



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for July 20, 2008  
Released on Wednesday, July 16, 2008**

**"Jesus, a Serving Example"**

**Lesson: John 13:1–8, 12–20.  
Devotional Reading: Isaiah 53:4–6.  
Background Scripture: John 13:1–20.  
Read: John 13:1–20.**

**Place: Jerusalem  
Time: about A.D. 30**

**GOLDEN TEXT: "I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you"**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:  
John 13:1–8, 12–20**

1Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

2And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

3Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

4He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

5After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

6Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet?

7Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

8Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me.

.....

12So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

13Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

14If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

18I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

19Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

20Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

#### **TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON**

John is the only Gospel that tells how Jesus washed the disciples' feet as an example of humility, although Luke 22:24–27 mentions strife among the disciples as to who was greatest.

A few days earlier, Jesus had entered into Jerusalem surrounded by a multitude of followers. He had been hailed as a king. The disciples expected that they would soon reign with Him.

But on this night, Jesus demonstrated by example and instructed by word that His followers are servants, not rulers.

Jesus told His disciples, "He that is least among you all, the same shall be great" (Luke 9:48). He who truly was great, God Himself, became a servant (Phil. 2:5–8).

This is a difficult lesson for us to remember and practice today. We live in a me-first culture.

It is noteworthy that Jesus said we will be blessed if we follow His example and do what He did, serving others (John 13:17).

#### **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that we should follow Jesus' example by serving others.

#### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Jesus showed us by example how to serve others.
2. We should humbly serve others.

**PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:**

For Telling the Lesson, bring a large bath towel or beach towel.

For Helping to Remember, cut muslin (plain-woven cotton fabric), disposable cleaning cloths, or cotton dish towels into 6-by-8-inch pieces, one for each student. You will need markers and newspapers to protect the table surface in case markers bleed through the cloth.

**BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

Do you sometimes wish you could be a king or a queen? Often children pretend to be a ruler with servants. What does a king do? What do servants do? (Let students answer.)

What if you were the king, but instead of commanding your servant to bring breakfast to you, you said, "Sit down and rest, my servant. I will go cook a delicious breakfast and bring it to you"?

What if the queen said, "I know you are dirty and tired from our long journey today, my servant. I will run a warm bath for you so that you can be clean and relax"?

That is like what Jesus did. Although He is God, Jesus left heaven and came to earth to serve us. He was an example of how to serve others.

**TELLING THE LESSON:**

When Jesus lived on earth, people usually walked from place to place. There were no bicycles or cars. The paths and roads were not paved as ours are. They were dusty. Because people wore sandals, their feet became dirty as they walked.

When a person arrived at a house, a servant brought a basin of water and a towel. He washed and dried the traveler's feet. This was a job for the very lowest house servant to do.

The time for Jesus to die was drawing near. Judas was preparing to betray Jesus to those who hated Him. Jesus knew what was going to take place. He knew that He had come from His Father. He knew that soon He would leave this world and go back to Him.

As the disciples were eating what we call the Last Supper, Jesus stood up. He took off His outer robe, wrapped a towel around Himself (display your towel), and poured some water into a basin.

Then Jesus knelt down and humbly began to wash the feet of His disciples. He did the job of the lowest servant. Jesus lovingly washed the dirty feet of His own disciples and then dried them. (Imitate drying with your towel.)

Jesus was the Lord and Master of these men. They should have washed His feet. Why did Jesus do the task of a lowly servant?

"I have given you an example. You should do to others as I have done to you," Jesus told His disciples. "If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

Jesus showed us that we should serve others. Often Christian people want others to serve them. This is not God's plan. Jesus said we should be servants, not masters. He wants us to love and help one another.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

Jesus' entire life was lived to serve others. He left heaven to become a lowly man. As Jesus preached and taught, He had no home of His own. Day after day He taught and healed and fed crowds of people. Finally, Jesus gave His own life to provide eternal life for everyone.

Jesus was God; yet He washed the disciples' feet. He did this to teach them and us to serve.

Most of us want other people to serve us. We want to be great. We want to give the orders. But God wants us to serve. Jesus is our example of serving others. (Place towel beside previous lesson visuals for review.)

Think of some ways that children can serve others. What can you do to serve at home? (Play with younger siblings' empty wastebaskets; wipe up spills; keep room straightened up; set and clear the table.)

How can you serve in church? (Pick up trash; straighten hymnbooks; open doors for the elderly; help clean up the room after class.)

What ways can you serve in school? (Be friendly to someone who needs a friend; run errands for the teacher; help those who need help; share the gospel with classmates.)

