11

The Servant Master

Key References: Luke 22:7-13; John 13:1-17; *The Desire of Ages*, chap. 71, pp. 642-651; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 55-64; Our Beliefs nos. 16, 21, 9



powertext

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:14, 15).

power**point**

We share God's love with others when we serve them.

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 88.

Has anyone ever done a job for you that you hate to do? Have you ever done a hated job for someone else? Would you be willing to do that for someone who was unkind to you? That's what Jesus did.

"There he is!" exclaimed Peter. "Just as Jesus said."

"Where?" asked John.

"Near the basket vendor. See? He's carrying a water jar," said Peter.

"I see," replied John. "Quickly. He's going into that house." The two disciples followed the man as quickly as they could. He hadn't been hard to find. After all, how many men carried water jars? That was women's work. Peter noticed that the man was walking into a house that had an upper floor.

Just as the man passed through the door, the owner came into full view. As Jesus had instructed them, Peter said, "The Teacher asks: 'Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with My disciples?' "

Just as Jesus had said, the owner led them up the stairs to a large, furnished upper room. Entering the room, Peter and John looked around. There wasn't a lot to do, but they were glad that they came when they did. They arranged the tables and placed the cushions so that everyone could recline comfortably. Peter almost tripped over a basin and the water jar the man had carried. Peter realized that the man had carried it for them to use before eating. Soon everything was ready—except for the food.

11

Sunday

READ Read John 13:1-5 and this week's story, "The Servant Master."

TALK Ask an adult what is a servant's attitude.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that Jesus would use you to be a servant.

Monday

READ Read John 13:6-9.

WRITE Write the power text on a small index card. Don't forget the reference. On the other side of the index card, rewrite the power text in your own words.

CARRY Carry the card with you so you can memorize the power text during the day.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray the words of the text as a prayer.

