



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 11:

Who's the Greatest?

Scripture

Matthew 26:30-35
 Mark 14:26-31
 Luke 22:24-38
 John 13:1-38

Memory Verse

I give you a new command. Love one another. You must love one another, just as I have loved you. If you love one another, everyone will know you are my disciples.
 John 13:34-35 (NirV)

Lesson Goals

Understand that being the "greatest" means being willing to serve others.

Understand that we are known as followers of Jesus by our love for others.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

In our last lesson we looked at how Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Passover Feast and how the promise of Jesus' death would bring about new things like remembering that death as the bread and wine (or grape juice) were served.

Jesus got up from that Passover meal and did something unusual for His disciples. What was it? He washed their feet. This was unusual because foot washing was usually the job of the lowest, most unimportant servant in the house, yet Jesus, their Teacher, had washed their feet. When He finished and had returned to the table, He asked them, "Do you understand what I have done for you?" (John 13:12b NirV) He explained that if He, their Teacher and Lord had washed their feet, they should wash one another's feet. He told them, "I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you." (John 13:15 NirV)

Remember, Jesus and the disciples are still in the upper room where they ate that Passover meal. The Bible continues the story by telling us that, "After Judas was gone, Jesus spoke." (John 13:31 NirV) Jesus told His disciples that He would only be with them a little while longer. He is still trying to prepare them for His death and His return to heaven. Jesus gave His disciples a new commandment, "Love one another." (John 13:34 NirV) Jesus shared with them that they should love others the way He loved them, and He was about to show them how much when He died on the cross for them. He also said that the rest of the world would know they were His disciples if they loved one another.

"Within minutes they were bickering over who of them would end up the greatest." Luke 22:24 MSG) Jesus had just performed the task of the least important servant and encouraged them to love as He loves and what do they do but argue! Unbelievable, isn't it? It's unbelievable until we review our own lives and see that we sometimes do the same thing. "So Jesus told them: Foreign kings order their people around, and powerful rulers call themselves everyone's friends. But don't be like them. The most important one of you should be like the least important, and your leader should be like a servant." (Luke 22:25-26 CEV) Jesus reminded them that He came to serve. Jesus also told the disciples that they would hold a place of honor in heaven because they stood by Him in His troubles.

Then, Jesus told them something that concerned them. Jesus told them that each of them would reject, or desert, Him. Jesus had quoted what God had already said would happen through the prophet Zechariah (13:7).

Then, Jesus specifically told Simon Peter that Satan, the devil, had asked to test the disciples. Jesus continued, "But I have prayed for you, Simon. I

Application

“Love one another.” (John 13:34 NIV) Sounds simple, doesn't it?

How easy was it for the disciples? They began arguing with each other about who was the most important!

Jesus, the most important man who ever lived, was trying to teach the disciples a better way. Our personal importance is not nearly as important as becoming a servant who loves others enough to make sure they are okay with the Lord. When that happens, the people around us will know that we are disciples, or followers, of Jesus just by the way we act.

So what do people know about you? If you were taken to court for following Jesus and loving others, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

have prayed that your faith will not fail. When you have turned back, help your brothers to be strong.” (Luke 22:32 NIV) Peter wouldn't believe it of himself, though, and he assured Jesus, “All the others may turn away because of you. But I never will.” (Matthew 26:33 NIV) “I will give my life for you,” Peter continued. (John 13:37b NIV) “Then Jesus answered, ‘Will you really give your life for me? What I'm about to tell you is true. Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you don't know me!’” (John 13:38 NIV) “But Peter would not give in. He said, ‘I may have to die with you. But I will never say I don't know you.’ And all the others said the same thing.” (Mark 14:31 NIV)

You see, Jesus wasn't trying to discourage His disciples. In fact, He was trying to encourage them. Telling them they are going to reject or desert Him doesn't really sound like encouragement, but He knew it was going to happen. Jesus was trying to prepare them for what was really going to happen. The disciples needed to know this. Then, Jesus encouraged them by talking about the special place in heaven they would have and by telling them that He was praying for them. While talking to Simon Peter, Jesus even said, “**when** you have turned back. . .” (Luke 22:32 NIV) Jesus encouraged Simon Peter that his desertion and denials weren't the end; He would turn back to Jesus! Now that's encouragement!

