

The Master Becomes A Servant

John 13:1-17

MEMORY VERSE

MATTHEW 23:11-12

"But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A shoe shining kit.

As many sheets of paper as the number of children in your class, scissors, pencils, crayons or markers, or paper plates and plaster of Paris.

Compressed sponges and markers.

A tennis ball.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

Can I Give Ya' a Shine?

Bring a shoeshine kit from home and begin to quietly clean the shoes of your students as they arrive back from the worship service. If they object or question you, go about your task until you feel you have adequately made the point.

Explain to your class that cleaning someone's shoes is a very humble job. You must bow down before the person, clean a potentially dirty and even "germy" article of clothing, etc. Explain that in today's lesson, we will see that Jesus humbled Himself to do what was considered a very lowly job to be an example to His disciples. **Jesus wants us to serve one another.**

LESSON TIME!

Jesus was our example in a lot of things, but maybe one of the most interesting ways that He was our example is in how He was such a great servant. Here is Jesus, God in human flesh, bowing down to wash the feet of and serve His disciples. We should be the ones washing His feet. But in this story today we will learn some valuable lessons. Jesus served us in so many ways, but primarily He served us by giving His life for us.

We will also learn about how Jesus wants us to reflect His servant's heart towards others. If we want to truly be like Jesus then we will be a servant like Him. Let's look at how Jesus was first a servant and learn about how He wants us to be servants just like Him. **Jesus wants us to serve one another.**

JOHN 13:1

Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

Jesus and His disciples were celebrating the Passover. At Passover the Jews remembered the time in Egypt when their ancestors sacrificed a perfect lamb to save their firstborn children. The Passover was a picture of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross to fulfill the Passover Feast.

Notice here how much Jesus loved His disciples. Jesus knew that soon He would be delivered to the Romans and the Jews to be beaten and hung on a cross. Even at this time, His focus was still on others. He loved those who were His own and loved them to the end. No matter what, Jesus is committed to us. He says in another place, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Would we have the same kind of love for others if we were in the same situation? We would probably be very worried about our own lives and not think very much about others. Jesus was always centered on the needs of others. We too should be like Jesus and focus on the needs of others. **Jesus wants us to serve one another.**

JOHN 13:2-4

And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him,

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,

rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.

Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples. Judas, one of His disciples, was led by Satan to betray Jesus by turning Him over to those who sought to kill Him. Jesus knew His mission on Earth. He knew that He had all authority, that He had come from Heaven, and that He was going to Heaven. He also knew that He would lay down His own life for the sins of the world.

After supper He prepares to serve the disciples. He was the guest of honor at this supper, yet He would now take the position of servant. What an honor for us to be able to serve our Lord when we know that He always has our best in His heart. **Jesus wants us to serve one another.**

JOHN 13:5

After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.

In Jesus' time the people wore sandals and all the roads were dusty. Their feet got very dirty. When a person had a visitor, his servant would go and wash the visitor's feet to show hospitality. Jesus was taking the place of a servant and washing His disciples' feet. **Jesus wants us to serve one another.**

What do you think must have gone through the disciples' minds? Do you suppose they wondered about what Jesus was doing? Or maybe it wasn't such a surprise to everyone because Jesus had always been a servant in the three years that they had been following Him. Remember at the beginning of class when I (your teacher) began to shine your shoes? Did that seem strange to you?

Helping Hands

Have your class fold a piece of paper to make a string of "paper hands" much like you would make a string of paper dolls. Allow them to color their hands and write down different ways that we can serve one another.

Another option for this activity is to make plaster of Paris casts of your students' hands. You must prepare some plaster of Paris and fill a paper plate of approximately the size of your students' hands with the plaster. Have each of your children put their hand into one of the plaster molds to create an impression. You can etch "**Jesus wants us to serve one another**" on each of the forms.

JOHN 13:6-9

Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."

Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"

Peter was surprised that Jesus was washing his feet, because that was the job of a servant. Jesus was their Lord, yet He was taking the position of a servant. Jesus knew that they would not fully understand what He was doing until after He had ascended to the Father and the Holy Spirit came upon them.

