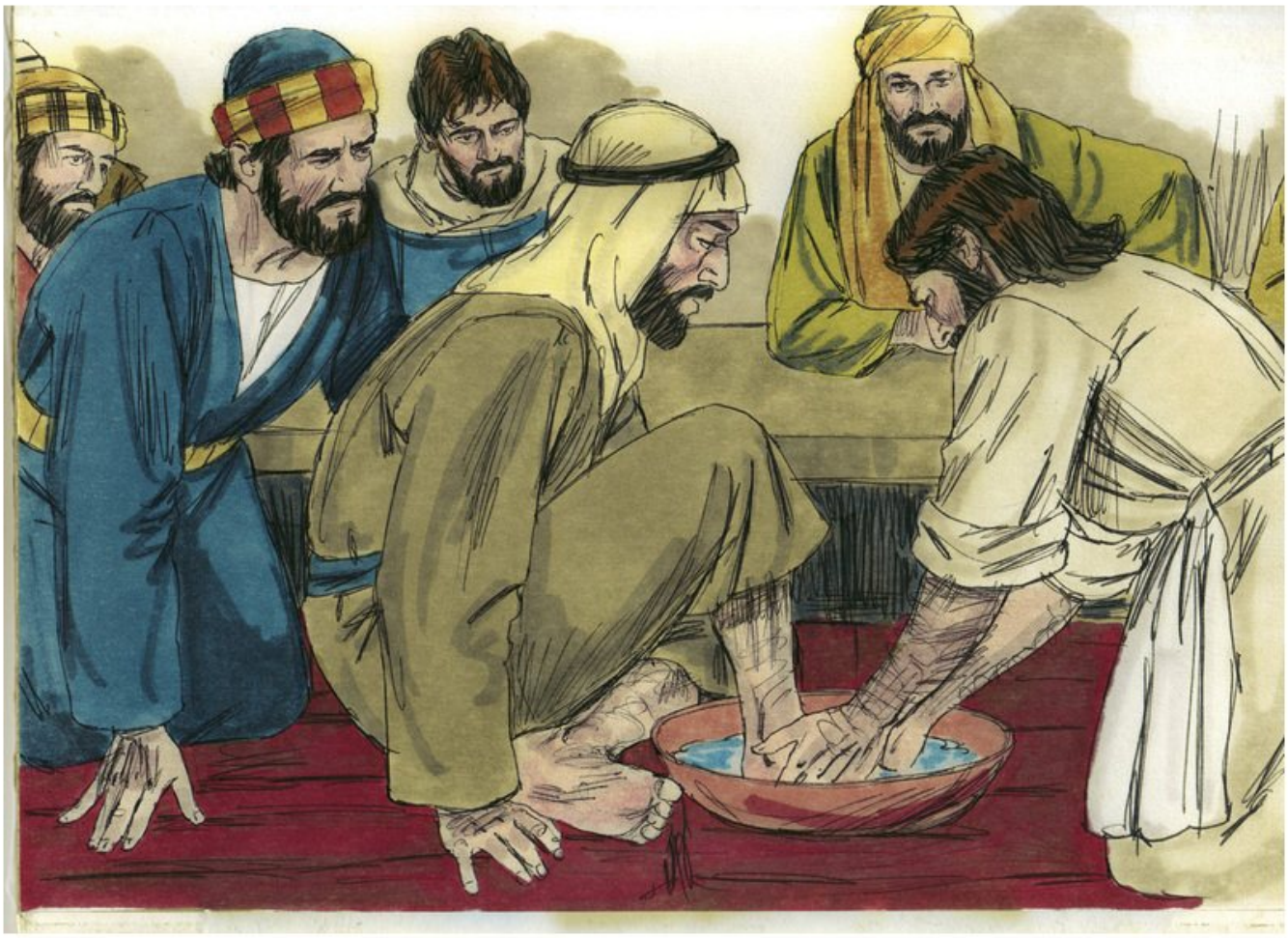
GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

# Jesus Washes His Friends' Feet

John 13:1-17



YOUR BIBLE READING

**Jesus leads through humble love and calls his friends to serve.**

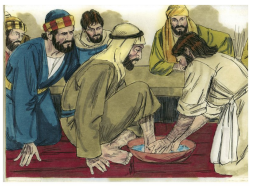
Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

# A Towel in the Teacher's Hands

John 13:1-17



Jesus was sharing supper with his disciples before Passover. He knew that the time was coming for him to leave this world and return to the Father. John begins the scene by speaking of Jesus' love for his own people, a love that continued to the end. He also tells us that Jesus knew where he had come from and where he was going. The action that followed came from this knowledge.

