

JESUS SERVES

John 13:1-17

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Key Verse:

“For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”

John 13:15

The Point:

Jesus demonstrates how we should love and serve one another.

Making Connections:

Following Jesus

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Culture and Customs

Spiritual Practice:

Service



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

Jesus leads by example, allowing his actions to teach this lesson. The Lord and Teacher now shows himself to be a servant leader, and calls all of his disciples to serve others as they follow him.

Story Summary:

Jesus Serves

Although foot washing before a meal was a task traditionally assigned to a servant, Jesus took this upon himself to do this menial task as an act of service for his disciples. He performed this task without fanfare or announcement. He simply rose from the table, removed his outer robe and wrapped a towel around his waist, washing the feet of each person as he worked his way around the table.

Peter did not understand why Jesus would be acting as a servant rather than as Lord and Master. Peter's confusion and apprehension at this apparent role reversal may be representative of the feelings of many who regarded Jesus as Lord and Master, and did not understand Jesus' message of love and humble service. Jesus explained his intention to Peter. In order to be united with Jesus, Peter had to accept Jesus as not only his teacher, but his servant as well.

The Point

Jesus demonstrates how we should love and serve one another. Jesus showed us how to serve others by washing the feet of his disciples. Even though Jesus knew he was nearing the end of his time here on earth, he continued to show his love and devotion through simple acts such as washing his disciples' feet. He even included Judas, the one who would soon betray him.

The layers of meaning in Jesus' conversation with Peter are important to note here as well. Through his exchange with Peter, Jesus not only explained that he was showing his love by serving Peter and the rest, but Jesus was also saying that his love is unconditional and all inclusive, given to all, even to Judas. When Jesus rejoined the table, he reminded his disciples that in the eyes of God, they were all considered equals, and that acts of service towards one another brings joy and blessings.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

