

# Jesus' Death & Resurrection

Imagine that you only have a short time to live. In those precious last days, what do you do? Most people would spend that time with those they love, sharing memories and hopes and imparting last words of wisdom. In his last days on earth, Jesus spends time with friends, teaching them the most important lessons and preparing them for his painful and humiliating death.

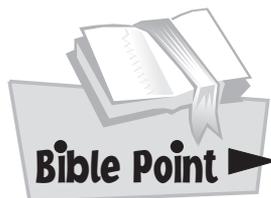
The Easter message makes Christianity different from every other religion on earth. We believe that God, the omnipotent creator of heaven and earth, came to earth as a man and bore the sins of the world as he died on a cross and came back to life again. Other religions may boast of great leaders and wise teachings, but Jesus Christ is the only one who rose from the dead to offer eternal life to those who believe in him and accept his forgiveness.

Three- and four-year-olds may be caught up in the excitement of the approaching Easter season, but they won't appreciate the importance of Jesus' last days with his closest friends. Use these six lessons to help preschoolers understand the sadness Jesus' friends felt when Jesus died and the joy they experienced when Jesus came back to life and gave us new life.

## Six Lessons on Jesus' Death & Resurrection

Lesson	Bible Point	Page	Bible Basis
<b>4</b>	Jesus gives us new life.	51	John 13:1-17
<b>5</b>	Jesus gives us new life.	63	Mark 11:1-11
<b>6</b>	Jesus gives us new life.	77	Mark 14:12-26, 32-42
<b>7</b>	Jesus gives us new life.	89	Mark 15:25-38
<b>8</b>	Jesus gives us new life.	103	Mark 16:1-8
<b>9</b>	Jesus gives us new life.	115	Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:6-11





**Bible Point** ▶

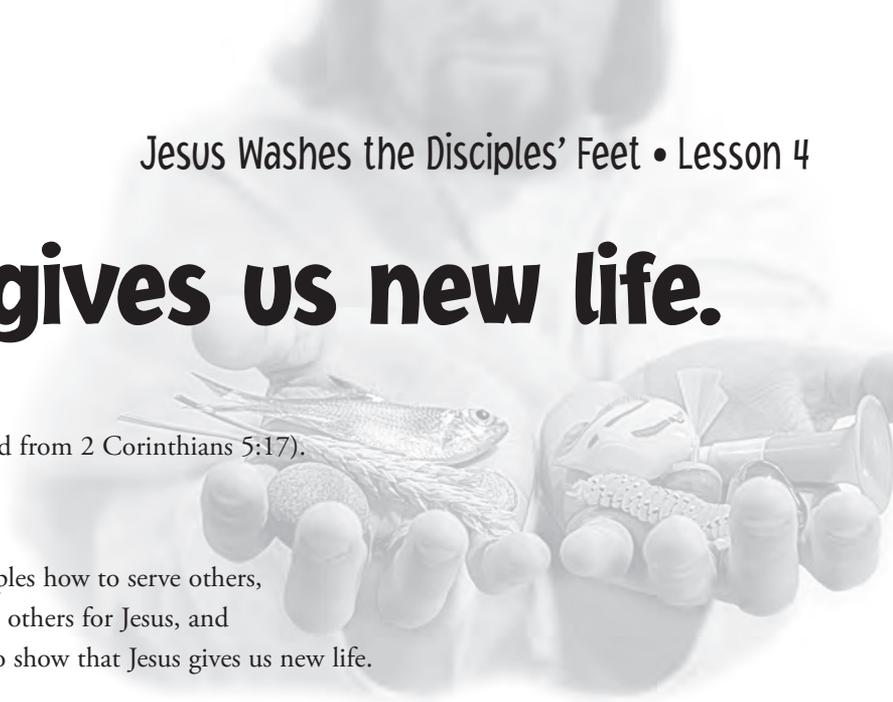
# Jesus gives us new life.

## Bible Verse

Believing in Jesus makes me a new person (adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn how Jesus showed his disciples how to serve others,
  - discover ways that they can serve others for Jesus, and
  - see that serving others is a way to show that Jesus gives us new life.



## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

#### ■ Jesus washes the disciples' feet.



**John  
13:1-17**

In Jesus' day, people wore sandals and walked everywhere they went, meaning their feet became dusty and dirty. Because of this, custom dictated that a servant wash the feet of a visiting guest. Yet, when Jesus and his disciples gathered in the upper room for the Passover meal, apparently no servant was present to do that task.

