11

Unexpected Servant

Key References: Matthew 20:20-28; John 13:1-17; *The Desire of Ages,* chap. 71, pp. 642-651; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 9, pp. 55-60; Our Beliefs, nos. 16, 14, 11















powertext

"Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26-28).

How would you feel if you offered to help someone in need and they were rude in return? Would you help them anyway? How do you think that following Jesus' example would lead you to do some unexpected things?

powerpoint

We learn to serve by following Jesus' example.

Jerusalem was overcrowded that night. Jews from around the world were gathered to celebrate Passover. Every Jew tried to be in Jerusalem for this festival. This was the time they recalled the great day when the Israelites were released from Egyptian slavery.

Jesus and His 12 disciples entered the upper room. The disciples had great expectations. Jesus had been talking about establishing His kingdom. The disciples believed this meant He was about to rise up against the oppressive Roman rulers, and set up His government. And at Passover He would have the largest crowd to witness His coronation.

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 88.



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Sunday

READ Read John 13:1-8 and this week's story, "Unexpected Servant."

DRAW Draw 12 circles; label each with the name of one of Jesus' disciples. Draw in each circle the expression you think each disciple may have had on his face as Jesus came to wash his feet.

LEARN Begin to learn the power text, Matthew 20:26-28.

PRAY Ask God to touch your heart in a special way this week.

Monday

READ Read John 13:9-17.

THINK Notice that Peter wanted Jesus to wash his feet, even his whole body once he understood that Jesus wanted to bless him. Which disciple do you think may not have wanted this particular blessing from Jesus? Did Jesus serve only the disciples He thought would appreciate it?

DO Do something helpful for someone who may not appreciate it, or who may not know how to express appreciation for it.

PRAY Ask God to give you the strength to be helpful in every circumstance.

Tuesday

READ Read Luke 12:42-44.

THINK Washing the feet of guests who had been walking out on the dirty paths was the job of household servants in Jesus' time. What tasks around your house do you hire someone else to do? If your family takes care of all the household tasks themselves, who in your family does most of the hard, dirty, or tiring work?

DO Do one of those hard tasks that needs to be done by someone in your family. Find a way to thank your family members for the work they do.

PRAY Praise God for sending Jesus as an example of servant leadership.

The question the 12 disciples were arguing about was "Who will Jesus appoint as His chief ministers in His cabinet?" This question had prompted John and James to request their mother to talk to Jesus for them.

The others had been able to hear her pleading with Jesus. "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at Your right and the other at Your left in Your kingdom."

The other 10 disciples were angry with James and John. They had demanded an explanation from them. By the time they all arrived at the upper