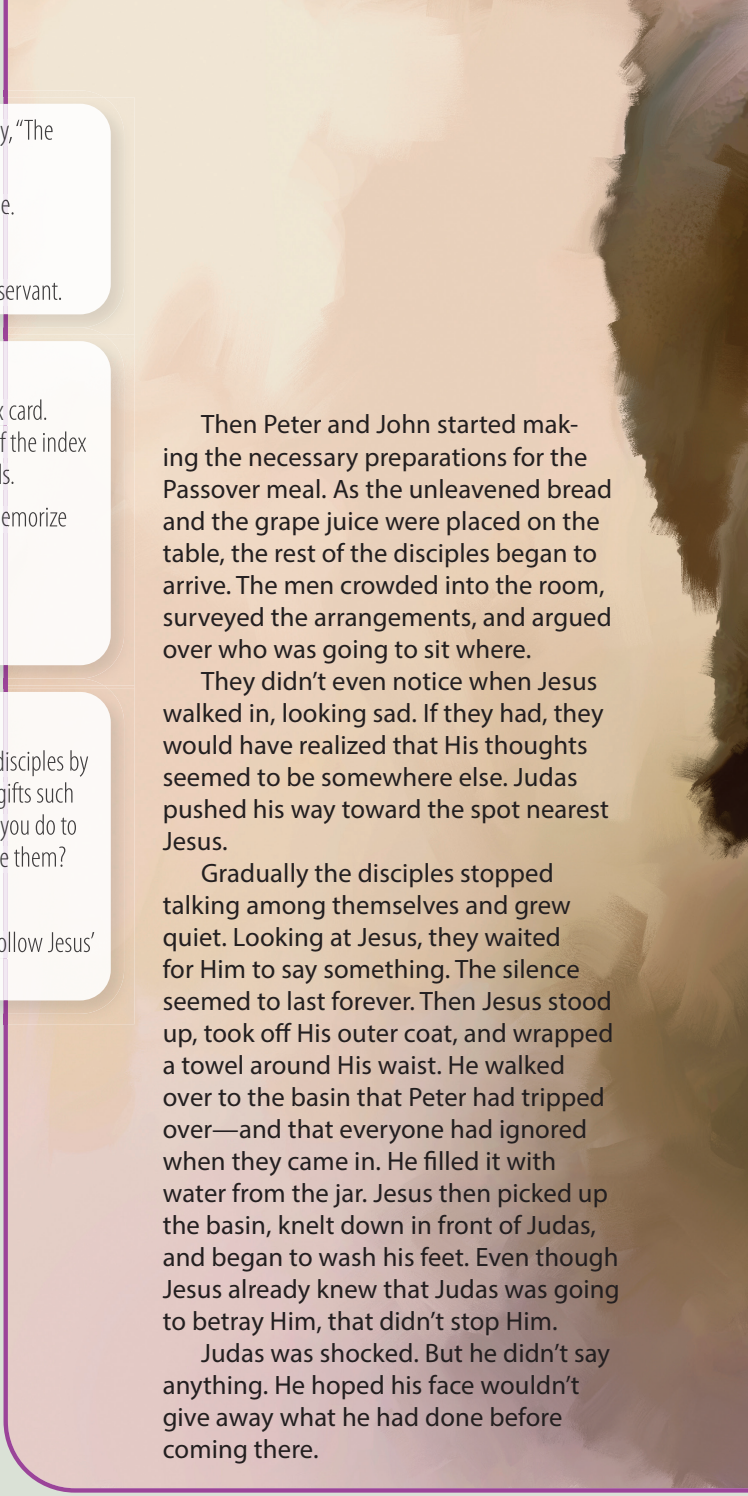
Tuesday

READ Read John 13:10, 11.

THINK How did Jesus show His love for the disciples by washing their feet? Why didn't He give them gifts such as money, land, or clothing instead? What do you do to show your friends that you appreciate and love them?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you understand and follow Jesus' example of service.



Then Peter and John started making the necessary preparations for the Passover meal. As the unleavened bread and the grape juice were placed on the table, the rest of the disciples began to arrive. The men crowded into the room, surveyed the arrangements, and argued over who was going to sit where.

They didn't even notice when Jesus walked in, looking sad. If they had, they would have realized that His thoughts seemed to be somewhere else. Judas pushed his way toward the spot nearest Jesus.

Gradually the disciples stopped talking among themselves and grew quiet. Looking at Jesus, they waited for Him to say something. The silence seemed to last forever. Then Jesus stood up, took off His outer coat, and wrapped a towel around His waist. He walked over to the basin that Peter had tripped over—and that everyone had ignored when they came in. He filled it with water from the jar. Jesus then picked up the basin, knelt down in front of Judas, and began to wash his feet. Even though Jesus already knew that Judas was going to betray Him, that didn't stop Him.

Judas was shocked. But he didn't say anything. He hoped his face wouldn't give away what he had done before coming there.



Wednesday

READ Read John 13:12-17.

THINK In what other ways can we follow Jesus' example of service?

LIST Make a list of these things in your Bible study journal, using verse 14 as a model. For example, "As Jesus provided me with food and clothing, I will give food and clothing to those in need."

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you follow Jesus' example.

Thursday

READ Read Matthew 20:25-28.

SERVE Think about things you can do today to be a servant to: (1) a neighbor, (2) a classmate, and (3) a teacher/adult. Serve them by doing these kind acts.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray that the people you serve will see God's love.

Friday

READ Read Luke 22:25-27.

TALK During dinner or sundown worship this evening, talk about ways to be servants to each other within your family circle. Have everyone agree to start doing for each other acts of caring and kindness that reveal a servantlike attitude.

THINK After Jesus talked about acts of service, He said, "You will be blessed if you do them" (John 13:17). How do you think you will be blessed?

REPEAT Say aloud by memory the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the blessings He promised to us.

The other disciples were shocked into silence also. Jesus slowly made His way around the group and lovingly washed and dried each man's feet. When Jesus reached Peter, Peter put out his hand as if to hold Jesus off. "No," he broke the silence, "you shall never wash my feet."

Looking at him intently, Jesus said, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Peter burst out, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

"Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean," answered Jesus (John 13:8-10).

With these words Jesus explained the distinction between what baptism and the ordinance of foot washing represent. In other words, Peter had been baptized already. He just needed to daily renew his commitment to God through prayer, confession of sins, and receiving God's grace.

Peter sat back, his face started to let go of its frown, and he allowed Jesus to finish. As Jesus washed John's feet, He could see the gratitude in the eyes of this disciple.

