

## Lesson 4

# Jesus Washes the Disciples

John  
13:1-17

Memory Verse  
Let them do good, that  
they be rich in good  
works, ready to give  
willing to share  
(I Timothy 6:18)

Teachers Objective  
At the end of the session,  
the students should  
be able to:

1. Define in their own words what it means to be betrayed
2. Locate in the Old Testament where Moses speaks of the washing ritual of priests
3. Describe the important lesson of humility that Jesus taught
4. Express in their own words how Jesus must have felt while teaching the disciples

Materials Needed  
See Teaching Activities  
for specific activities

## Teacher s Bible Study

**B**y far the most important festival of Jesus life was the one at which He was betrayed. On this occasion, He met with His disciples at the beginning of the 14th of Nisan. It is clear not only from the Gospel of John that He had the Last Supper a day earlier than the Jews (18:28), but also by passing remarks in the Synoptic Gospels. (While it is recognized that there are still some unanswered questions in any attempt at harmonizing all four accounts, it is evident that Jesus took His Passover a day earlier than the Jews.)

In any case, Jesus at this time instituted the symbols of the Lord s Supper for Christians and also went through the ceremony of washing the disciples feet. Then He died as the Passover Lamb of God.

The purpose of the foot washing ceremony is explained by Jesus Himself as being to show true humility and the proper sense of service. Read John 13:12-17. No one can be greater than Jesus Christ; yet Jesus was the greatest servant of all and gave more than anyone else for mankind. This spirit of Christian love and service is expressed symbolically by washing another person s feet and then allowing that person to reciprocate.

Thus, the Passover represents Christ s sacrifice for all both the individual and the world and pictures the initial step in salvation. Only through acceptance of this sacrifice can one repent and be forgiven. Repentance is the first stage in individual conversion.

Note: Be sure to ask your students to bring in recipes for next week s art activity. Recipes should be without leavening. Read Lesson 5 Art Activity for more detail.

## Presenting the Bible Story

John 13:1,2

The account of Passover in the Gospel of John is one of great tenderness and intimacy. Judas Iscariot had already been prompted by the Devil to betray Jesus. The disciples that remained were those who truly loved Jesus. Jesus loved the disciples. Jesus ministered to them and He served them. To help understand how Jesus may have felt this evening, knowing that He only had hours to live, think of people who are terminally ill. Many times those who know they only have a very short time to live want to go home and be with their family and friends. Sitting with the disciples, the men Jesus spent so much time with, must have been like going home for Him. While Jesus is with the disciples, He teaches them how to have a continued intimacy and fellowship with God.

John 13:3 5

There were public baths and private baths during this period of time. The people of the day wore sandals. The roads were dusty. It was a common practice that when a guest came to your home, a servant would wash the guest's feet to remove the dust from the road. In Exodus 30:17-21, Moses speaks of a ritual washing for the priests. The lesson here for the disciples and for us today, is to be humble. Humility is true greatness. Read Galatians 6:10: As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all [men], especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

John 13:6 11

As we see, Peter was upset with the thought that Jesus would serve him by washing his feet. He did not want Jesus to stoop to being a common household slave. As we see from these scriptures, Peter would not be allowed to fellowship with Jesus unless Jesus did wash his feet. Upon this realization, Peter says, Not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

John 13:12 15

Jesus set a very important spiritual example. If your master is willing to stoop and clean your feet, you should be willing to stoop and clean your neighbor's feet. It was a lesson in humility. The actions of Jesus showed His love. To please God, we must learn to serve others with a humble heart. Read Mark 10:43: But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister. It is not always easy to be willing to serve others. It is far more enjoyable to be served.

John 13:16,17

Art and Activities

Jesus not only wanted the disciples to understand this important lesson, He also wanted them to put into practice the lesson of serving.

## Teaching Activities

Young Children

Divide a paper in quarters and ask the children to draw you a picture in each section of how they will help their families this week.

Have them complete a dot-to-dot of the bag Judas carried the money in.

Older Children

Have children make a coupon book to give to their mother or their father. Materials needed are construction paper, hole punch, and ribbons

or pipe cleaners for ties. For children who cannot write, have them draw a picture of how they will be helpful to their parents. The coupon book can be for one day or one week. Here are a few suggestions: I will set the table every night for dinner ; I will not leave my books or clothing on the floor when I return home from school ; When you ask me to fetch something for you, I will and I will have a happy attitude ; I will clean my room ; I will mow the lawn ; I will sweep the porch. While the children work, emphasize how Jesus had an attitude of willingness to help and serve others.

Explore with  
your students  
the following  
questions:

Unscramble the word puzzle, and complete the Activity Page,  
Putting Jesus in Your Life .

## Explore the Subject

1. Read John 13:10. What was the lesson Jesus was teaching Peter? (We need to ask for forgiveness continually)

2. What is the object lesson of humility that Jesus taught? (If Jesus as our Lord can stoop to wash the feet of the disciples, then we should not hesitate to do the same and serve.) Read verse 16.

Always close your  
class with prayer

3. Jesus was betrayed by Judas, and yet Jesus did wash the feet of Judas. This is an important lesson that Jesus was teaching us. What is that lesson? (We are to treat the stranger or enemy with an attitude of love and a willingness to serve.)

## Respond and Reinforce

1. Encourage your students not to just talk about love, and serving others, but to back it with their actions.

2. A challenge for each of us is to respond to Jesus message of forgiveness. How will we go about in our daily lives and serve our brother and Judas alike?

3. Discuss the memory verse.

## Activity

### Jesus Washes the Disciple s Feet

John 13:1-17

Unscramble the words below and write the answer on the lines to the right.

1. lespicsid

\_\_\_\_\_

2. eet f

\_\_\_\_\_

3. ahsw

\_\_\_\_\_

4. ssuaeJ

\_\_\_\_\_

5. revossaP

\_\_\_\_\_

6. duemnlavee

\_\_\_\_\_

dareb

\_\_\_\_\_

7. niew

\_\_\_\_\_

8. oolbd

\_\_\_\_\_

9. ynomcree

\_\_\_\_\_

10. atsl ppsuer

### I am the Bread of Life

John 6:35

## Activity Page

### Putting Jesus in Your Life

Making bread can be fun. During the Days of Unleavened Bread, only water and flour are used to make flat bread. This is a thin, crisp bread. If you add yeast to your bread it gets puffy and light.

In our life, we want to take sin out and put something else in. Add the missing consecutive letter from each set of letters. Find out who we want in our life.

HIKLM \_\_\_\_\_

BCDFG \_\_\_\_\_

OPQRT \_\_\_\_\_

TVWXY \_\_\_\_\_

RTUVW \_\_\_\_\_

ABDEF \_\_\_\_\_

EFGIJ \_\_\_\_\_

OPQST \_\_\_\_\_

GHJKL \_\_\_\_\_

PQR TU \_\_\_\_\_

RSUVW \_\_\_\_\_

He that cometh to me shall never hunger

John 6:35

Activity Page

Jesus Washes the Disciples Feet

John 13:1-17

Connect-the-dots to reveal what Judas carried for the disciples. Color the picture.

See John 13:29 for a clue.

