

# Jesus, the Servant

John 13:1-17; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 642-651

Lesson

**D**o some chores you have to do seem unpleasant? Jesus wasn't too proud to do one of those jobs for His disciples. He wanted to show His disciples how much He loved them, and how they should serve others.

**J**esus and His disciples had gathered to celebrate Passover. Jesus knew this was the last meal He would eat with them before He died. And He was troubled. There was still so much He wanted to teach them. And He was almost out of time.

His disciples could feel that something was about to happen. But they were expecting Jesus to take the throne and become the ruler of the country. They were waiting for Him to set up a kingdom on earth. And each one wanted the best place in it. Every one of them believed he deserved the most important position.

In those days a servant usually washed the guests' feet before dinner, especially an important dinner like the Passover. And everything was there in the room where they had gathered—the pitcher, the bowl, the towel. Everything except the servant. Dinner was ready. If someone would just come and wash their feet, they could begin the Passover feast.

The room grew quiet as they waited.

Uncomfortably quiet. None of the disciples would look at the others. Each of them knew what needed to be done, but none of them would do it. *I'm not going to do the work of a servant*, each one thought. *After all, I deserve the most important job in Jesus' new kingdom. I am not going to get down on my knees and wash the others' feet.*

Jesus knew what His disciples were thinking. He desperately wanted to teach them that His kingdom was built on love. The way to show His love to

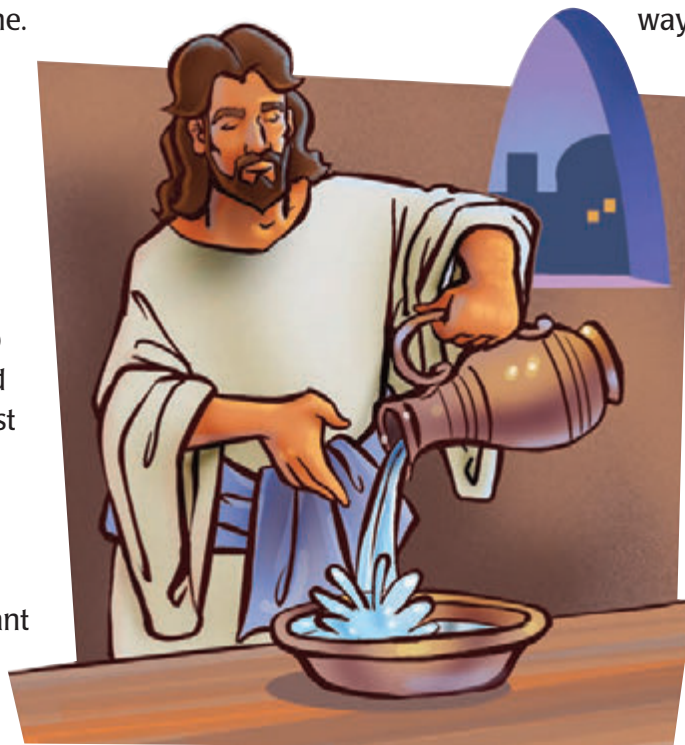
others was unselfishly to put others first. Jesus' disciples had spent three years with Him. But they still had not learned the most important lesson. Greatness in God's kingdom comes through humble service to others.

So Jesus gave them one last example.

Quietly He got up from the table and took off His coat. He wrapped the towel around His waist. He

poured water into the

bowl. Without saying a word He began to wash the disciples' feet. He didn't lecture. He just did the job they each thought they were too important to do. Can you imagine how embarrassed they felt? He was their Master, the Son of God, the Creator of the universe.



# The Message

We show God's love when we serve others.

## Memory Verse

*“Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet”*

*(John 13:14, NIV).*

And He was doing the work of a servant.

It was more than Peter could bear. “Lord, You're not going to wash my feet!” he exclaimed.

“If I don't wash you, you have no part with Me,” Jesus replied.

Jesus was washing more than the dust from His disciples' feet. He was washing away their pride and selfishness. He was teaching them to serve one another. He was showing them how to reach those to whom they would soon be preaching the Good News.