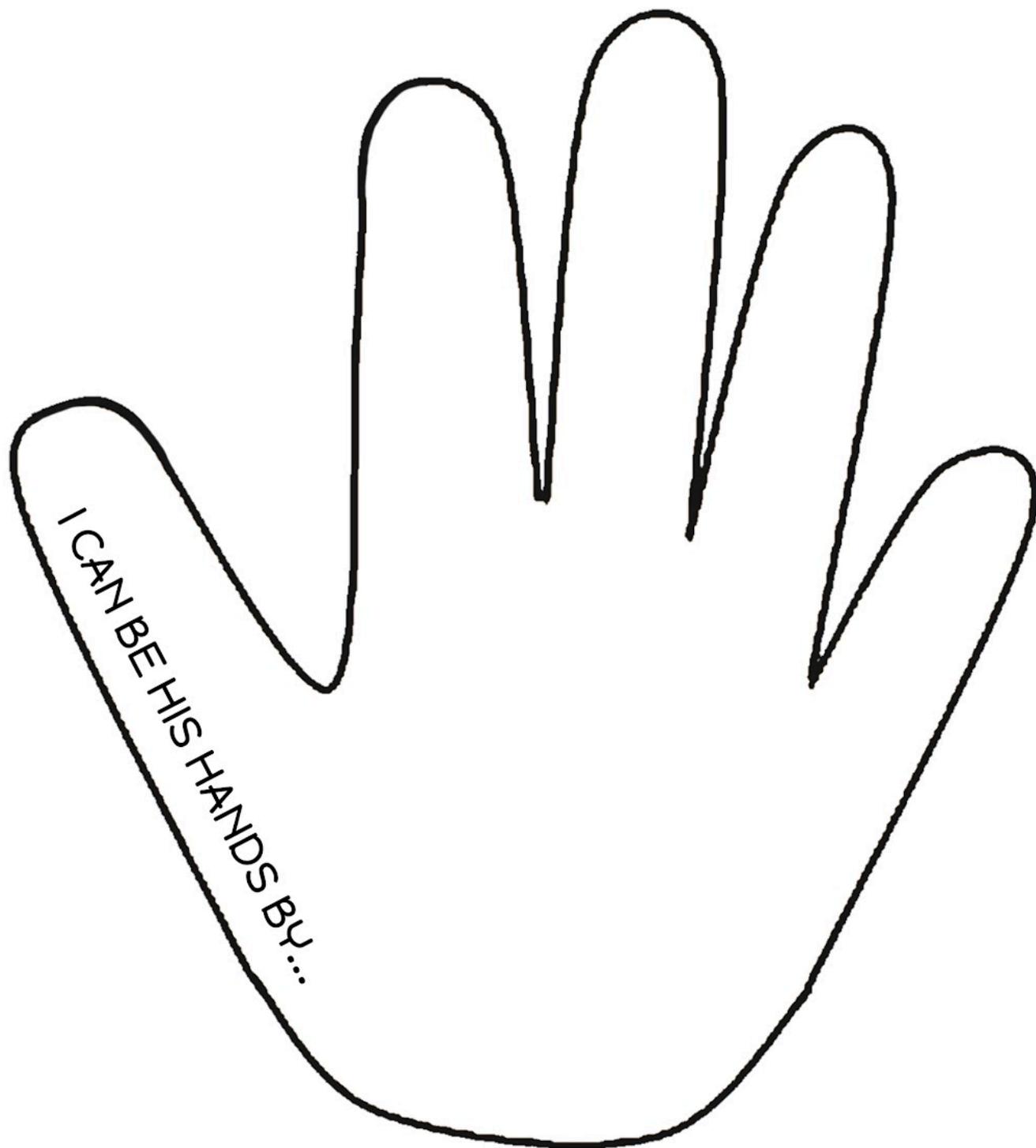
Culture and Customs

In order to better follow Jesus' example, it is important to understand the cultural context of this story. Jesus gives us an example of how to serve others when he goes around the table and washes the feet of his disciples. However, the custom of foot washing might be difficult to comprehend in this modern age of cars, tennis shoes, and tables and chairs, making it even more important to provide the proper context for understanding.

Spiritual Practice: Service

Even as Jesus approached his crucifixion, his focus remained on teaching and spreading the love of God. At a moment when he could easily be drawing attention to what is to come, he turned the attention of the disciples to one another, demonstrating and modeling the importance of servanthood.

WHEN I SERVE OTHERS,



I SERVE GOD.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Jesus Washes The Disciples' Feet

H D Y H T B Z B J A N J K X P B G T E E F F P Z
S Y R S T A Z H V M O N I Q V A I K F M M Q V N
R A B V I T F O F J T B M W J Z U E T G B C E S
T S Q J N H N R F L C Q C S J R P I F J W T E Y
X D V W K E I L I Y E E Q J J N J Y K G H B I Y
N O Y J O D F X Q E T T B L K Y T N G R A M D Z
Y I Y L T X F Y Z B W Q D E S S E L B H L Y L C
K J P F S C R I P T U R E A A B X Y R B M H X B
U O R V C S N M E S O P I J Z N Z W A W X J N A
G Y Y G X A V B P K W E J R N M Y D G U C E U Q
S T S I M A M Q E K B T E Q E R K I Y A L W W K
A T T M C Y Y J R O S E L Z Z H V U H K E S K F
H O Z X N M H X R H D R P Z X F C C A G A E Z S
H I D Y C N Y L Y O F N X N S S C A B U N F C E
Y R X J L C O U G V P K O E F B G E E N P B L T
A A I L A U U B O X E L V Z S Q N O S T G O H N
X C V Q S Z R Y D R P I U C D V Q T K T X Y L V
T S T J C M I T B L E Y X O U E C S S T L O Y N
G I M F F U C C K C J V Q F F P A S S O V E R J
W B T E Y W L R E J K R O Z K G B S E G H X A D
C L W R W J R R T K R Q B I M G A E E S A G W D
F U L N V R V I D I Q X J G G F E O A W W K H U
E O D W I B I K F N P B Z Z M N M W H J S Y H I
A I O B W T C L S B D P D T V G Q G E X W F W V