Peter knew that he should have been washing feet rather than Jesus, so he tried to stop Jesus. Jesus explained that Peter had to take part in the foot washing or he would not be a part of Jesus' ministry. Peter then over reacted and asked Jesus to wash his whole body to show that he wanted to be part of Jesus' ministry. **Jesus wants us to serve one another.**

How we need to be washed by Jesus. Peter needed to let Jesus "serve" him because it shows that Peter is receiving Jesus' ministry. It is also a picture of the cross. We must humble ourselves and receive the salvation that Jesus provided on the cross. If we refuse to be cleansed by His "service" to us then we can't have any part with Him.

JOHN 13:10-11

Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."

For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

Jesus said that once you were bathed it is only necessary to wash your feet because that is the part that gets soiled. When we become Christians we are "bathed" or washed of our sins. God sees us as "clean" or righteous. We may sin and need to be cleansed, but it is like washing feet, while the body remains clean. Jesus spoke of Judas as being unclean because Judas was not a true follower of Jesus.

JOHN 13:12-15

So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"

"You call me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.

"If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

"For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.

Jesus explained that He washed the disciples' feet to give them an example of how to minister to others. They were to humble themselves and serve others. We, as Christians today, should also follow Jesus' example and serve others in anyway we can. **Jesus wants us to serve one another.**

When we serve others we are showing Jesus to a lost world. The world doesn't understand, because it tells everyone that you need to be served. Get everything you can from others, don't do anything for others, just yourself. But Jesus' message is completely the opposite from the world. True happiness is found by giving our lives away for the sake of others. The next time we see any needs let's be servants like Jesus. As a class, join together to think

of some ways that you can serve others. This week begin to put them into practice.

Servant Sponges

Hand out a compressed sponge (available at craft or school supply stores) to each of your students. Have them decorate the sponges with markers and write down different ways we can serve one another.

Explain to your class that as we serve one another, our relationship with Jesus and those around us will grow just like these sponges when we place them in water. You can demonstrate with your sponge and encourage your students to try when they get home.

JOHN 13:16

"Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him."

Jesus said that a servant is not greater than his master is. Since Jesus, their master, had served them how much more should they serve each other. Our master, Jesus was an awesome servant to His disciples. How then can we think that we should be served by all of our fellow Christians? It doesn't work like that. We are all part of Jesus' body and have a purpose and ministry (or service) to do. If Jesus is a servant, we need to be one also. **Jesus wants us to serve one another.**

JOHN 13:17

"If you know these things, happy are you if you do them."

Jesus said that if the disciples knew and did these things (served each other), they would be happy. This applies to us today. If we want to be happy, we should follow Jesus' example and serve

others. How can we have a full and rich life today? By giving our lives away! So many people today are trying to find happiness. They try to find it through money or sin, but Jesus says if you want to be happy, just serve other people. It really is that simple, but it is sometimes very hard to do. You can pray, and the Holy Spirit will help you to serve others. **Jesus wants us to serve one another.**

Your Serve

Bring a tennis ball and play a game of toss. As you toss the ball to a student, they must tell of a way to serve one another. When they have done so, they must toss the ball to someone else who also must share a way to serve. You can continue this game as long as you have time, or give each student a chance to catch and share.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be sensitive to one another's needs and to serve one another. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.

THE MASTER BECOMES A SERVANT

(JOHN 13:1-17)



"After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded."

JOHN 13:5

THE MASTER BECOMES A SERVANT

(JOHN 13:1-17)

