

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

JOHN 13:1-17

Bible Background

Jesus entered Jerusalem before the feast of Passover with his disciples. Passover is a Jewish feast celebrating God freeing the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt.

Reading the Word of God

Read **John 13:1-17**.

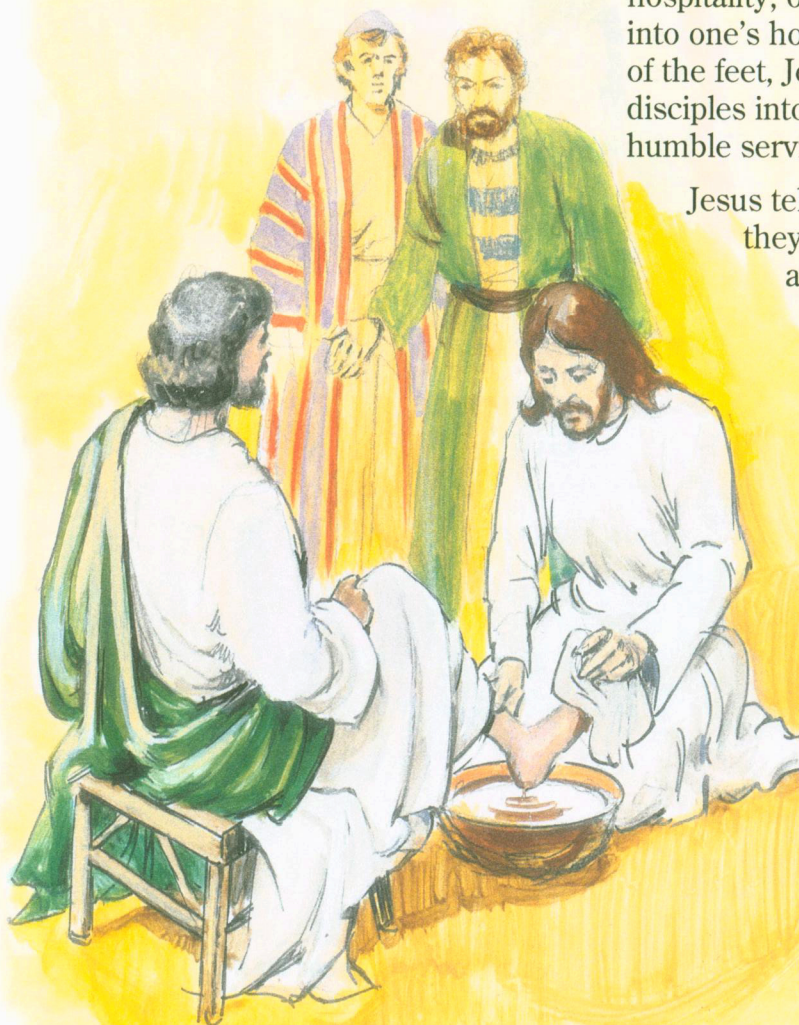
Discover what Jesus asks of his followers.

Understanding the Word of God

In this story, Jesus gathers with his disciples for supper. During the supper, Jesus washes the feet of his disciples. This was the job of a servant not of a rabbi and respected teacher whom people call "Master." Peter immediately objects and tries to stop Jesus.

Foot washing was a sign of hospitality, or welcoming people into one's home. In this washing of the feet, Jesus welcomes his disciples into God's kingdom of humble service.

Jesus tells his disciples that they are to wash one another's feet as he is washing their feet. Jesus wants the disciples to serve others, as he does, and not be their masters.



IN BIBLE TIMES

Dinner guests wore sandals and often walked along dusty roads. When the guests entered the house, a servant knelt to wash and dry their dirty feet.

Serving Others

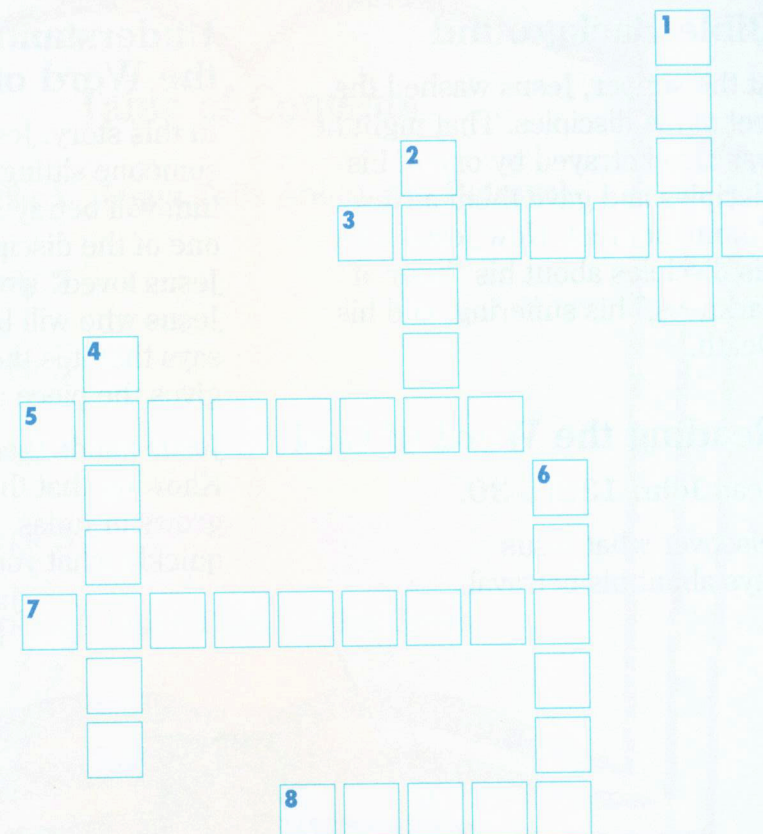
Jesus welcomes us into God's kingdom of serving one another. Solve this crossword puzzle to help you remember Jesus' teachings.

DOWN

1. Jesus gave his disciples a ____ to follow.
2. Jesus asks his disciples to ____ one another.
4. The act of Jesus' inviting his disciples to serve others was the ____ of feet.
6. Jesus said, "No slave is greater than his ____" (John 13:16).

ACROSS

3. Another name for rabbi is "master" or ____.
5. ____ is the Jewish feast that celebrates the Hebrews' freedom from slavery.
7. ____ is a term to describe the followers of Jesus.
8. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples with ____.



GOD'S WORD IN MY LIFE

God, I serve others . . .



With Family or Friends

Decide with your family to work with a community or a church organization that helps others. Give your time and talent to serve others.

Come to serve the Lord.

SIRACH 2:1