What do you need encouragement in right now? Doesn't it help to know that Jesus knows what will happen to you? Will you trust Him to keep everything under control? Will you decide today to follow Him no matter what? And if you have never made the decision to give your life to Jesus and follow Him wherever He leads you, don't wait. Let's talk.

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Farewell



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring a really nice toy to class. Put it in the middle of your meeting area and watch your students' reactions.

We have talked about the special supper Jesus had with His disciples. Jesus got up from that special meal and did something that surprised His disciples. What was it? He washed their feet! Jesus' disciples didn't expect this because there was usually a servant to do it for them. But isn't Jesus too important to be washing dirty feet? Jesus was being a good example for the disciples. Jesus asked them if they understood what He was doing. Jesus was their Teacher and the One they had chosen to follow. If He could bend down and clean their filthy feet, they could, and should, do the same.

Remember, Jesus and the disciples are still in the upper room where they ate that special meal. Judas left the group and Jesus kept talking to them. Jesus told His disciples that He would only be with them a little while longer. He was still trying to prepare them for His death.

Jesus gave His disciples a new commandment. "Love one another," He said. (John 13:34 NIV) Jesus said to love others the way He loves us. Jesus showed us how much He loved us by dying on the cross for us. He also said that the rest of the world will know we are His disciples if we love one another.

Can you guess what the disciples did next? Don't you think they might start helping each other or getting things Jesus might need? Well, they didn't! "Within minutes they were bickering over who of them would end up the greatest." Luke 22:24 MSG) Jesus had just done the job of a servant by washing their feet. He told them to love one another. They don't do any of that, though. Instead they bicker and argue. Unbelievable, isn't it?

Do you ever bicker and argue with your friends? Is that what Jesus wants you to do? (No.) What does Jesus want you to do instead? He wants you to love your friends (and even your enemies)! Jesus wants you to care for others. He wants you to think about them before you think about yourself. He wants us to love each other because He loves us!

God, please help me to love my friends like you love me.



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Make a paper chain of hearts. Print the verse on the chain of hearts.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring heart shaped cookies for the snack.
- Encourage your students to reenact the story.
- Sing “You’re the Only Jesus,” “1st John 4:7-8,” “1st Corinthians 13,” “Love One Another,” or another song related to the lesson.
- Make interlocking hearts and talk about ways your students can love each other.
- Find Jerusalem on a map. Provide a more detailed map of Jerusalem and find where the upper room might have been.
- Make “Love One Another” Charts. Make a list of dos and don’ts. Be specific.
- “So Jesus told them: Foreign kings order their people around, and powerful rulers call themselves everyone's friends. But don't be like them. The most important one of you should be like the least important, and your leader should be like a servant.” (Luke 22:25-26 CEV) Talk about current events in light of these verses.

I give you
a new command.

Love one another.

You must

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just as I have loved you.

If you

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everyone will know
you are my disciples.

John 13:34-35

Trace the letters.

Love

one

another.

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?



Word Search

R E H T O N A O N O E V O L O
P E S R E D E L L V O O W L E
R T H O N A O O E N L L O R V
E R O T E L O V V E O V O L O
R E H T O N A E N O E V O L L
N E O R O N L O N O L L O V E
R E H T O N A N N O T H E R V
N L O V E O N E A N O T H E R
E V O L O N A A N O T H E R E
V O R T U N T N N O D B S P N
O A E N O E H O L L E J N I O
L L H T T K E T H S I V O L E
A L H L O V R H E L R L O V V
R E H T O N A E N O E V O L O
R E V L O V E R E H T O N A L

Our memory verse is: “I give you a new command. **Love one another.**
You must **love one another**, just as I have loved you. If you **love one another**,
everyone will know you are my disciples.” John 13:34-35

How many times can you find the command “**love one another**” in the word
search above?



Word Search



Our memory verse is: “I give you a new command. **Love one another.** You must **love one another**, just as I have loved you. If you **love one another**, everyone will know you are my disciples.” John 13:34-35

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Preschool Word Search

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

NEW

COMMAND

LOVE

ONE

ANOTHER

JOHN



Preschool Word Search

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

NEW

COMMAND

LOVE

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ANOTHER

JOHN