So, when Jesus began to wash his followers' feet, he was showing his disciples—and his followers for centuries to come—that being dedicated to serving God means serving other people. He also was demonstrating his willingness to put aside who he was to help others. Jesus even expressed his love and servanthood for Judas, the disciple who eventually turned against him.

Jesus was the ultimate servant. Though he was God himself, he took the position of a slave—and then that of a criminal—to serve us, to provide the only possible way we can have a relationship with God that brings us eternal life!

### Prayer

- Read Isaiah 53:1-6.
- What might you need to change in your life to better follow Jesus' example of servanthood?
- Pray: God, help me to be your servant, especially as I serve the children in my care by...

### Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

# This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Welcome Time</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive name tags and be greeted by the teacher.	Butterfly name tags from Lesson 1, scissors, washable markers, safety pins or tape	
<b>Let's Get Started</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Option 1: Clean Machines</b> —Use squirt bottles, squeegees, and paper towels to have fun cleaning the room.	Spray bottles, water, paper towels, mild soapy water, sponges, brooms, and other safe cleaning supplies	
	<b>Option 2: Service With a Smile</b> —Take one another's orders at a pretend restaurant and serve each other.	Tablecloth, flowers, place settings, play food, notepads, pens, plastic dishes, tray, vase	
	<b>Option 3: Butterfly Flyers</b> —Make reminders of new life by creating simple butterfly mobiles.	Colored tissue paper, scissors, chenille wire, string	
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Setting the Stage</b> —Do an action rhyme to learn from the Bible story about serving others.		
	<b>Bible Song and Prayer Time</b> —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Hear and Tell the Bible Story</b> —Follow along with the story of Peter getting his feet washed by Jesus.	Bible, robe, towel, yarn	
	<b>Do the Bible Story</b> —Clean the dirt off dolls and action figures.	Tub of sand, tub of water, washcloths, paper towels, low table, plastic dolls, action figures	
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Happy Helpers</b> —Tell Whiskers how important it is to have an attitude like Jesus' when helping others.		
	<b>Helping Hands and Feet</b> —Do an action rhyme about the Bible story, and thank God for new life in Jesus.		

\*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

## Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** butterfly name tags from Lesson 1, scissors, washable markers, safety pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. Use questions such as "Did you thank God for something last week?" and "How did your family thank God at mealtime?"
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that** ► *Jesus gives us new life.*
- Hand out the butterfly name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class last week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.



It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.

## Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward today's lesson. Ask questions such as "What are some things you could do to help your friends or family?" or "What are some ways your friends or family help you?"

### ■ Option 1: Clean Machines

**SUPPLIES:** spray bottles of water, cleaning cloths, paper towels, squeegees, tubs of mild soapy water, sponges, brooms, feather dusters, and other safe cleaning supplies

Before class, set out spray bottles filled with water, cleaning cloths, paper towels, squeegees, tubs of mild soapy water, sponges, brooms, feather dusters, and other safe and appropriate cleaning supplies.

Have the children work together to clean an area of the classroom. They might wipe low windows and small tables, dust shelves, and sweep an area of the floor. Encourage children to take turns using the different supplies. Explain that in today's Bible story they'll hear how Jesus served his friends in a helpful way. Tell the children that they are helping you and one another right now by cleaning the classroom.

### ■ Option 2: Service With a Smile

**SUPPLIES:** tablecloth, plastic vase, flowers, place settings, play food, plastic dishes, tray, notepads, pens

Before class, set up an area of your classroom to look like a restaurant. Cover a small table with a tablecloth, and set chairs around this. Set out a plastic vase of flowers and place settings. Place a tub of play food, plastic serving dishes, and a tray near the table.



While you are bent down greeting the children, look around the classroom from a child's perspective. Are tables too high? Is it easy to see the pictures hanging on the walls? Remember, the classroom is for the children and should be designed around their needs.

Have the children take turns being diners and food servers. The servers can have small notepads and pens to take orders. Then let the servers “cook” the food and bring it to the diners on trays. As children play, encourage the diners to talk about how it feels to be served. Encourage the servers to talk about how it feels to serve someone else. Tell them that in today’s Bible story, they’ll learn how Jesus served his disciples.

### ■ **Option 3: Butterfly Flyers**

**SUPPLIES:** colored tissue paper, scissors, chenille wire, string

Before children arrive, cut 3x5-inch rectangles of colored tissue paper.

Show children how to create butterflies by placing two rectangles of tissue paper on top of each other, and then twisting a chenille wire around the middle of the tissue paper rectangle. Leave enough chenille wire to be antennae. Help the children tie string to each butterfly. When they hold the end of the string and wave their arms about, they can make the butterflies “fly.”