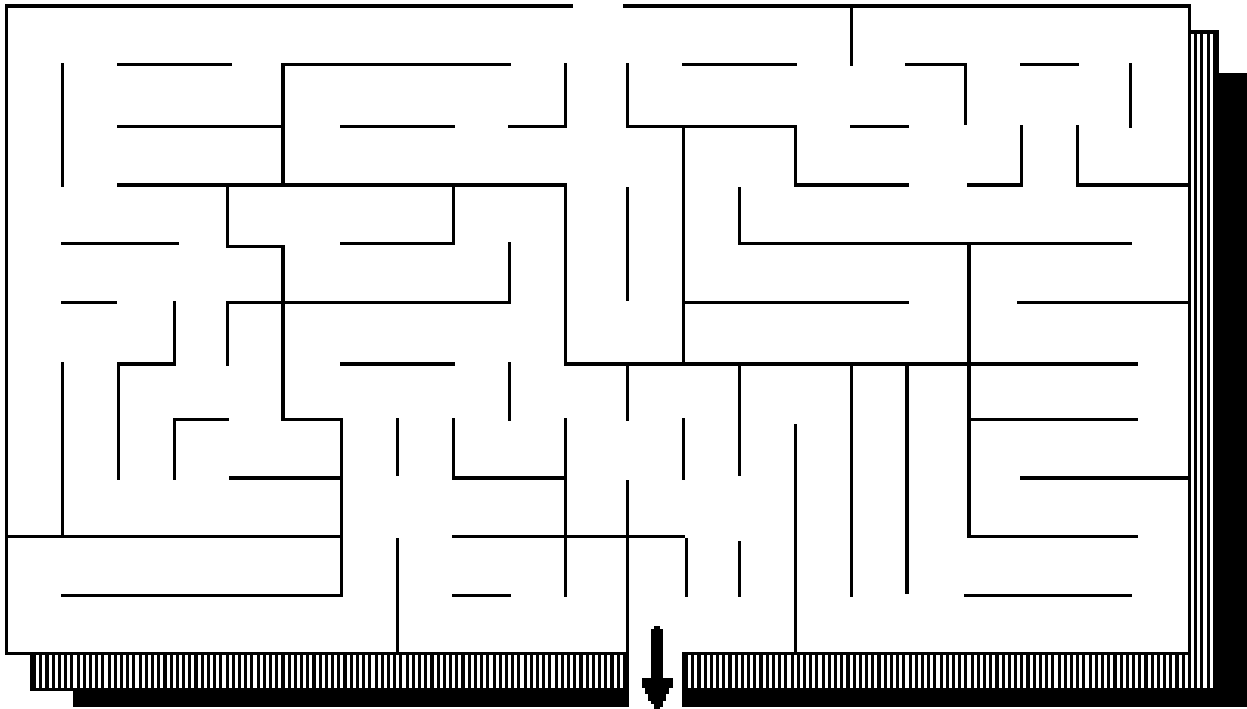
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DISCIPLES
 EXAMPLE
 FEET
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 JESUS

LORD
 MASTER
 PASSOVER
 PETER

SERVANT
 SUPPER
 TEACHER
 WASH

ENTER HERE



THE MASTER BECOMES A SERVANT

(JOHN 13:1-17)

MEMORY VERSE:

"He who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." MATTHEW 23:11-12

TRUE OR FALSE:

1. "...Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father..." **JOHN 13:1**

TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

2. "Jesus, knowing that the (**FATHER, WORLD**) had given all things into His hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God." **JOHN 13:3**

FILL IN THE BLANK:

3. "...He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' _____." **JOHN 13:5**

TRUE OR FALSE:

4. "Peter said to Him, 'You shall never wash my feet!' Jesus answered him, 'If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.'" **JOHN 13:8**

TRUE OR FALSE

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:

5. "Jesus said to him, 'He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is (**PARTIALLY, COMPLETELY**) clean.'" **JOHN 13:10**

TRUE OR FALSE:

6. "So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, 'Do you know what I have done? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.'" **JOHN 13:12-13**

TRUE OR FALSE

7. "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him." **JOHN 13:16**

TRUE OR FALSE

8. "If you know these things, happy are you if you do them." **JOHN 13:17**

TRUE OR FALSE

THE MASTER BECOMES A SERVANT

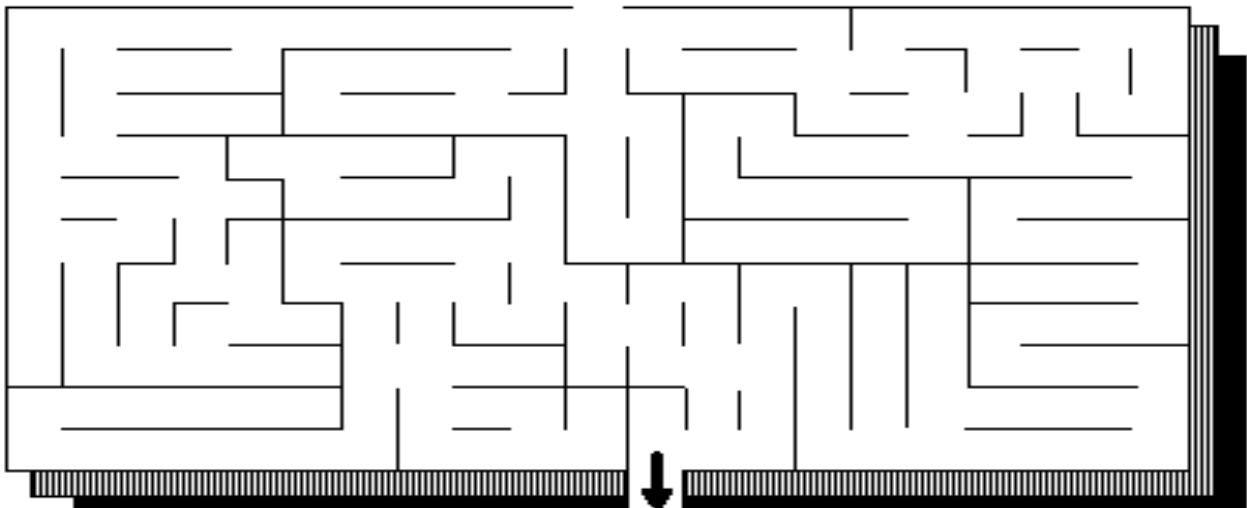
(JOHN 13:1-17)