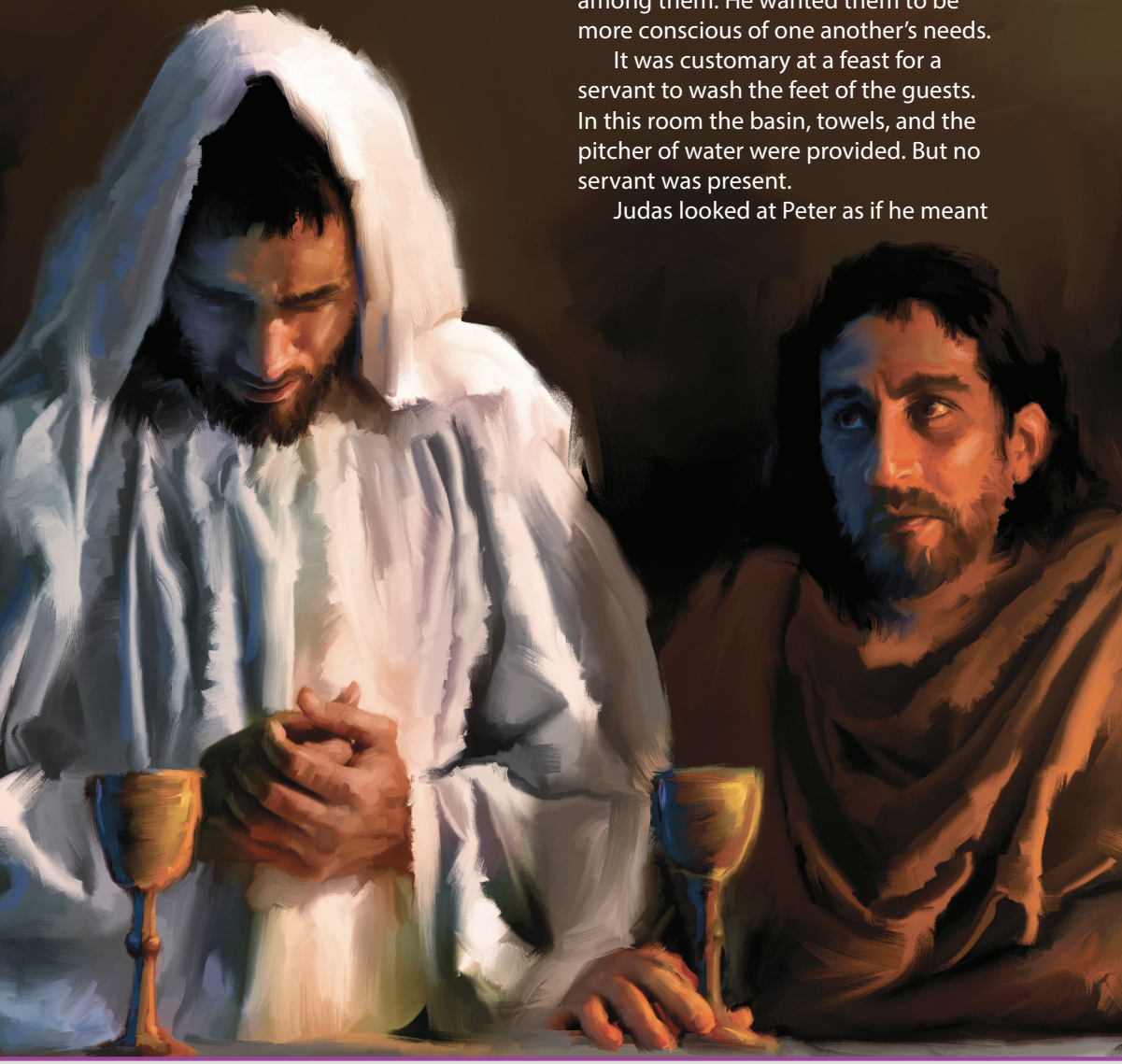
room they were not talking to one another. They all competed to sit closest to Jesus, just like brothers and sisters fighting to sit on their father's knee.

When Judas pressed next to Jesus on the left, John hurried to the seat on Jesus' right. Judas was determined to prevent James and John from taking the highest positions. *I am the most educated in the group,* he thought.

Meanwhile Jesus' attention was on the events that would be unfolding the next day. He was going to die a cruel death. The meal He was about to eat with them would be His last supper. He wanted to see a spirit of unity and love among them. He wanted them to be more conscious of one another's needs.

It was customary at a feast for a servant to wash the feet of the guests. In this room the basin, towels, and the pitcher of water were provided. But no servant was present.

Judas looked at Peter as if he meant



Wednesday

READ Read Mark 10:42-45.

THINK Think about how Peter felt when he realized that Jesus was doing what he could have done. He had been busy worrying about being important in Jesus' kingdom.

LIST Make a list of all the things that others do for you that you could do for yourself or for someone else. Choose three things from this list and do them.

PRAY Thank God for all He does for you.

Thursday

READ Read Isaiah 52:13.

WRITE Write your power text in big letters and hang it as a banner in your room.

LEARN Read the power text 10 times and try to say it without looking.

PRAY Thank Jesus for choosing to serve you even though you don't always deserve or appreciate it. Ask Him to help you become a better servant.

