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THE SERVANT KING

The Upside-Down Kingdom

YEAR 2 – KINGDOM LIFE

UNIT 8: SERVING GOD

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture John 13:1–17; Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:35–45; Luke 22:24-27

Objectives To explain that

- Today's story is about Serving God.
- The disciples were arguing about which of them was the most important in the Kingdom of God. They thought God's kingdom was like any other kingdom where the most powerful people are the most important.
- Jesus said his Kingdom is different. It is so different that we often call it the upside-down Kingdom. In God's upside-down Kingdom those who serve are the greatest. Jesus showed the disciples what that meant when he washed their feet.
- Jesus is the Servant King who came not to be served, but to serve others and to give his life to set us free from sin.
- Jesus told the disciples to follow his example and to serve one another. When we serve others, we are also serving God.

Memory Verse "Anyone who wants to be important among you must be your servant.... Be like the Son of Man (Jesus). He did not come to be served....he came to serve others. He came to give his life as the price for setting many people free." (Matthew 20:26 -28 – NIRV)

ACNA Catechism Connections Today's story of The Servant King is connected to the following Catechism questions:
Q139 What is the work of all Christians? All Christians are to bear witness to Christ in their lives; to care for the poor, strangers, widows, and orphans; and, according to their gifts, to serve Christ in the world and in the Church.

Q182 How do you live in God's kingdom? As a citizen of God's kingdom, I am called to live in obedience to God's Word and will, in loving witness and service to others, and in joyful hope of Christ's return.

Q184 What is God's will? God's will is to reconcile all things to himself in Jesus Christ and to establish his kingdom on the earth. His will is revealed in the whole of Scripture and especially in Jesus Christ, whom I am called to serve and imitate with my whole life.

Q273 Can you worship and serve God perfectly? No. Only our Lord Jesus Christ worshiped and served God perfectly; but I can seek to imitate Christ, knowing that my worship and service are acceptable to God through him.

Q355 What did Jesus teach about this (10th) commandment? Jesus taught us not to seek anxiously after possessions, but to put our trust in God; and he showed us how to live by taking the form of a servant, and loving and trusting his Father in all things.

Q368 What marks a life of sanctification? God calls me to a life marked by gratitude and joy. In gratitude for God's grace in Jesus, I die daily to the desires of my fallen nature. In the joy of knowing that I will become like Jesus, I live each day in service to him.

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Large Bible
- Kingdom Life storyboard (see photo)

Lesson Props: (see Props Document for instructions on how to make these)

- Picture of a King
- Picture of Jesus washing the disciples' feet
- Plastic bowl for "washing" feet.
- Towel for "drying" feet.
- A chair each for Jesus and the disciples (as many disciples as you want to have in the play.)
- Storyboard unit title: "Serving God"
- Storyboard symbol: Servant King
- Cue cards are encouraged if a child reads the part.

Costumes: Jesus (with blue sash) and disciples - barefoot

Memory Verse: "Anyone who wants to be important among you must be your servant.... Be like the Son of Man (Jesus). He did not come to be served....he came to serve others. He came to give his life as the price for setting many people free."
(Matthew 20:26 -28 – NIRV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.

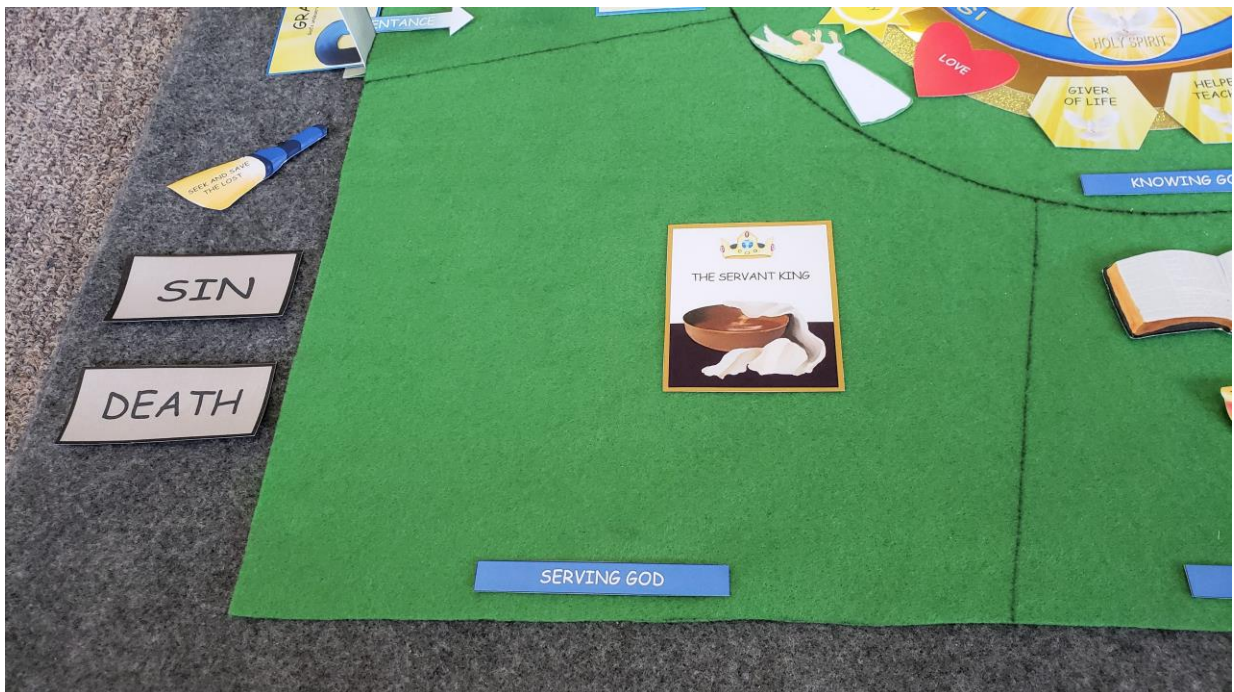
2 | Lesson Outline:

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (<i>see Resource Section</i>)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (<i>see Resource Section</i>) Extinguish the candles
Music	What a Mighty God We Serve The Servant King (1 st verse and chorus only) Please check internet for lyrics and music.
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Story Board Review	Ask review questions relating to props from previous lessons on story board. Story board review is found in Section 4
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Large Bible, Kingdom Life storyboard
Bible Story	Proceed with story and questions found in Section 4.
Related activities	After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. See Resource Section.

