

Sermon Study Guide
9.20.2009 – Servanthood
KIDS VERSION



Big idea: Jesus set an example of a servant, and he wants us to serve others too

Read John 13:1-17 and explain terms as needed:

¹Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, ⁴rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ⁶He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" ⁷ Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." ⁸ Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." ⁹Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean."

¹²When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. ¹⁴If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. ¹⁶Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

1. What is one thing you would do if you knew it was your last day on earth? Would any of you want to do something for someone else? Why not?
2. The Bible says Jesus loved his disciples as long as he was on earth. Who in your life has loved you as long as you can remember? Do you think they will love you forever no matter what? Do you want people to love you forever?
3. In our story Jesus washed his disciples' feet. Usually only a servant would wash people's feet. Jesus wasn't a servant, but he did the job of one. Why do you think Jesus acted like a servant?
4. Jesus said he was an example for us – how can we act like servants to others? Do we have to wash feet? What are some examples of serving our friends or parents?

5. Some people are able to serve in ways others are not; for example, our moms and dads can drive people around, while most of us can't. What are some differences between you and your friends that show how we are able to serve in different ways? (i.e. Ellie likes to clean up her siblings' messes to serve mom while Autumn likes to help feed her baby brother to serve mom) Can we think of ways we can serve together?

Let's review our story:

1. Who was there? (Jesus and his disciples – younger kids won't know their names, but older kids might be able to name a few)
2. What happened? (They were together to eat and Jesus washed their feet – some older kids might pick out Peter as the usual anomaly)
3. When were they there? (Meal time, briefly explain Passover was a Jewish celebration remembering when Moses led the people out of Israel – the kids likely all know the general story of Passover, so connect that this was the yearly celebration to remember that story)
4. Where did this take place? (Younger kids will likely not get this, but older kids might pick up something)
5. Why did this happen? **Jesus set an example of a servant, and he wants us to serve others too**