

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 230: THE MASTER BECOMES A SERVANT**  
**JOHN 13:1-17**

It was almost time for the Jewish Passover festival. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go back to the Father. Jesus had always loved the people in the world who were his. Now was the time he showed them his love the most. Jesus and his followers were at the evening meal. The devil had already persuaded Judas Iscariot to hand Jesus over to his enemies. (Judas was the son of Simon.) The Father had given Jesus power over everything. Jesus knew this. He also knew that he had come from God. And he knew that he was going back to God. So while they were eating, Jesus stood up and took off his robe. He got a towel and wrapped it around his waist. Then he poured water into a bowl and began to wash the followers' feet. He dried their feet with the towel that was wrapped around his waist. He came to Simon Peter. But Peter said to him, "Lord, you should not wash my feet." Jesus answered, "You don't know what I am doing now. But later you will understand." Peter said, "No! You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "If I don't wash your feet, you are not one of my people." Simon Peter said, "Lord, after you wash my feet, wash my hands and my head too!" Jesus said, "After a person has a bath, his whole body is clean. He needs only to wash his feet. And you are clean, but not all of you." Jesus knew who would hand him over to his enemies. That is why he said, "Not all of you are clean." When Jesus finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and went back to the table. He asked, "Do you understand what I did for you? You call me 'Teacher.' And you call me 'Lord.' And this is right, because that is what I am. I am your Lord and Teacher. But I washed your feet. So you also should wash each other's feet. I did this as an example for you. So you should serve each other just as I served you. Believe me, servants are not greater than their master, and those who are sent to do something are not more important than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you will be happy if you do them.

## 230. THE MASTER BECOMES A SERVANT

JOHN 13:1-17



"After that he poured water into a bowl, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and wipe them with the towel from around his waist." **JOHN 13:5**

# 230. THE MASTER BECOMES A SERVANT

## JOHN 13:1-17

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"He who is greatest among you shall be your servant."* MATTHEW 23:11

### **Review Questions**

#### **True or False**

1. Jesus knew that it was time for Him to leave this world and go back to the Father.
2. Judas had given Jesus power over everything.
3. Jesus knew that He had come from God, and that He was going back to God.
4. The devil had not yet persuaded Judas Iscariot to hand Jesus over to His enemies .
5. Jesus stood up, took off His robe, and wrapped a towel around His waist.
6. Then He poured wine into a bowl and started washing His disciples' feet with it.

#### **Questions**

1. When Jesus began washing the disciples' feet, what did Peter say to Him? Did he want Jesus to wash his feet?
2. What did Jesus tell Peter when he didn't want Jesus to wash his feet?
3. When Jesus told Peter that unless He washed his feet he wouldn't be one of his people, what did Peter ask Jesus to do?
4. Did Jesus wash Peter's hands and his head too?
5. Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet? Was it to be an example to them?
6. When Jesus washed His disciples' feet, even though He was their Lord and Teacher or Master, did He act like that? Or did He act more like a servant to them?
7. Did Jesus want His followers to be like servants to each other and help each other? Is that why He said He wanted to be an example to them by washing their feet? Yes!
8. What did Jesus say about people who know and do these things? Would they be sad? Or would they be happy?

## Lesson 230 Activity

### Your Serve

Bring a tennis ball (or a hacky sack, or other small object you can toss) and play a game of toss. As you toss the ball to a student, they must tell of a way to serve one another. When they have done so, they must toss the ball to someone else who also must share a way to serve. You can continue this game as long as you have time, or give each student a chance to catch and share.

### OPTIONAL:

You can also act out the lesson – have one child be Jesus, and another Peter, and the rest can be disciples.

Let Jesus begin by pouring a pitcher of water over each child's feet, and let Peter say, "No Lord – you should not wash my feet!", then let Jesus tell Peter, "If you don't let me wash your feet, you cannot be one of my people. You don't understand what I'm doing right now, but later you will understand." – Then let Peter answer, "Then wash my face and my hands too!"

Then have Jesus say, "No – if you have bathed, you are clean and you just need your feet washed."

Then let Jesus finish 'washing' each disciple's feet, and dry with a 'towel' (you can use a paper towel if you don't have a towel in the classroom or kitchen you can use).

### PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be sensitive to one another's needs and to serve one another. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.