Jesus stood up from the meal, laid aside his outer garments, and tied a towel around his waist. He poured water into a basin and began washing the disciples' feet. Then he dried them with the towel. Their Lord and Teacher was doing a humble service for the people at his table. He did not only give a speech about care; he used water, a basin, and his own hands.

When Jesus reached Simon Peter, Peter questioned him. Was the Lord really going to wash his feet? Jesus answered that Peter did not yet understand what he was doing, but would understand later. Peter then refused, saying that Jesus would never wash his feet. The conversation shows that receiving this care was not simple for Peter. The teacher was taking a place Peter did not expect him to take.

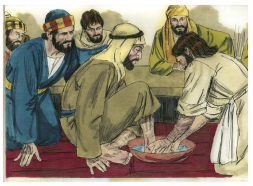
Jesus explained that if he did not wash Peter, Peter would have no share with him. The action meant more than cleaning away dirt. It was connected with receiving what Jesus himself gave. Peter was being asked to accept his Lord's service rather than control which humble actions his Lord was allowed to perform. The meaning would become clearer as Jesus continued both the washing and the teaching.

**Remember:** I can follow Jesus by serving with humble care.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

# An Example to Live

John 13:1-17



Peter responded by asking for his hands and head to be washed too. Jesus explained that someone who had bathed needed only the feet washed and was clean. He also said that not all of them were clean, because he knew about the coming betrayal. John connects that serious knowledge with the scene. Jesus was not unaware of the difficulty ahead while he continued serving the people gathered at supper.

After washing their feet, Jesus put his outer garments back on and sat down again. He asked whether they understood what he had done. They rightly called him Teacher and Lord. If he, with that authority, had washed their feet, they ought to wash one another's feet as well. He was making the meaning of the action plain: his example was to shape the way they treated each other.

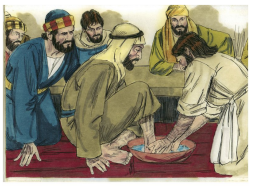
Jesus explained that a servant is not greater than the master and a messenger is not greater than the one who sent him. His followers could not use their place with him as a reason to stand above humble service. The one they followed had chosen to serve them. Knowing who he was did not lead them away from care for others; it gave them a reason to practice that care.

Finally, Jesus connected knowledge with action. Those who knew these things would be blessed in doing them. It was not enough to understand the lesson as an interesting scene or admire the towel without changing anything. The example called for a response in the community. The basin could be put aside after supper, but the pattern of patient, humble care was meant to continue in the lives of his followers.

**Pause and think:** What ordinary act of service could you offer in a way that respects both your needs and someone else's?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

# Receiving Care and Offering It



Peter had to receive before he could understand fully. Sometimes accepting help is difficult because we want to manage alone or think the other person should not have to serve us. With safe, trusted people, receiving care can be part of friendship and family life. You do not lose your worth when you need help with something you cannot yet do.

Think of one ordinary task that helps a group: setting out supplies, wiping a table, or putting things where the next person can find them. These present-day examples can help us understand humble service. The value of the task does not depend on applause. A useful question is whether it makes another person's day safer, easier, or more welcoming.

Serving never means surrendering your safety or bodily boundaries. You do not need to let someone touch you in an unwanted way, and you should not take on dangerous or unsuitable tasks to prove faithfulness. Ask an adult for guidance. Jesus' example points toward care that respects people, including the person giving help and the person receiving it.

## A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

**Jesus served his disciples with humble care and called them to practice that care for one another.**

What ordinary act of service could you offer in a way that respects both your needs and someone else's?

# Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

## 1 Think about the reading

**1.** What did Jesus use as he washed the disciples' feet?

**2.** What example did Jesus give his disciples?

## 2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ He sat down and taught them to follow his example of service.
- ☐ He washed the disciples' feet and spoke with Peter.
- ☐ Jesus rose from supper and prepared a towel and water.

## 3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw a basin and towel beside a simple act of helping someone.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

# Read & Grow Together

## Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

## Remember this

I can follow Jesus by serving with humble care.
**Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation.** Related passage: John 13:14-17

## A thoughtful conversation

Jesus' teaching includes receiving his cleansing as well as serving others. Offer age-appropriate acts of help; no child needs to allow unwanted touching to show humility.

## Activity answers

**1.** Water in a basin and a towel.
**2.** To serve one another with humility as he had served them.
**Sequence boxes, top to bottom:** 3, 2, 1. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

## Optional prayer

Jesus, teach us to give and receive care with humility. Amen.

## Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

## Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on John 13:1-17. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 43_Jn_13_01_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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