As children work, explain that butterflies help us remember new life because they start out as caterpillars that form cocoons. When they come out of their cocoons, they’re beautiful new creations. Remind children that ► Jesus gives us new life.



**BIBLE POINT** ►

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

### ■ **Pick-Up Time**

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Lead children in singing “Come Along With Me” with the CD (track 2) to the tune of “Come and Go With Me.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,  
Pick up all our things,  
Pick up all our things.  
Come along with me and pick up all our things  
So our room will be clean.**

*(Repeat 2x.)*

# Bible Story Time

## ■ Setting the Stage

**SUPPLIES:** none



Tell children you'll shake the *clapper* to get their attention. Explain that when you shake it, the children are to stop what they're doing and raise their hands. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you do when you came to class today?** (Cleaned the room; served someone in a restaurant; decorated a butterfly.)

Say: **Each of you did something special today already! Some of you worked hard to help make our classroom a little nicer; some of you got to know what it feels like to serve someone and what it feels like to be served, and others of you made beautiful butterflies. All of those things are helping you learn about today's Bible story.**

Have children stand in a circle. Say: **Let's do an action rhyme together to get us ready for our Bible story!**

Lead the children in the following action rhyme. Read each line and demonstrate the motions, having the children repeat after you. Say the rhyme a couple of times so children have a chance to learn the words and actions.

**One day Jesus did a strange thing.** (*Touch index finger to temple and say "Hmm..."*)

**He did a job that wasn't for a king.** (*Put one hand on hip and shake index finger of other hand, while shaking head "no."*)

**Jesus washed his disciples' feet!** (*Move hand in circular washing motion.*)

**The dirt was gone** (*shake out feet*). **What a great treat!** (*Raise both arms in the air.*)

**Jesus told them, "Do what I do"** (*point to self*)

**To show I love them like I love you."** (*Hug person standing nearby.*)

Ask: • **What did Jesus do?** (Washed the disciples' feet; took care of his friends.)

• **How do you think the disciples felt?** (Uncomfortable; strange; not sure about what was happening.)



Say: **Jesus wanted to teach us to do things to help others. When we believe in Jesus, ► *Jesus gives us new life*, and that new life makes us want to serve others in lots of ways.**



Say: **In a little while, we'll learn all about our Bible story. But right now, let's sing a song about the Bible.**

## ■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" with the CD (track 3) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.

### teacher tips

If the *ink pad* is dry, moisten it with three to five drops of water.

Make sure to return Learning Lab items back to the box when you're done using them so they can be used in future lessons!



SING

**I'm so glad for the Bible.  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
I'm so glad for God's book today.  
I'm so glad for the Bible.  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—  
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.  
Let me hear 'bout God's love—  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

*(Repeat first verse.)*

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *cross and crown stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. As they come up to you to get their hand stamped, take time to show them the Bible and explain to them that the Bible is God's Word for them.

Say: **I'm thankful for [name of child who brought the Bible], and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" with the CD (track 4) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



SING

**I'm so glad we're together.  
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.  
I'm so glad we're all here today.  
I'm so glad we're together.  
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—  
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

Thank you, Lord, for each one.  
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.  
 Thank you for everyone who's here.  
 Thank you, Lord, for each one.  
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—  
 Thankful for our friends both far and near.

## ■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, towel, yarn, robe

Open your Bible to **John 13:1-17**, and show the passage to the children. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of John in the Bible. During the story, listen carefully for any actions you may need to do!**

Read the following script, making sure to prompt children to do any actions required. Tie a towel around your head with yarn and put on a robe for added effect. Be sure to take off your socks and shoes as well.

Say: **Hi, boys and girls! My name is Simon Peter. Say my name with me: "Simon Peter!"** Pause. **I'm one of Jesus' disciples—his very close friend. Put your arm around a friend sitting very close to you.** Pause. **I'm here to tell you about something special that Jesus taught me so that you can tell other people, too!**

**One night I was just sitting down to our evening meal. All of my friends were there, including Jesus. Why don't you pretend to eat a meal with us?** Lead children in pretending to eat and drink. **We were so tired and dirty and hungry. Make a face to show how you look when you're tired and hungry.** Pause. **We sat at the table waiting for the servant to come and wash our feet.** Lead the children in sitting down with their feet out. **After walking for so very long in the hot, sandy desert our feet were sweaty and dirty. Take off your socks and shoes, and look at your toes.** Pause. **Your feet are a lot cleaner than mine were! I had to shake my feet just to get the sand off. Shake your feet with me.** Pause.