3 | Storyboard Progression



This is how the storyboard should look at the **start** of the lesson.



This is how the Serving God section should look at the **end** of the lesson. Leave the storyboard like this for next week.

4 | Story and Questions

SETUP: *Set up two teaching stations: At the first station have the Kingdom Life storyboard set up. At the second station have the row of chairs for the play set up. Start the lesson by the second station.*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Today's story is from the Bible, and it is about Serving God.'*

STORY:

TEACHER: In today's memory verse, we heard that anyone who wants to be **important** must be a **servant**. We don't normally think of servants as the greatest and most important people, do we?

No, and the disciples didn't think that either. One day the disciples argued about which of **them** was the greatest in the Kingdom of God. They thought that God's Kingdom was like any other kingdom, where people with the greatest **power** are the most important. *(Show picture of king.)*

But Jesus said that **his** Kingdom is **different**. It is so different that we often call it the **upside-down** Kingdom. In God's upside-down Kingdom those who **serve** others are the greatest.

(Show picture of Jesus washing disciples' feet.) Here is a picture of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. Jesus did this to teach the disciples what it meant for them to serve each other.

Let's act out that story now.

ACTION: *Ask for volunteers to play Jesus and the disciples and don simple costumes. Have Jesus and disciples sit down on chairs, barefoot.*

TEACHER: Jesus and the disciples were gathered for the last supper. This was their last meal together before Jesus was crucified.

After supper, Jesus got up and took off his cloak. He grabbed a towel and a bowl of water, and he began to wash the feet of his disciples.

ACTION: *Jesus gets up, takes the towel and bowl, and pretends to wash disciples' feet in the bowl and drying them with the towel.*

TEACHER: The disciples were really shocked!

ACTION: *Have children (disciples) shake their heads in surprise.*

TEACHER: Why was Jesus washing their feet? Washing people's feet was the job of a servant! In their country, it was hot and people wore sandals all the time. Their feet would get very dirty from the dusty roads, so when people entered a home, the servants would wash their feet.

But Jesus wasn't a servant. He was the Forever King and Lord of All! He was the most important person in the room! No king or lord had ever washed other people's dusty, dirty feet!

The disciples didn't think it was right that Jesus should wash their feet, but Jesus just kept on washing. When he was finished, he put away the bowl and the towel, put his cloak back on and sat down.

ACTION: *Jesus puts away the bowl and towel, puts on his cloak and sits down.*

TEACHER: Jesus said to his disciples:

JESUS: "Do you understand what I have done for you? I am your Lord and Teacher, and I have washed your feet. I have given you an example of how you should serve one another."

TEACHER: This is why the Kingdom of God is called the upside-down Kingdom! Jesus is the King who came to serve others. He is the Servant King.

Let's sit down by the storyboard and talk more about what that means.

ACTION: *Sit down by the storyboard with the children.*

TEACHER: Jesus is the Forever King and Lord of All (*point to symbol*). His Kingdom is God's Kingdom (*point to green area*).

Jesus said: "Be like me. (*Point to Jesus.*) I did not come to be served. Instead, I came to serve others. I came to give my life (*point to cross*) as the price for setting people free from sin." (Matthew 20:28)

Jesus is the Servant King. He loved and served others in many ways. He healed the sick. He fed the hungry. He taught the people. But, his **greatest** act of love and service was to give his life on the cross to set us free from sin.

Jesus wants **us** to love and serve one another too. Can you think of some ways that we can be like Jesus and serve others? (*Help people, do the jobs that nobody wants to do, etc. – more time will be spent on this topic in Lesson 24 – Serving God.*)

TEACHER: Let's put this picture of a bowl of water and a towel on our storyboard, to remind us that Jesus is the Servant King who set an example for us to follow. *(Place symbol on storyboard.)* Jesus wants us to be more like him and serve others. **When we serve others, we are also serving God.** *(Place "Serving God" unit title on storyboard as shown.)*

Those who serve others are the greatest in the upside-down Kingdom of God.

Life Application Prayer:

TEACHER: Thank you Jesus for serving us by giving your life on the cross to set us free from sin. Thank you also for showing us how to serve one another when you washed the disciples' feet. You said that those who serve others are the greatest in the Kingdom of God. Help us to be like you and serve others every day. Amen.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this story tell us about Jesus?** (He is the Servant King. He set an example for us to follow when he served the disciples by washing their feet.)
- **Why do we call the Kingdom of God the upside-down Kingdom?** (Because Jesus taught that those who are the greatest and most important in the Kingdom of God are the not the most powerful people but the ones who love and serve others.)
- **What did Jesus do to show the disciples that they must serve others?** (He who was their King and Lord washed their feet, even though that was the work of a servant.)
- **Who did Jesus say would be the greatest in the Kingdom of God?** (Those who serve others.)
- **What was the greatest act of service that Jesus did for us?** (He gave his life on the cross to set us free from sin.)

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers

"Anyone who wants to be important among you must be your servant.... Be like the Son of Man (that is Jesus). He did not come to be served...he came to serve others. He came to give his life as the price for setting many people free."

(Matthew 20:26 -28)