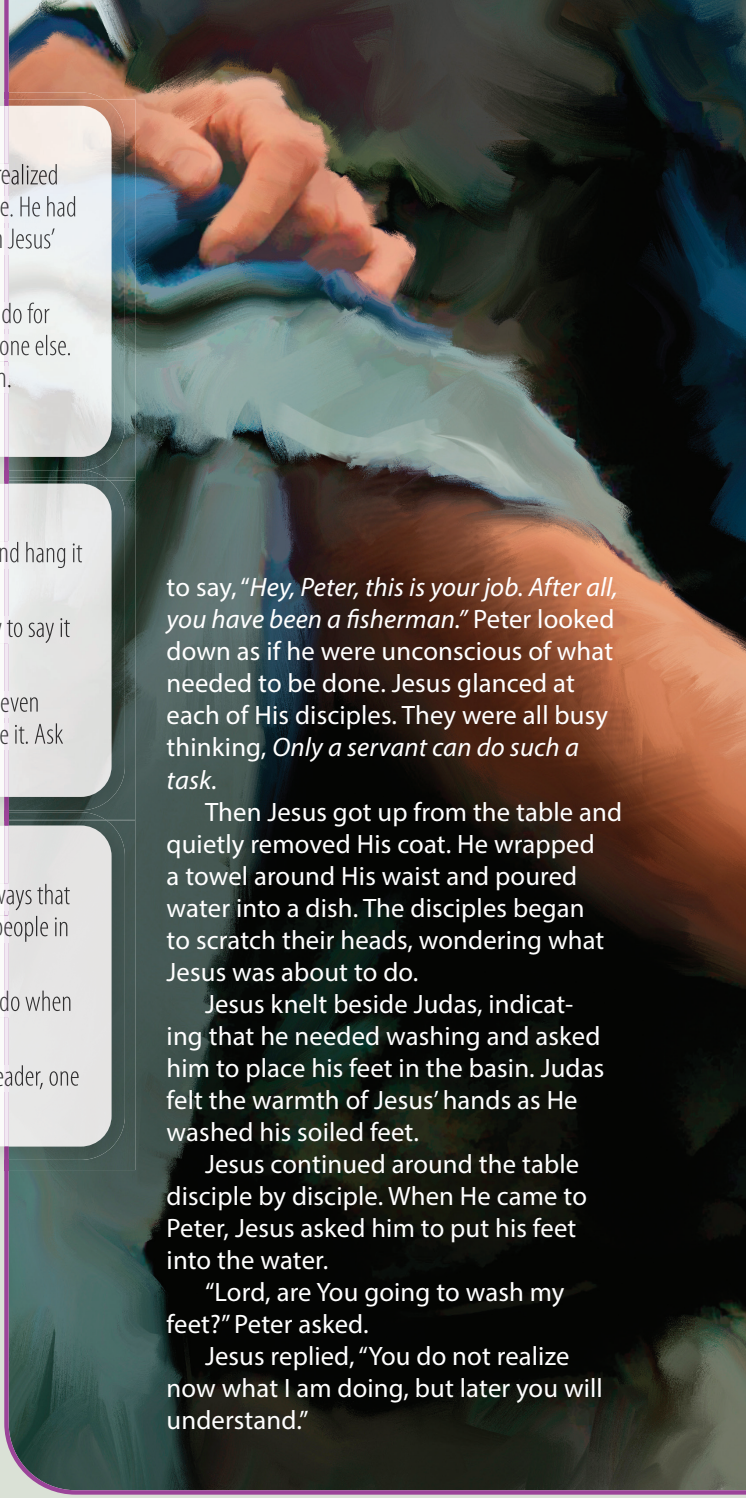
Friday

READ Read Matthew 20:20-28.

LIST List in your Bible study journal all the ways that you feel God has gifted you to serve. List the people in your life that you can lead by serving.

THINK What kind of work would you like to do when you finish school?

PRAY Commit yourself to God as a servant leader, one who follows Jesus' example.



to say, "*Hey, Peter, this is your job. After all, you have been a fisherman.*" Peter looked down as if he were unconscious of what needed to be done. Jesus glanced at each of His disciples. They were all busy thinking, *Only a servant can do such a task.*

Then Jesus got up from the table and quietly removed His coat. He wrapped a towel around His waist and poured water into a dish. The disciples began to scratch their heads, wondering what Jesus was about to do.

Jesus knelt beside Judas, indicating that he needed washing and asked him to place his feet in the basin. Judas felt the warmth of Jesus' hands as He washed his soiled feet.

Jesus continued around the table disciple by disciple. When He came to Peter, Jesus asked him to put his feet into the water.

"Lord, are You going to wash my feet?" Peter asked.

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."



"No," Peter said, pulling his leg back. "You will never wash my feet."

"If I don't wash your feet, then you aren't really one of My followers," Jesus explained.

Peter put both his feet into the basin. "Then, Lord," he replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

But Judas despised Jesus' humility. Jesus, Judas thought, didn't seem fit to be the expected Messiah. He didn't seem about ready to be crowned a king.

At a convenient time Judas walked out of the room to find the high priest. He was determined to act quickly. That very night he would hand Jesus over to the priests.

PUZZLE
11

JESUS TEACHES BY EXAMPLE

Instructions: The top table is your key to solving this puzzle. Complete the blank spaces above each number with the corresponding letters from the key. Blank blocks between numbers indicate spaces between words.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
4	26	7	18	10	24	21	9	8	23	17	20	11	19	12	14	22	6	3	5	15	2	16	1	13	25

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3	10	5		4	19		10	1	4	11	14	20	10		24	12	6		5						
9	10		26	10	20	8	10	2	10	6	3		8	19		3	14	10	10						
7	9		8	19		7	12	19	18	15	7	5		8	19		20	12	2						
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6	8	5	13				5	8	11	12	5	9	13												