**Then something interesting happened. Jesus got up from the table and wrapped a towel around his waist. We wondered what he was doing. We scratched our heads and said "Hmm..." Can you say that with me?** Pause. **He poured some water into a bowl, and guess what? Jesus began to wash our feet! He even dried them off with that towel around his waist. Our feet were squeaky clean and felt much better. Everyone, wiggle your toes and say "Ahhh..."** Pause.

**Even though everyone's toes felt better, I couldn't let Jesus wash my feet. This was Jesus, the King of kings, doing a servant's yucky job. When Jesus came to me, I shook my head "no!" Can you do that, too?** Pause. **Then I said, "I can't let you wash my feet! They're all smelly and dirty and gross. This is a job for a servant." But Jesus said, "You don't understand now, but I'm teaching you something very important." So I let him wash my feet.**

**When Jesus had finished, he told us that he had washed our feet to teach us to serve others. He said that he wanted us to learn how to be servants and to help others. You know, you can help others, too! You can pick up your toys. Pretend to pick up toys!** Pause. **You can make someone feel better by giving a hug. Hug the person beside you!** Pause.

**teacher tips**

Don't force children to take off their shoes and socks. Some may want to keep their shoes on, and some girls may be wearing tights that would be difficult to remove.

**teacher tips**

Even though your preschoolers are nonreaders, you may want to use this time to point out where the verses can be found within the Bible. You may also want to use the same Bible, such as the *Hands-On Bible*®, each week. This way the children can begin to develop an awareness of God's Word.



Instead of acting out the role of Simon Peter, have a youth or adult who enjoys acting come in and pretend to be Simon Peter. This could give the children a chance to learn from another person and provide a chance for you to interact with the children on a different level.

You also might wash the children's feet during the lesson. If they are unable to remove their socks and shoes, you could wash their hands instead.

This Bible story is featured in the new *My First Hands-On Bible*™. Order several now for your ministry at [group.com](http://group.com).



**So that's my story. Jesus told me to follow what he did and serve others. And he told me to tell you!**

Take off the towel and robe.

Ask: • **What did Jesus do for his disciples?** (He washed their feet; he served them.)

• **Why did Jesus wash his disciples feet?** (He wanted to do something nice for them.)

• **What did Jesus want his friends to do?** (Help others; serve people.)

• **What does Jesus want you to do?** (Help others; do nice things for others.)

Say: **When we help others, we show that we're following Jesus. When we believe in Jesus, our actions show that** ► *Jesus gives us new life.*



## ■ Do the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** tub of sand, tub of water, washcloths, paper towels, low table, plastic dolls, action figures

Place a tub of sand, a tub of water, some washcloths, and paper towels on a low table. Place plastic dolls and action figures on the table as well. Have children gather around the table.

Pick up a doll, and get its feet wet. Then place the doll's feet in the tub of sand. Say: **We learned in today's Bible story that Jesus washed the disciples' feet. Jesus was a servant to his disciples. Work together to march your dolls through the sand and then wash and dry their feet.**

As children work, ask questions such as "How does the sand make your dolls' feet feel?" "What happens when you go outside without shoes?" "How do you think the disciples felt after walking outside?" "How does it make you feel to help your dolls?"

Say: **We can be thankful that** ► *Jesus gives us new life* **by following his example. There are lots of things we don't always like to do, but often our actions help other people. Let's see if our friend Whiskers would like to learn about what Simon Peter told us today!**



## Closing

### ■ Happy Helpers

**SUPPLIES:** none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



**Whiskers:** (*Grumbling*) Hi, everybody.

**Teacher:** Hello, Whiskers! What's wrong? You don't seem to be in your normal cheerful mood.



- Whiskers:** Maybe that's because I'm not. I'm mad!
- Teacher:** You're mad? Why are you mad? All of your friends are here to see you and tell you something important. That should make you feel happy!
- Whiskers:** How can I feel happy about having to clean up the kitchen? There are dirty dishes all over the place! I want to learn about Jesus! I want to have fun with all my friends who came to see me! I don't want to clean up this yucky mess!
- Teacher:** Well, Whiskers, it's funny you're having this problem today. We just learned in our Bible story about a time when Jesus did a job that wasn't very fun to do either. Jesus washed more than dirty dishes—he washed his disciples' dirty, stinky feet!
- Whiskers:** He did what? Washed their feet? But he's Jesus! He's not supposed to be doing yucky jobs like that—he's our king! Kings don't wash feet!
- Teacher:** You're right, Whiskers. Most kings don't. But Jesus is no ordinary king, remember. Jesus is God's Son. And Jesus wants us to show people his love by being helpful.
- Whiskers:** Wow! I never thought of it that way. I love Jesus and want to follow him.
- Teacher:** We can all be happy helpers for Jesus. We can be happy no matter what we're doing because we can remember that ► *Jesus gives us new life.*
- Whiskers:** Well, I better go finish up those dishes. I'm helping my mommy and daddy by cleaning up the kitchen. That's being a servant, just like Jesus wants me to be.
- Teacher:** That's right, Whiskers.
- Whiskers:** I'm going to sing while I clean the kitchen so I'll be a really happy helper. See you later, friends!

