

“Famous Last Words” - LESSON 1

“Be A Servant”

Main Focus:

If you want to be a leader, you must learn to serve others.



Power Verse:

“...Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant.”

- Luke 22:26



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Put Others First And Think Of Me Last!”

LEADER’S INFO

Children love to play “Follow The Leader.” Of course, everyone always wants to be THE LEADER. After all, the leader is the most powerful player in the game. They blaze the trail for everyone else to follow.

Being THE LEADER in life is often something people aspire to as well. In fact, Jesus’ disciples often fought over who would be the greatest among them.

Jesus turned their thinking upside down at The Last Supper. When Jesus began to serve them by washing their feet, He taught them that to be the greatest, you have to become the servant of all. If you really want to lead, you have to serve.

In this lesson, the children will learn from Jesus’ example that serving others is the only way to become “the greatest” in the Kingdom of God.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“How To Be The Greatest”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Big Ray teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Frank Lee”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Knock Down The Wall”



Bible Story

“Jesus Washes The Disciples’ Feet”



Power Verse Video

“...Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant.”

- Luke 22:26



Call To Action

“Be A Servant”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

If you want to be a leader, you must learn to serve others.



Power Verse:

“...Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant.”

- Luke 22:26



Whatchagaddaknow:

“I Will Put Others First And Think Of Me Last!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Frank Lee” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Knock Down The Wall” Graphic
- Table
- 24 Empty Soda Cans
- Frisbee

Bible Story

- “Jesus Washes The Disciples’ Feet” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Be A Servant” Graphics
- A Trophy
- A “1st Place” Ribbon
- A Name Tag That Says “Boss”

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Print Piece
- Pencils, Crayons, Or Markers
- Others First, Me Last Print Piece

“The Spark” Intro Video

“How To Be The Greatest”

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

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Character Skit

“Frank Lee”

Offering Time

Game Time!

“Knock Down The Wall”

Bible Story

“Jesus Washes The Disciples’ Feet”

Power Verse Video

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Call To Action

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Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are starting a series called “Famous Last Words.” Any guesses as to what this series is about?

(allow some kids to guess) Those are all good guesses. The phrase, “Famous Last Words,” refers to the last thing spoken by someone right before they die. Usually, if someone knows they are going to die, they are very purposeful with their words. The last words are usually made up of things that the person really thinks are important.

In this series, we are going to be looking at some of the last commands Jesus gave His disciples before He died on the cross. They are some of His most important commands, so we are going to learn all about them.

Before we get too deep into the lesson, let’s check out this video...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)

Leader: Everybody wants to be the greatest! But Jesus said that if you want to be the greatest in the Kingdom of God, then you have to be a servant. That’s right! You have to serve others!

Everybody wants to be served, but very few want to serve others. In today’s lesson, we are going to learn how Jesus demonstrated the way to be a servant in one of the most amazing actions ever.

We will learn all about that today. Right now, it’s time to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Frank Lee” *(Frank is obsessed with the famous last words of people. He carries around his notebook full of those words and shares a new “last words” phrase every week.)*

Frank: Hello, everyone! Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Frank Lee.

Leader: Hello there, Frank Lee. Wait a minute... Frank Lee... Frankly... oh, never mind. We meet people with some of the strangest names!

Frank: Oh, I get that all the time. I’m used to it.

Leader: Hearing your name kind of makes me hungry. You know - franks. I love hot dogs! I know what I’m having when I leave.

Frank: You do? What’s that?

Leader: A burger and fries. It’s burger day at my house!

Frank: I thought you would say you are having hot dogs.

Leader: Maybe another day. Today, it’s burgers! Anyway, I have to ask you, Frank, what’s in that notebook?

Frank: This notebook contains my life’s work. I never go anywhere without it!

Leader: Never?

Frank: NEVER!

Leader: Anywhere?

Frank: ANYWHERE!

Leader: What about when you go to the bathroom?

Frank: I have it!

Leader: When you sleep?

Frank: It’s under my pillow!

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CHARACTER SKIT

(continued)

Leader: When you take a shower?

Frank: I take baths, and this book is right there with my rubber duckies!

Leader: Wow, there must be some really important stuff in that book!

Frank: It's filled with many “last words” spoken by people right before they died.