scripture

receives

Passover

Iscaiot

blessed

Teacher

bathed

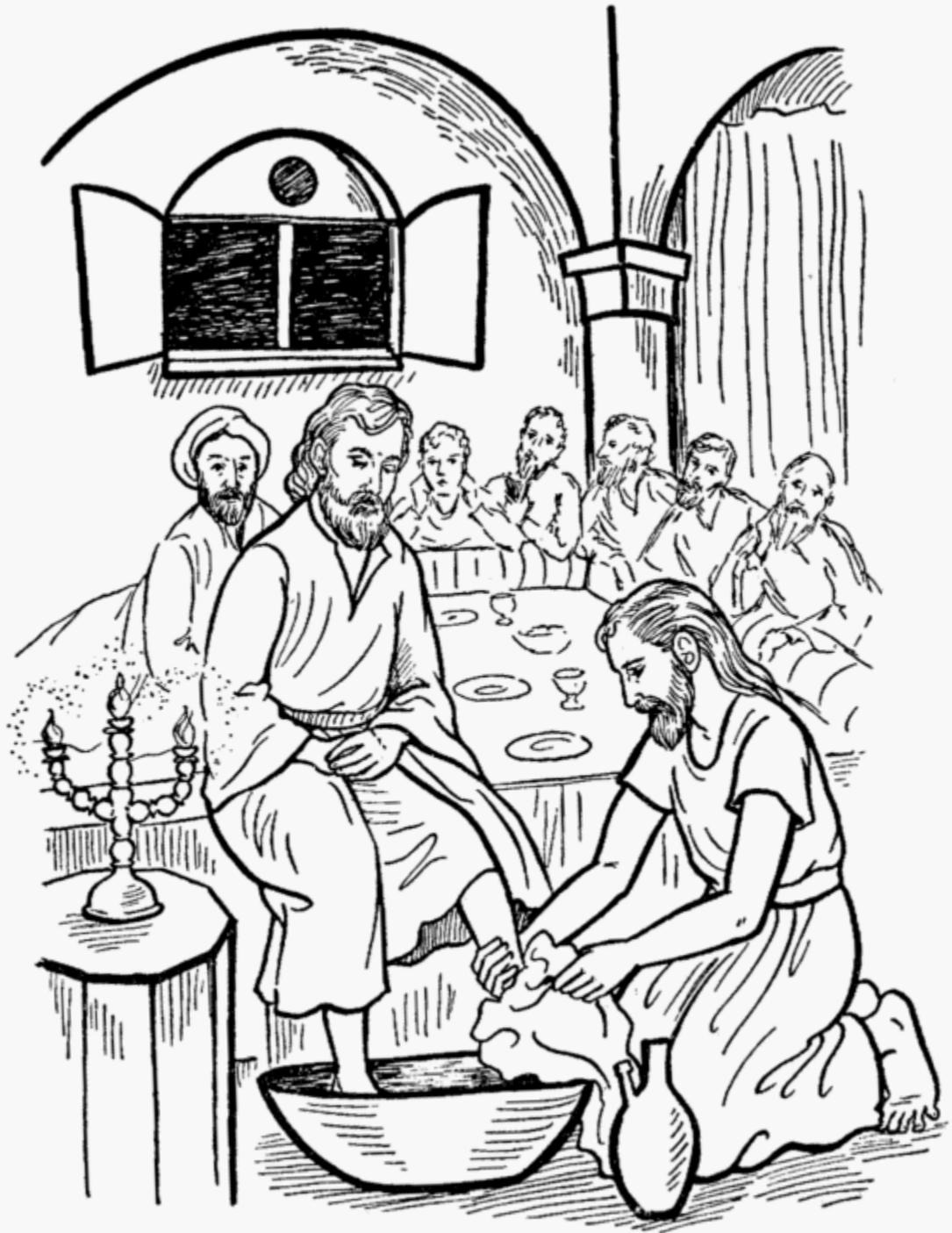
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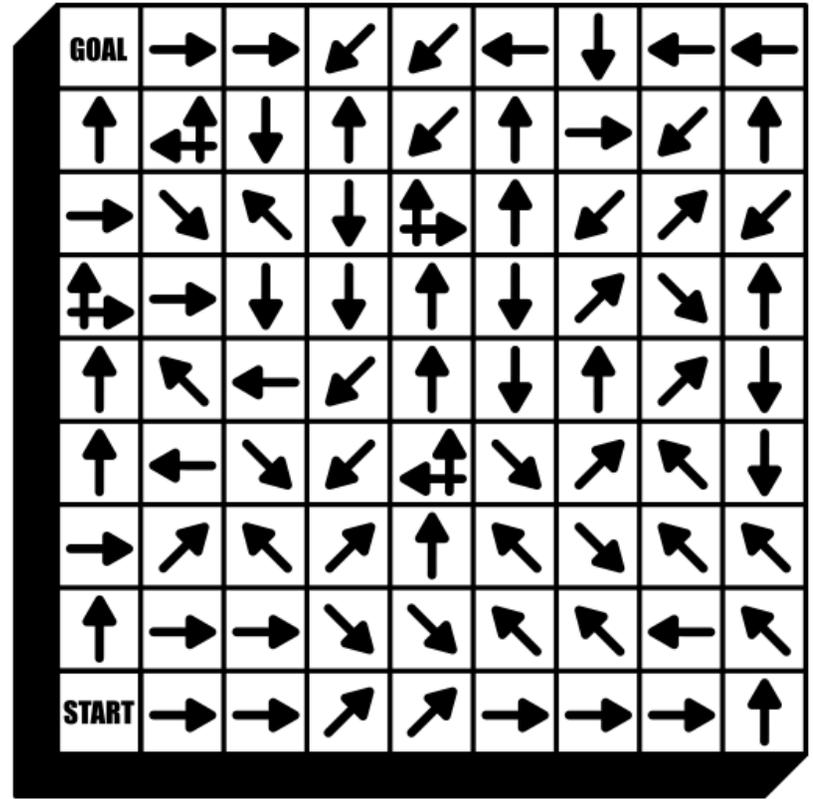
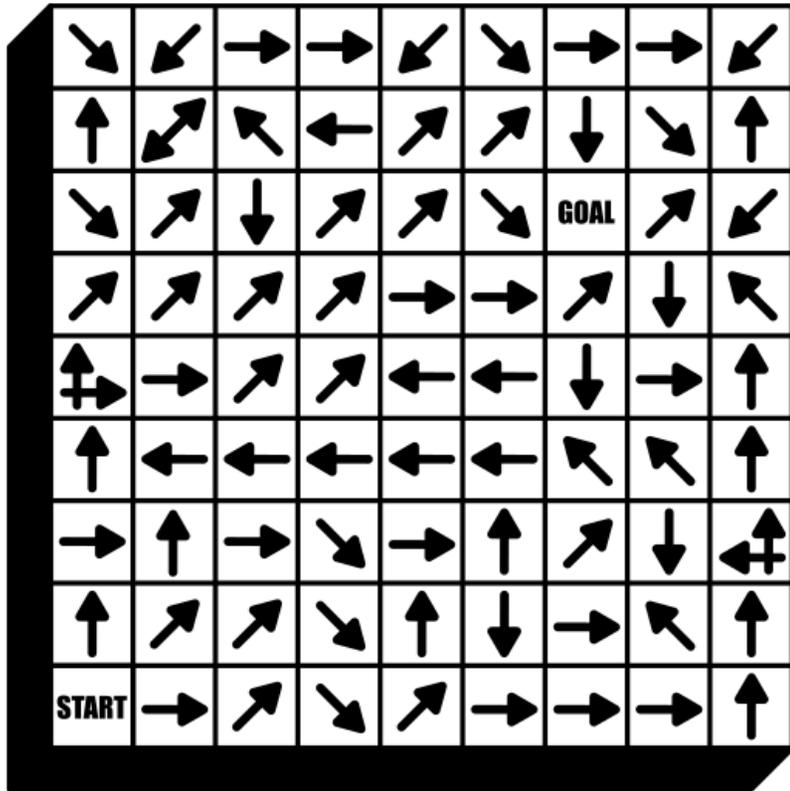
Peter

