

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet



John 13:3-5, 14-15 (For the full story, read John 13:1-17.)

3 Jesus knew that the Father had given him complete power; he knew that he had come from God and was going to God. 4 So he rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel around his waist. 5 Then he poured some water into a **washbasin** and began to wash the **disciples'** feet and dry them with the towel around his waist.

14 [Jesus said to the disciples] "I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you."

washbasin a bowl for washing
disciple a close follower of Jesus

Understand It!

When Jesus lived, people wore sandals and walked on dirt roads. So their feet got very dirty. When people arrived as guests in someone's home, servants would wash their feet. In this Bible story from John, Jesus did a servant's work at the Last Supper. He washed and dried his disciples' feet. Then he told them to do the same for others.

Jesus didn't mean that we should actually wash other people's feet. He meant that we should serve, or help, other people. We should not just expect others to serve us. When we serve others, we show we love them. We show that we love Jesus who lives in everyone. Jesus wants you to help without being asked. He wants you to serve your family and friends who need your help. Can you be a servant like Jesus?

Live It!

Follow Jesus' command to serve others by making service coupons. On one side of a slip of paper, write "Service Coupon." On the other side, write things that you are willing to do for family members. For example, you might write "Good for two room cleanings," or "Good for helping with yard work." Surprise your family. Hand out your coupons today and then show your love in action.

Tell It!



Using the pictures above, retell this story in your own words.