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BETRAY
DISCIPLES
EXAMPLE
FEET
GREATER

JESUS
JUDAS
LORD
MASTER
PASSOVER

PETER
SERVANT
SUPPER
TEACHER
WASH



THE MASTER BECOMES A SERVANT

(JOHN 13:1-17)

MEMORY VERSE:

"He who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." MATTHEW 23:11-12

TRUE OR FALSE:

1. "...Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father..." **JOHN 13:1**

TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

2. "Jesus, knowing that the _____ had given all things into His hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God." **JOHN 13:3**
3. "...He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' _____." **JOHN 13:5**

TRUE OR FALSE:

4. "Peter said to Him, 'You shall never wash my feet!' Jesus answered him, 'If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.'" **JOHN 13:8**

TRUE OR FALSE

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

5. "Jesus said to him, 'He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is _____ clean.'" **JOHN 13:10**
6. "So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, 'Do you know what I have done? You call Me _____ and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.'" **JOHN 13:12-13**
7. "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant _____ greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him." **JOHN 13:16**

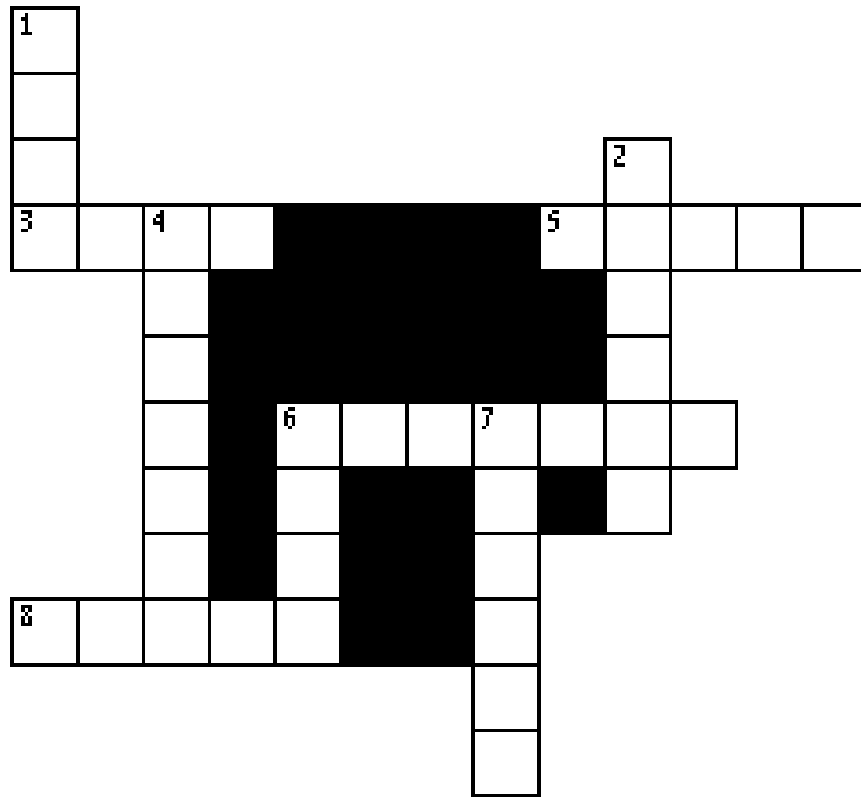
TRUE OR FALSE:

