

Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet



SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: John 13: 1-20

TEACHING TRUTH:

We show others God's love by serving them.
Jesus is the greatest example of serving others.

BIBLICAL TIMELINE: This is in the New Testament of the Bible. It is part of the Gospels Era on the Bible Timeline.

LINK TO PREVIOUS STORY: Last week, we learned how we can show others God's love by putting them first. Today, we will see how **we can show others God's love by serving them.**

STORY:

Do you ever play outside in bare feet...with no shoes or socks? It feels so good to run through the grass or even a mud puddle without any shoes on. When it is time to stop playing and get cleaned up have you ever noticed the bottom of your feet? It might be hard to see your skin through all the dirt! Now, everywhere you step, you will leave dirt! If you at least wash your feet you can be clean enough to put socks and shoes on or run around the house without getting everything else dirty. This is exactly what Jesus did for His disciples... they had dirty feet and He washed them.

Let's just think about this for a minute. Do you remember WHO Jesus is? He is God's Son! God...the one who created all things and is high above all things and in control of all things...His Son is going to wash men's feet? Who are these men, the disciples? They are followers of Jesus...they went everywhere with Jesus learning all the things about God that Jesus showed them. Jesus was their leader...they even called Him Master.

How is it that the Son of God would wash the dirty old feet of His followers? Washing feet was common in those days. People walked everywhere they went in sandals (they had no cars in those days) and their feet got dusty and dirty.

On this particular evening, Jesus was having a very special meal with His disciples. This would be the last meal that Jesus would share with His disciples before dying on the cross. He wanted them to know that everything He did was to serve God and to serve others. He wanted to show them how to serve each other. Jesus wants us to help others too. **We show others God's love by serving them.**

Jesus took a cloth and a bowl of water and began to wash the disciples' feet. When he got to Peter, Peter drew back his feet and said, "Lord, You should not wash my feet!" Peter knew that Jesus was God's Son and he did not think that the Son of God should wash his feet.

Jesus told Peter that if He did not wash Peter's feet, Peter would have no part of Him. When Peter heard this, he wanted Jesus to wash all of him, not just his feet! Jesus told him he only needed

his feet washed...the rest of him was already clean! What Peter did not realize is that Jesus would wash away his sins and the sins of the world in the next few hours. When He gave his life so that the disciples and everyone else who trusts in and follows after Him would be saved from their sins, He became the ultimate, biggest, most humble servant of all. **Jesus is the greatest example of serving others.**

Jesus showed His disciples how to serve others by serving them when He washed their feet. He wants us to do the same for others...not wash their feet, but think of others as more important than ourselves and do things to help them just like Jesus did. We serve Jesus by serving others, because **we show others God's love by serving them.**

Additional Notes:

- This is a great story for applying the example of serving others that Jesus gave us. The five year olds may not immediately apply it, but the seed has been planted in hopes that it will grow and they will apply it soon. The younger children will not yet make the connection, but exposing them to just the story is a great start.