Leader: That's pretty cool. Can we hear some?

Frank: I'll share one with you that I recently added. He was a lion tamer in the circus! I got to speak with the bearded lady and three clowns.

Leader: That's cool! I've always wanted to be a lion tamer. Making lions jump through hoops of fire would be AWESOME! What were his last words?

Frank: One day while he was rehearsing with the lions, he turned around and asked, “Hey, did anyone feed these lions?” Before he knew it, he had become dinner to six starving lions!

Leader: Oh no! That's terrible! Poor guy!

Frank: They canceled the lion show after that. I have his last words recorded for all of history to know. The lion tamer shall be remembered as a reminder to never forget to feed your lions!

Leader: Funny you say that. Today, we are starting a new series called “Famous Last Words.” We are going to look at some of the last sayings of Jesus before He died on the cross. I can't think of any last words that are more important than His!

Frank: I have some pretty good ones in my book here. Some will shock you, some will bring tears to your eyes, some will make you gasp in disbelief, and some will leave you scratching your head.

Leader: It sounds like you have quite the variety of last words in your book! I can't wait to hear more of them!

Frank: For sure! I have a few leads on some more amazing last words, so I'd better go check them out. Enjoy your lesson today on the last words of Jesus! In case these are my last words, write them down to remember me by - “See ya!”

(EXITS WHILE HIS THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME

“Knock Down The Wall”

Items Needed For Game:

Table; 24 empty soda cans; Frisbee

Preparation:

Stack the cans in two stacks of 12 (*separated from each other*)

How To Play:

Choose three boys and three girls to participate.
Have the children stand approximately fifteen to twenty feet away from the cans.

One at a time, have the children throw the Frisbee to try to knock down their wall of cans. Have each girl throw the Frisbee once, and then count how many cans they knocked down. Have the boys do the same, and then compare the two numbers.

The team that knocked down the most cans wins!



Bible Story

“Jesus Washes The Disciples’ Feet”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in John 13:1-17; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

In this series, we are learning from some of Jesus’ “Famous Last Words.” His last few moments with His disciples started in the upper room of a house in Jerusalem. Jesus had gathered all of the twelve disciples to this room in order to have a meal with them. (*show pic*) This meal was part of The Feast Of The Passover. It is often called “The Last Supper” because it was the last time Jesus had a meal with His disciples.



After the meal was over, the disciples and Jesus began to move away from the table and relax. While the disciples talked, they noticed Jesus get up, take off His outer robe, wrap Himself in a towel, and grab a bowl of water. (*show pic*) The disciples weren’t sure what Jesus was planning to do, but they were very curious.



Suddenly, Jesus began to kneel down and wash the feet of the disciples. (*show pic*) Now, there is something you need to understand. In Jesus’ time, the act of washing someone’s feet was something usually left for a servant. In that time, people wore sandals everywhere they went. There weren’t concrete, paved roads to travel on. The roads were dusty and dirty. That meant everyone’s feet became dusty and dirty. Often, when people entered a house, a servant who worked for the owner of that house would wash your feet as you entered. That way, the dirt from everyone’s feet would not dirty up the house.



When Jesus got to the disciple named Peter, He said something. Peter said, “Master, you will never wash my feet.” He felt that Jesus shouldn’t be doing something like that. After all, Jesus was a very important man. He was the Son of God. He shouldn’t be doing a servant’s job. But Jesus insisted that He wash Peter’s feet. So Peter let Him.

After He had finished washing the feet of every disciple, Jesus stood and taught something very important. He said, “Follow my example. Do for others as I have done for you.” He went on to teach that anyone who wants to be the greatest in the Kingdom of God should take on the role of a servant. If you really want to be a leader, you must learn to serve others and put them ahead of yourself.

That’s exactly what you are going to learn about in your lesson today. You are going to learn that to be the greatest, you have to choose to humble yourself and *be a servant* to others. That’s what Jesus did.



Call To Action “Be A Servant”

Materials Needed:

The “Be A Servant” graphics; A trophy; A “1st Place” ribbon; A name tag that says “BOSS”

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “Be A Servant”



The Message: *(title slide)*

Have you ever wanted to be the greatest at something? Maybe there was a spelling bee at school and you studied all the spelling words for weeks just so you could end up on the stage as the “last speller standing” and be presented with that 1st place ribbon. *(hold up the 1st place ribbon)* At that moment, everyone would know that YOU are the greatest speller!

