

# WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 13:3-17



## The STORY

Read about Jesus washing the disciples' feet in John 13:3-17.

**Please note:** *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What happened in this story? (Jesus washed the disciples' feet.)
- Why did Peter not want Jesus to wash his feet? (In Jesus' day, everyone wore sandals so their feet became dirty. It was a disgusting job to wash feet. Normally it was the job of a servant, not a teacher.)
- What was Jesus trying to teach the disciples? (Jesus was trying to teach the disciples that true greatness is about serving your brother, not being better than your brother.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Engage the children by asking:**

- Do people still argue who is the greatest today? (Yes, the same sin that was in the disciples' hearts is in our hearts.)
- In what areas to people want to be the best?  
 Note: The children may have difficulty coming up with ideas. You might use sporting events to start but then move toward more personal issues such as the best person, or the best looking, or the smartest.
- Is it bad to want to be the best? (We should want to do our best in everything, but we should not need to be the best. God does not tell us to be the best, simply to do our best for the glory of God, see 1 Corinthians 10:31.)

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### SNACK QUESTIONS

**Read Luke 22:24-30. The disciples were arguing about who was the greatest that same evening. While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:**

- How is this story connected to Jesus washing the disciples' feet? (They both happened the same evening. Perhaps the disciples were arguing about who was the greatest and Jesus used the washing of feet to teach them a lesson.)
- Why would Jesus washing the disciples' feet teach them a lesson? (He was their teacher and leader. They should have been washing His feet.)
- What did Jesus tell the disciples they should do? (Jesus said they should follow Him and wash each others feet. What He meant was that they should serve each other rather than argue who is the greatest.)

### WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Paul tells us, in Philippians 2:7-8, that our attitude should be the same as that of Jesus who "made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Jesus, God Himself, performed His greatest act of service for us by giving up His life for us. The events in the upper room were pointing ahead to what would soon happen in the crucifixion. It was demeaning for Jesus to wash the disciples' feet taking away the outward dirt with water and a towel, how much more demeaning was it to wash their hearts by taking upon Himself their sin and shedding His own blood as an atoning sacrifice.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*