washed His disciples’ muddy, stinky feet! In today’s world that would be like Jesus cleaning your room, washing your clothes, taking out your trash, or even cleaning your toilet!

“So why did Jesus act like a servant and wash His disciples’ feet? (*He wanted to be an example; He wanted to show them that He wanted them to serve others like He served them.*) Yes! (*Open the Bible to John 13*) Jesus said: “*I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another’s feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you*” (*John 13:14-15 NIV*). Just like Jesus served His disciples, He wants you to serve others and put them first. We can say it this way: **[Bottom Line] I can put others first by serving them.**

“What are some ways you can put others first by serving them? (*I can do my brother’s chores for him sometimes; I can do the job at school that no one wants to do; I can have a good attitude when my mom asks me to do a job I don’t like.*) Great ideas! So remember, put others first by serving them. When you do, you show them an amazing picture of what Jesus is like and how much He loves them.”

### **2. Humble, Humble, Oops (*application activity*)**

**What You Need:** “Humble, Humble, Oops Cards” Activity Page, blocks or LEGO®s

#### **What You Do:**

- Take a moment to explain what the word “humble” means.

- Make sure you have at least one less “Not Humble” card than the number of kids you have.
- Shuffle the cards and stack them on the table.
- Tell kids that the object of the game is to draw “Humble” cards and avoid “Not Humble” cards.
- Have kids take turns choosing a card from the pile.
- As kids pick cards, read the card and let the kid who chose it decide if it’s an example of being humble (putting others first) or not being humble (putting yourself first).
- If a kid draws a “Humble” card, let her place her card back in the stack wherever she wants.
- If a kid draws a “Not Humble” card, he is out of the game.
- As kids get “out” of the game, let them start working on two towers or blocks or LEGOs.
- One tower can represent the “not humble” scenarios and the other can represent the “humble” scenarios. Encourage the kids who are out to be still and quiet; tell them you’ll pick the quietest person to put the next LEGO or block on the tower.
- Play until only one person is left.

### What You Say:

“In these situations, some of the people we heard about made good choices, but some didn’t. When we make the humble choice and put others first, we are being like Jesus. **[Bottom Line] I can put others first by serving them.** When we forget to act in a humble way, we can ask forgiveness for that from our friends and from God and then try again next time.”

### 3. Duck, Duck, Verse (*memory verse activity*)

**What You Need:** Bibles, plastic bin of rubber ducks

#### What You Do:

- Find the verse and read it together as a group two or three times.

**Finding verses with kindergartners:** Guide children to open the Bibles to the marked page. Point to the word Philippians at the top of the page as you say “Philippians” aloud. Then guide children to find the big number 2 on the page. Explain that this is the chapter number. Finally, guide them to look under the big 2 for the little 3; this is the verse number. Tell them to leave their finger on the verse as you read the verse aloud. Then lead everyone to say the verse together.

**Finding verses with 1st graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (*Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.*) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Philippians in the list under “New Testament.” You can help by telling them that Philippians starts with the letters P-H. When the kids find Philippians, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Philippians. Help the kids find the page. When they find Philippians, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 2. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 3 in chapter 2.

- Teach the Memory Verse motions to your group (found on Cornerstone Kids lessons page)
- Let each kid choose one duck from the bin.
- Split kids into three groups, based on the numbers on the bottom of the ducks they chose.
- Assign group one to say the first part of the verse: *Don’t do anything only to get ahead.*
- Assign group two to say the second part of the verse: *Don’t do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble.*
- Assign group three to say the third part of the verse: *Value others more than yourselves.*  
*Philippians 2:3*

- You may need to help each group remember their part of the verse.
- When all three groups have said their portion of the verse two or three times, let kids choose a new duck and mix up the groups.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.
- Save the bin and ducks for next week.

### What You Say:

“What does it mean to say ‘Don’t do anything only to get ahead’? (*Pause for answers.*) What does it mean to say ‘Don’t do it because you are proud. Instead, be humble’? (*Pause for answers.*) What does it mean to ‘Value others more than yourselves’? (*Pause for answers.*) If we follow what God’s Word says, we will be more like Jesus. This verse can help us remember that **[Bottom Line] I can put others first by serving them.** Work on memorizing the verse this week so it can help you remember to do these three things every day.”

## Pray and Dismiss

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

- Ask if anyone can tell the group what Jesus did for the disciples in our story today. (He washed their feet.)
- Then ask everyone to take off their shoes and socks and sit barefoot in a circle.
- Instruct kids to sit with their knees bent up and put their feet in the middle of the circle.
- Pray in this position.

### What You Say:

“Jesus, thank You for showing us that no one is too good to serve others, not even You. Thank You for coming to serve us, and please show us how to serve one another. Help us this week to remember that **[Bottom Line] I can put others first by serving them.** Show us ways we can serve others and show them our humility. Thank you for loving us enough to serve us. Amen.”

## **Parent Connect**

As adults arrive to pick up, tell them to ask kids why they took their shoes off during prayer time.

**\*\*\* Give each child a GodTime card and remind parents that this is a great way for them to help their child learn how to spend time with God.**

Parent Cue cards will be passed out at the door.