Or maybe you wanted to win the basketball free throw contest or the batting contest in baseball. You practiced and practiced until you were the best you could be. Then, you went out and won the trophy *(hold up the trophy)* for being the greatest basketball free throw shooter or greatest batter in baseball. At that moment, you were able to feel on top of the world as the greatest!

Maybe you dream of one day owning your own company and people having to call you *(place the name tag that says “BOSS” on at this time)* “BOSS.” You don’t have to listen to anybody. You are in charge. You are the greatest, and you are THE BOSS!

We all have dreams like that at times. There is a longing deep inside of us all to be “the greatest” at something or to be THE BOSS. The disciples of Jesus often had those same dreams. They were constantly arguing over who was the greatest. That’s why Jesus taught them the lesson He taught at The Last Supper. By washing their feet, Jesus showed them that even THE BOSS (which Jesus was, for sure) must be a servant to others.

Do you want to be the greatest? Well, to be the greatest in God’s Kingdom...



I Must Be A Servant Like Jesus *(slide)*

Jesus didn’t act like He was better than everyone else. Jesus didn’t treat anyone as less of a person than He was. Jesus served others. Not only did Jesus serve by washing the disciples’ feet, but Jesus served the

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Call To Action

(Continued)

hurting by healing their sickness and disease. Jesus served the lonely by spending time with them and being their friend. Jesus served every person He came in contact with. He understood that being the greatest was not about bragging and treating others as less than He was. Being the greatest means that you have a responsibility to help and bless others. If you want to be the greatest, you must follow Jesus’ example and serve others.

Not only that, but if I want to be the greatest...



I Must Humble Myself *(slide)*

Jesus was the teacher, yet He chose to be the servant. Nobody made Him do it. He chose to do it. He chose to humble Himself. That means He chose to take on a role that was less than what He COULD have chosen. Jesus could have forced the disciples to wash HIS feet, but that’s not what He did. He chose to humble Himself and take on the role of a servant.

You and I must make that same choice. When you see someone in your class that is hurting and lonely, don’t wait for someone to FORCE you to be their friend. CHOOSE to humble yourself and be their friend. Don’t think of yourself as better than they are. Jesus humbled Himself, and so should you.

Finally, if I want to be the greatest in the Kingdom of God...



I Must Put Others First, Me Last *(slide)*

Everywhere He went, Jesus put others first. Instead of saying, “I’m the greatest,” Jesus showed us that others were more important. He prayed for others, helped others, healed others, fed others, and even bled and died for the sins of others. Jesus did not put Himself first. Jesus lived in a way that put others ahead of Himself.

It’s not easy, but we must follow Jesus’ example. He never once demanded that people treat Him as the King that He is. Instead, He took on the role of a servant and put others first—Himself last. Can you imagine what a group of kids would look like if they lived like this? “Others first—me last”? I imagine that every kid in the city would want to come to that church because they knew they would be treated with kindness, love, and care.

If you want to be the greatest, then you have to be like Jesus. Jesus was a servant, and we should be, too.

ALTAR RESPONSE: *(play soft music)*

Pray for every child to become more of a servant like Jesus. Perhaps think of a working project (*such as raking leaves for a widow in the church or writing cards to the homebound*) that your children can work on this week. Lead them in putting this lesson into action.



Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “I Will Put Others First And Think Of Me Last!”

2. What is the name of the series we started today?

Answer: “Famous Last Words”

3. What were Jesus and His disciples doing at the beginning of our Bible Story?

Answer: Eating Supper

4. What did Jesus begin to do after they ate?

Answer: Wash Their Feet

5. Who told Jesus He could never wash his feet?

Answer: Peter

6. Did Peter eventually let Jesus wash his feet?

Answer: Yes

7. According to our lesson today, “I Must Be A _____ Like Jesus.”

Answer: Servant

8. According to our lesson today, “I Must _____ Myself.”

Answer: Humble

9. According to our lesson today, “I Must Put Others First, _____.”

Answer: Me Last

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: Luke 22:26