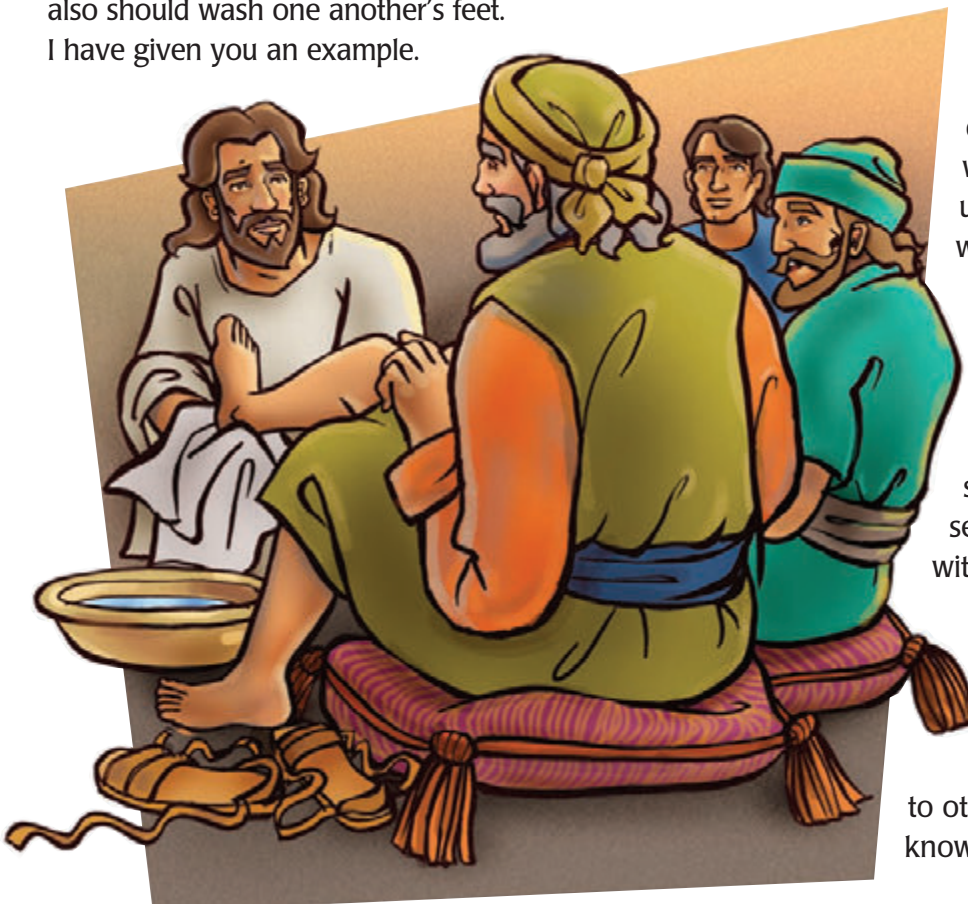
Jesus finished and sat down. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” He asked His disciples. “Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have given you an example.

You should do as I have done for you.” Serve others, Jesus was saying. Do not be ashamed to do anything that will show My love.

Humility is the sign of true greatness. That night Jesus' disciples learned a lesson they would never forget. Jesus wants us to learn that lesson too. He wants to help us live a life of service to others. That's how people will know that we are Jesus' friends.

When Jesus was finished, He gave another promise. He said, “I will not have another service like this until I share it with you in heaven.”

Someday, we will be with Jesus. And we will share in that special service. But for now, Jesus wants to help all of us live a life of helpfulness to others. That's how people will know that we are Jesus' friends.





## S A B B A T H

**DO** If possible, go with your family to a quiet place outdoors. Read John 13:1-17 together. Talk about Peter's actions. Why did he change his mind?

**DO** Teach your memory verse to your family. Stand up and take one step for each word you say. Have them do the same.

Our roads are muddy and dusty. People wear sandals. Feet get really dirty!



## S U N D A Y

**READ** Read and discuss John 13:1-5 during family worship. What did Jesus know about His future? What did He do for His disciples?

**DO** Ask for permission to prepare a simple snack or meal. Serve it to your family as if you were a servant. What else can you do to serve your family? Why will you do it?

**THINK** Think of three more ways to be a servant for Jesus this week. Is there a lonely child in your class? Ask Jesus to help you to be friendly to that child.

## M O N D A Y

**DO** Remember to do the yucky household chore that you promised to do in Sabbath School. Give the "At Your Service" card to someone today.

**DO** While washing your feet today, notice how dirty (or clean) they are. Think of how the disciples felt when Jesus washed their dusty feet.

**PRAY** Ask Jesus to make you clean all over and take away your sin.

## T U E S D A Y

**DO** Thank the janitor at your school or church for keeping things clean. And pick up papers to help.

**READ** Get a book from the library about Middle Eastern customs. Read about the way of life there.

**THINK** Think of some people who are famous in the world today. Is serving others what makes them famous? Or do they live a selfish life? For what way of life would you want to be famous? Ask Jesus to help you live for Him.

## W E D N E S D A Y

**READ** Read and discuss John 13:5-9 with your family. Why did Peter say, "Wash my hands and my head too"?

**SING** Sing "This Little Light of Mine" (Sing for Joy, No. 134). Then thank Jesus for showing us how to serve others. Tell Him how you served someone today.



# THURSDAY

**READ** During worship today read and discuss John 13:12-17. Read verse 16 again. What did Jesus mean?

**DRAW** Draw around your foot five times and cut out the footprints. Divide the memory verse into five parts. Write each part on a paper footprint. Mix up the footprints and see how quickly you can put them together to form the memory verse. Ask your family to do this too.

**DO** Clean your room for Sabbath before you are asked to.



# FRIDAY

**DO** Act out the lesson story with your family. Whose feet will you wash?

**DO** Give your mom or dad a surprise foot massage after you wash their feet. They will love it!

**DO** Say your memory verse together. Then sing a song about serving others. Ask God to help you show His love by serving others willingly and cheerfully.

## Jesus, the Servant

# PUZZLE

Directions: Use the code to find out the most important way that we show we are Christians.



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|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| E<br>♥ | H<br>🐦 | O<br>👕 | R<br>🍷 |
| S<br>👐 | T<br>🍲 | V<br>👣 |        |