8. "If you know these things, happy are you if you do them." **JOHN 13:17**

TRUE OR FALSE

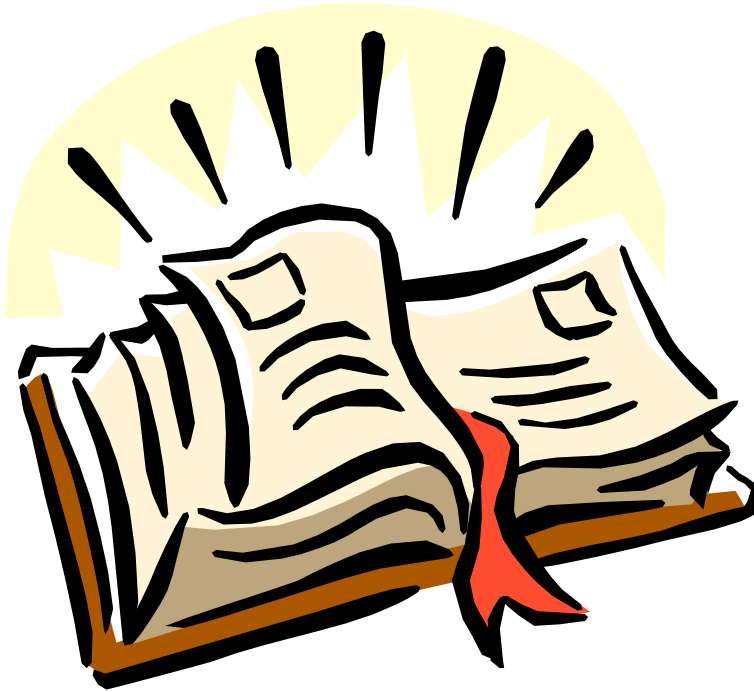
THE MASTER BECOMES A SERVANT

(JOHN 13:1-17)



- 6 ACROSS "He who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who _____ himself will be exalted." **MATTHEW 23:11-12**
- 6 DOWN "...Jesus knew that His _____ had come that He should depart from this world to the Father..." **JOHN 13:1**
- 2 DOWN "Jesus, knowing that the _____ had given all things into His hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God." **JOHN 13:3**
- 3 ACROSS "...He poured water into a basin and began to _____ the disciples' feet." **JOHN 13:5**
- 8 ACROSS "_____ said to Him, 'You shall never wash my feet!' Jesus answered him, 'If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.'" **JOHN 13:8**
- 7 DOWN "Jesus said to him, 'He who is _____ needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean.'" **JOHN 13:10**
- 1 DOWN "So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, 'Do you _____ what I have done? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.'" **JOHN 13:12-13**
- 4 DOWN "Most assuredly, I say to you, a _____ is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him." **JOHN 13:16**
- 5 ACROSS "If you know these things, _____ are you if you do them." **JOHN 13:17**

Bible Time for Kids!



CHILDREN'S DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF:

LESSON TITLE: The Master Becomes a Servant

THEME: Jesus wants us to serve one another.

SCRIPTURE: John 13:1-17



Dear Parents...

Welcome to Bible Time for Kids. Bible Time for Kids is a series of daily devotions for children and their families. Our purpose is to supplement our Sunday morning curriculum and give you an opportunity to encourage your children to develop a daily devotional life. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.

This week in Children's Church we learned about **The Master Becomes a Servant**. The theme was "Jesus wants us to serve one another." When Jesus came as our savior, He came first and foremost as a servant. He demonstrated that over and over in how he served people continually throughout His ministry. He was always serving the poor, the lame, the blind and He had a special place in His heart for children. And the most important way He served us is by giving His life for us on the cross.

Jesus is our example of a servant. As He served His disciples, He told them that they should do the same thing. They should serve others. We are also Jesus' disciples and should be like our Lord. We need to be servants. Let's look at some ways we can be servants this week in our devotions.

The section of scripture that we studied was **John 13:1-17**. The following five devotions are based on either the scripture and/or the theme for Sunday's lesson. As a starting point it would be good for you to review these verses with your children.

These devotions are designed to help you reinforce Sunday's lesson throughout the week with your children, provide some more ideas for the application of God's Word in your children's lives and provide a tool to help in family devotions.

Obviously children at various age levels will respond to the devotional in different ways. You may want to add your own ideas to these to make them more age appropriate.

May the Lord bless you as you study His Word together!