Permission to photocopy this script from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum®, Preschool, granted for local church use.  
Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Ave., Loveland, CO 80538. group.com



## ■ Helping Hands and Feet

**SUPPLIES:** none

Say: **There are so many ways that we can help people. Let's say our action rhyme together again to help us remember today's Bible story.** Lead children in saying the rhyme and doing the actions.

**One day Jesus did a strange thing.** (*Touch index finger to temple and say "Hmm..."*)

**He did a job that wasn't for a king.** (*Put one hand on hip and shake index finger of other hand, while shaking head "no."*)

**Jesus washed his disciples' feet!** (*Move hand in circular washing motion.*)

**The dirt was gone** (*shake out feet*). **What a great treat!** (*Raise both arms in the air.*)



**Jesus told them, “Do what I do** *(point to self)*  
**To show I love them like I love you.”** *(Hug person standing nearby.)*

Gather the children for a closing prayer. Pray: **God, thank you for sending Jesus to teach us the things you want us to do. We love you. Help us to tell other people about your love by serving you. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

As the children leave, have each one repeat this week’s Bible verse, adapted from **2 Corinthians 5:17: ►Believing in Jesus makes me a new person.**

**BIBLE VERSE** ►



**Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.



## For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

### ■ **Lively Learning: Following the Light**

Reinforce the idea that Jesus wants us to follow him by having the children follow a flashlight beam around the room. As you shine the beam into different parts of the room, make sure to allow enough time for children to reach the light before you move it again. As you play, talk about how Jesus washed the disciples' feet because he wanted to show them how to follow him. Encourage the children to have fun as they practice following.

### ■ **Make to Take: Fancy Foot Washing**

Have children take off their shoes and socks. Set out washable markers. Encourage the children to use the washable markers to draw little faces or designs on one another's toes. (You might want to test the washable markers to make sure they really are washable.) Then give each child a wet wipe, and have children wash one another's feet, cleaning off the marker. Remind the children of how Jesus washed the disciples' feet, and encourage them to share things they learned during today's Bible story. If children wish, they can draw a face or two on their own toes to wear home so they can share the Bible story with their families. They can wipe off the faces later.

### ■ **Treat to Eat: Dirty Feet Treat**

Give each child a cup of chocolate pudding and several bear-shaped cookies. Have napkins and spoons available. Encourage children to "walk" their bear-shaped cookies through the pudding and then lick the feet clean. Remind the children of how the disciples had to walk very far to get to their dinner and how their feet were very tired and dirty. Remind the children that Jesus cleaned the disciples' feet, and then allow children to "clean up" these treats.



### ■ **Story Picture: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet**

Give each child a copy of the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson). Set out watercolor paints, brushes, water, and paper towels, along with self-stick paper reinforcement circles. Have the children place the paper reinforcements around the picture of Jesus washing the disciple's foot to represent bubbles. Then have them paint over the scene with watercolors. As children work, encourage them to tell you why Jesus was washing the disciples' feet. Remind them that when we help others we're showing them that ▶ Jesus gives us new life.

# Today I learned... Jesus gives us new life.

**Lesson 4**  
Today your child learned that we serve Jesus because **JESUS GIVES US NEW LIFE.** The children heard how Jesus showed his disciples how to serve others. They talked about ways they can be servants for Jesus by following his example.

## Help me learn this:

Believing in Jesus makes me a new person (adapted from 2 Corinthians 5:17).

## Ask me:

- Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet?
- What are ways our family can help others?
- How can our family serve one another in our own home?

## Family Fun

- Have a lawn-care party in your neighborhood. As a family, work together as servants to help a family in your neighborhood care for their lawn. You might help an elderly couple or a family with very little time to spare. Work together, making sure everyone has a special job to do, such as planting and watering flowers, raking leaves, putting leaves in a bag, picking up sticks from the yard, or mowing the lawn. Even the youngest family members can use sidewalk chalk to create beautiful pictures on the neighbors' sidewalk or driveway. By being servants in your neighborhood and telling others through your actions, you show your gratitude to God that Jesus gives new life.

## Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet (John 13:1-17)