feet

Wash



At the Lord's Supper before the crucifixion, Jesus washed the apostles' feet to teach them humility.





THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 4 (2025-2026)

Lesson #4-25
John 13:1-17

LAST WEEK

Jesus declared that he is the Resurrection and the Life and brought his friend Lazarus from death back to life (John 11:1-44).

THIS WEEK

Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. Jesus shows his followers again how important relationships are as we serve one another (John 13:1-17).

THE POINT

Jesus demonstrates how we should love and serve one another.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Culture and Customs

In order to better follow Jesus' example, it is important to understand the cultural context of this story. Jesus gives us an example of how to serve others when he goes around the table and washes the feet of his disciples. However, the custom of foot washing might be difficult to comprehend in this modern age of cars, tennis shoes, and tables and chairs, making it even more important to provide the proper context for understanding.

STORY SUMMARY

Jesus Serves

Foot washing before a meal was a task traditionally assigned to a servant. Yet Jesus simply rises from the table, removes his robe, wraps a towel around his waist, and washes the feet of his disciples. Peter does not understand why Jesus would be acting as a servant rather than as Lord. When Jesus rejoins the table, he reminds his disciples that in the eyes of God, they are all considered equals, and that God wants us to love and serve other people.

PRACTICE SERVICE

Even as Jesus approaches his crucifixion, his focus remains on teaching and spreading the love of God. At a moment when he could easily be drawing attention to what is to come, he turns the attention of the disciples to one another, modeling the importance of servanthood. This week, surprise one another with random acts of kindness and service.

NEXT WEEK

After Jesus is arrested, Peter denies him three times (John 18:12-27).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below—or any you have—to discuss this lesson’s Scripture reading with your family.

- † Did you find anything in this reading that was surprising?
- † What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- † What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God’s message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read John 13:1-17 Jesus serves. Play a game of Follow the Leader.
Monday—Read John 13:21-30 Judas’ betrayal is foretold. Think of a time when you felt like something bad was going to happen. How did you deal with those feelings?
Tuesday—Read John 13:31-38 Jesus will be glorified. Make a number of paper hearts to share this week. Whenever you do something loving for someone or they do something loving for you, give each other a heart.
Wednesday—Read John 14:1-7 Do not let your hearts be troubled. Count the rooms in your home. Imagine how much grander our heavenly home will be!
Thursday—Read John 15:1-7 “I am the true vine.” Find a plant in your house (or start one). Trim it and care for it to make it grow.
Friday—Read John 17:1-5 The hour has come. Jesus prays for his disciples. Pray for each other that you can be a good example of Jesus’ love.
Saturday—Read John 18:1-11 Jesus is arrested. This is a very dramatic scene. Act it out together.