Day One

Lay Down Your Wants

Text: 1 John 3:16 - "by this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."

Also read 1 John 3:16-24

The Bible is God's Word. He chose men to write His word, so we could know who He is. Jesus is God in human flesh. While He lived on the earth, he picked 12 men to spend the last three years of His life with Him. They studied God's word and learned who the "Word made flesh" (John 1:14) was—the Son of God who laid down His life for us. Today we look at a section of God's word written by someone, who knew Jesus very well, the apostle John. When he was older he wrote a letter to the Christians at that time. In John's letter, inspired by the Holy Spirit we learn a valuable lesson about love and servant-hood.

First we see what love really is. God's kind of love is the kind that is willing to give up anything for another. Jesus was willing to give up the glory of heaven and come to this earth as a man. He then lived a perfect life and was willing to lay down that life so that we could be saved. Jesus shows us God's love by being willing to die on the cross in our place and take upon Himself all of our sin. What an amazing love!

We also see that we should have that same kind of love for others. We should be willing to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters in Christ. What this really means is we should be willing to give up what we desire and want for the needs of others, so they can be served. For example, let's say you know someone who can't afford to buy shoes, but you have a weekly allowance. If you gave some of your allowance to your friend so they can buy shoes, you would be putting aside your own desires to buy something for yourself to help your friend. This is what Jesus is asking us to do. To put aside what we want for the needs of others. He wants us to serve others not only with money, but also with our time and with our hearts. This is pleasing to God.

- How has Jesus shown you that He loves you?
- How does serving others show them the love of Jesus? Think of some ways to serve others.

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Brethren: Other believers in Jesus. They are our brothers and sisters in Christ. People who share a love for Jesus with one another.

The Gift of a Life

Text: John 13:14-15 - "If I then, *your* Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you."

Also read John 13:1-20

Have you ever received a gift, maybe from your parents, and it was a gift that you needed to put together? When you put it together, you probably had to follow the instructions that were given with the gift, didn't you? If you didn't follow the instructions, it probably took longer to put together, or maybe it didn't work right until you took it apart and started all over from the beginning; this time following the directions!

Did you know that our life is a gift from God? Jesus was also a gift from God. And God has given us an instruction book, the Bible, to follow so we can live a life that is pleasing to God. One of the instructions that we are given for a blessed life is to have the heart of a **servant**, just as Jesus did. Jesus set a living example of how we should serve others. If you only read a chapter or two of the Gospels, you will see Jesus was always serving, healing, helping and being humble in His life on earth.

In today's example, Jesus is washing the feet of his disciples. Jesus lived on the earth about 2,000 years ago. Most people walked everywhere they went. The roads were dirt and people's feet became VERY dirty. Washing feet was a job for the lowest slave. But our loving Lord did this for His disciples. This is an example to us. As followers and believers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are to do the same for others. We are Christians. That means that we follow Jesus and serve others like Jesus did. We show those who do not know Jesus died for them that He loves them as well. He served us by becoming a sacrifice for us all. We should also sacrifice our wants or time for the sake of others.

- Who is our example?
- Why did Jesus wash the feet of the disciples?
- Who do we set an example for?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Servant: One who prepares and offers their gifts to others, sacrificing their own desires. Jesus was a servant to all.

Day Three

Exercise Your Faith & Be Strong

Text: Romans 15:1 - "We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves."

Also read Romans 15:1-13

John and Sam were climbing a very steep, rocky hill in the mountains. The two friends were very different in the way God made them. John was very strong, and he was able to climb the hill with no problem. Sam was very small and not as strong as John was. He could barely keep up with his friend. He fell behind very quickly and was ready to give up and go back to the bottom of the hill. But John noticed his friend struggling and picked his friend up and carried him on his back over the steep and rocky part. John enjoyed the exercise. Sam was so happy he could reach the top of the hill with John. When they reached the top, the friends just looked around at all the beautiful mountains and trees. Sam thanked John for his help. John really enjoyed helping Sam. It was great exercise for his muscles and he was able to help his good friend.

Christian brothers and sisters have a huge mountain to climb. Life can sometimes be difficult and there may be different problems that we face. As Christians, we all must overcome the giant rocks of sin and the steep hillsides of self. This is what we need to do to have a **victorious** Christian life. It is difficult sometimes. But a Christian who is strong can help a younger Christian who is not so strong. If you are a Christian, you have many family members in the body of Christ. They are your spiritual family. Some are very strong, like John. Some are not strong yet, or possibly still growing, like Sam.