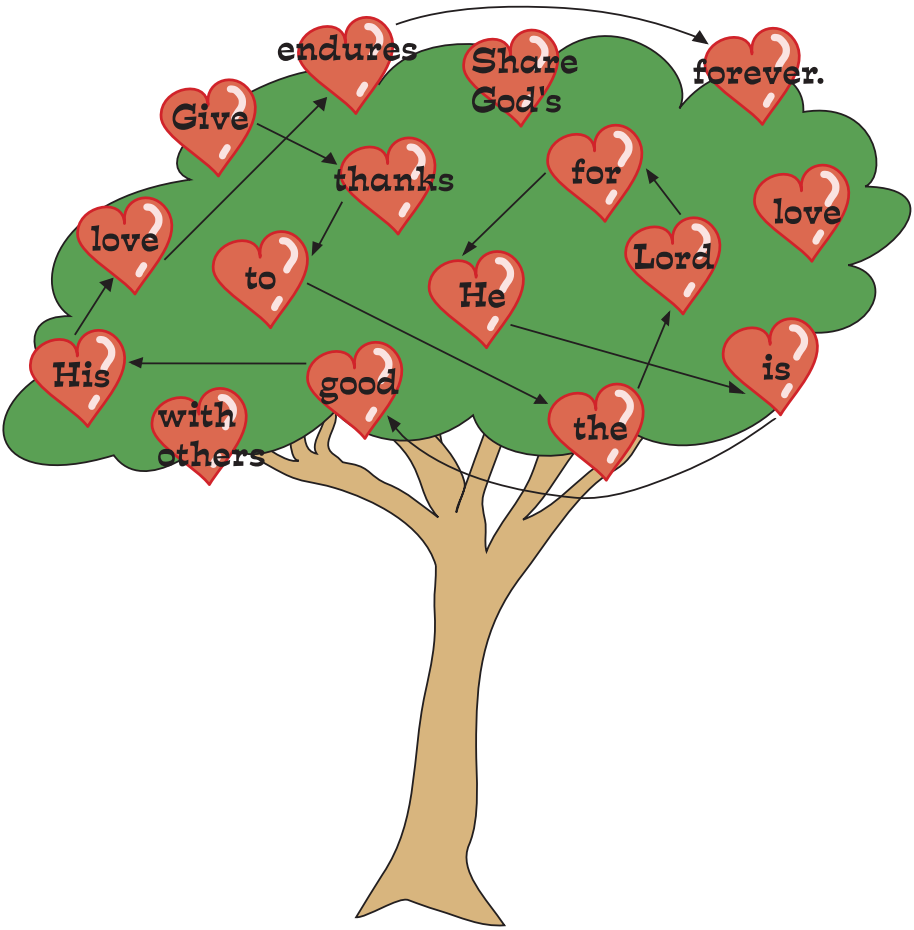
When Jesus finished, He sat down again and looked at everyone around the table. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet," said Jesus. "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them" (verses 13-17).



PUZZLE
11

NO STRINGS ATTACHED

Instructions: Starting at the first heart (the one with no arrow pointing to it), follow the arrows through the hearts to reveal a message. When you are finished, circle the hearts that are not attached and read them in the order shown.



ACTS OF KINDNESS

Instructions: One way we can share God's love with others is by serving them. We can serve others by performing random acts of kindness. Listed below are 12 people who performed acts of kindness. Match each person with their good deed.

1. He let Lot choose land first (Genesis 13:8-11). _____

2. She was always doing good deeds. One way was by making robes and clothing for the widows (Acts 9:36-39). _____

3. She took perfume to wash Jesus' feet and dried them with her hair (John 12:3). _____

4. She showed kindness to her mother-in-law (Ruth 1). _____

5. He dressed the wounds of a man who was robbed, and took care of him (Luke 10:30-35). _____

6. She was a dealer of purple cloth who offered hospitality to Paul (Acts 16:14). _____

7. She was apologetic for her husband's rude behavior and offered David provisions (1 Samuel 25). _____

8. She offered food and water to Elijah (1 Kings 17:7-15). _____

9. They brought Jesus gifts of gold, myrrh, and incense (Matthew 2:11). _____

10. He gave David his robe, his tunic, his sword, his bow, and his belt (1 Samuel 18:4). _____

11. She put two very small copper coins, all she had, into the temple treasury (Luke 21:1-4). _____

12. She hid two spies in her home and let them escape down a rope through her window (Joshua 2). _____

Abraham	Abigail	Mary	Wise Men
Jonathan	Lydia	Rahab	Good Samaritan
Widow	Dorcas	Ruth	Widow of Zarephath