The Bible teaches that we need to help our weaker Christian brothers and sisters in the faith so they can become strong. We need to encourage them and help them in their walk with the Lord. In this way, we can serve our Christian family, just as the Bible teaches us. As we read God's Word and practice what we read, we grow into stronger Christians and we can teach younger Christians how to be stronger. If you have been serving the Lord for a long time is there someone you can think of who you can help to grow in the Lord?

- How did John get stronger by helping Sam?
- Where can we find help if we are struggling?
- What are some ways we can help others to grow in the Lord?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Victorious: Winning a struggle or battle over something.

Day Four

The Right and the Left Hand

Text: Mark 10:45 - "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."

Also read Matthew 20:20-28

Shauna and Jack were twins. The sister and brother always competed over who would be first. Who would be the first to the dinner table? Who would be first to get to the front door? They often got into trouble with their parents because they were always arguing over who would be first. One day while their grandmother was at the house, they were arguing over who would sit next to her. Their grandmother asked both of them to sit down in front of her. "I have a very special story for you," grandmother told them.

Grandmother opened up the Bible and read the story of the disciples who wanted to be first. They wanted to sit at the right and left hand of the throne of Jesus. Jesus explained to the disciples that those places were to be given out only by the Father in heaven. Jesus told His disciples that the one who would be greatest in the kingdom of heaven wouldn't get that position by being the most talented or good-looking person or by fighting for their way there. The one who would be first in God's kingdom would be the servant of everyone else.

Jesus was the Son of God, but He came to the earth to serve. A good **leader** leads by example and Jesus had been setting an example for these two disciples all along through His life of service. He was a servant to the people who were helpless, sick, hurting and hungry. Jesus served each one of us, even though we have not seen Him yet. He came to earth to serve you by being your Savior. He has saved you from your sins. He became a servant when He died on the cross at Calvary. He will be your savior when you simply believe in Him. He loves you very much. Jesus wants us to serve one another. He tells us that if we want to be first, we must use our life in service to others.

- What do you think Shauna and Jack learned about always wanting to be first from grandmother's story?
- What did the two disciples want Jesus to do for them?
- How does Jesus tell us we can be first?

Kid's Bible Dictionary



Leader: A person who directs or guides someone else. In the Bible, a Leader is to always be a servant of the people he is leading.

Follow the Leader

Text: John 3:17 – “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

Also read John 3:1-17

Throughout this week, we have learned a lot from a great example, Jesus! He is the one we look to as our leader. Have you ever played the game, Follow the Leader? There is always a person who is chosen as the “leader”. If the leader of the game turns right, everybody turns right. If the leader sits down, everyone sits down. If the leader smiles, everyone smiles. Whatever the leader does, that is what everyone else is supposed to do.

Today we read about a man named Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a leader, too. He was a religious leader called a Pharisee. The Pharisees had been leading the children of Israel for hundreds of years. They had taught God’s children that there was a “recipe” for following God. The “recipe” was all of the rules and regulations the Pharisees had given to the people. If they would follow all of these rules, some rules found in the Bible and some rules they made up, then you could go to heaven. Nicodemus believed that Jesus came from God. He saw the miracles Jesus had done, the healing and raising from the dead. But Nicodemus had to come to Jesus at night, because He didn’t want any of his friends, who were Pharisees, to know that he came to Jesus to ask questions. The Pharisees didn’t like Jesus because He told people they didn’t have to keep the Pharisees’ made up rules.

Who should Nicodemus follow? His friends who think that you have to go by all of their rules, or Jesus who died on the cross for our sins? Nicodemus decided to follow Jesus. We need to do the same thing. Let’s do everything we see Jesus do. Go where Jesus goes and say the things that Jesus says. In doing that we will be pleasing to Him and learning how to be a servant.

- Can you think of a way to serve someone today?
- Imagine what the world would be like if everyone tried to serve one another.
- Have you asked Jesus to be the leader of your life?

Kid's Prayer Time



Wow! This week we learned that to be a true leader, it requires sacrifice and a servant's heart. To truly follow Jesus' example is sometimes difficult, but God has given us His word to light the way and Jesus is our example. In prayer ask the Lord how you might be pleasing to Him this week by serving others.