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Spread newspapers on table. Give each student a piece of cloth. Ask him to use markers to draw a picture on his towel that shows some way he can serve others this week.

### **EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:**

"I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (John 13: 15).

Jesus showed us what God wants us to do. Although He is God, Jesus did the lowly job of washing dirty feet.

Jesus is our example of serving; we should do what He did. We are the servants of God. He wants us to do whatever we can to serve others.

### **Lesson Summarized by:**

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**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:**  
**"Jesus, a Serving Example"**  
**(John 13:1–8; 12–20.)**

**CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:**

1. "Now before the feast of the [**PASSOVER, PRINCIPLE**], when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this [**COUNTRY, WORLD**] unto the Father...." John 13:1
2. "And [**SOUP, SUPPER**] being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of [**JASPER, JUDAS**] Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;" John 13:2
3. "He riseth from supper, and laid aside his [**GARMENTS, GRATITUDE**]; and took a [**TORCH, TOWEL**], and girded himself." John 13:4
4. "Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never [**WEAR, WASH**] my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part of me." John 13:8

**TRUE OR FALSE:**

5. Jesus washed Peter's feet even though Peter did not want Him to.  
John 13:12 **TRUE OR FALSE**
6. Jesus told His disciples that they called Him Master and Lord because it was the truth.  
John 13:13 **TRUE OR FALSE**
7. Jesus told His disciples that He was not a very good example of what a servant was.  
John 13:15 **TRUE OR FALSE**
8. Jesus did not know who it was who was going to betray Him. He did not know that that person, Judas Iscariot, was sitting with Him at the supper table.  
John 13:18, **2 TRUE OR FALSE**
9. If people listen to Christians, they accept Jesus Christ; when they accept Jesus Christ, they accept God.  
John 13:20 **TRUE OR FALSE**

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:**  
**"Jesus, a Serving Example"**  
**(John 13:1–8; 12–20.)**



Memory Verse:  
"I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you" (John 13: 15).

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:**  
**"Jesus, a Serving Example"**  
**(John 13:1–8; 12–20.)**

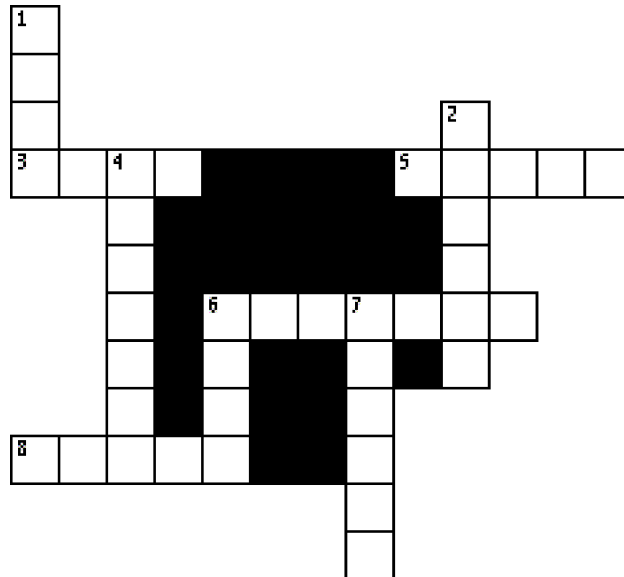
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**DISCIPLES**  
**EXAMPLE**  
**FEET**  
**GREATER**

**LORD**  
**MASTER**  
**PASSOVER**  
**PETER**

**SERVANT**  
**SUPPER**  
**TEACHER**  
**WASH**

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:  
 "Jesus, a Serving Example" (John 13:1–8; 12–20.)**



6 ACROSS "He who is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whoever exalts himself will be abased, and he who \_\_\_\_\_ himself will be exalted." **MATTHEW 23:11-12**

6 DOWN "...Jesus knew that His \_\_\_\_\_ had come that He should depart from this world to the Father..." **JOHN 13:1**

2 DOWN "Jesus, knowing that the \_\_\_\_\_ had given all things into His hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God." **JOHN 13:3**

3 ACROSS "...He poured water into a basin and began to \_\_\_\_\_ the disciples' feet." **JOHN 13:5**

8 ACROSS "\_\_\_\_\_ said to Him, 'You shall never wash my feet!' Jesus answered him, 'If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me.'" **JOHN 13:8**

7 DOWN "Jesus said to him, 'He who is \_\_\_\_\_ needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean.'" **JOHN 13:10**

1 DOWN "So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, 'Do you \_\_\_\_\_ what I have done? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am.'" **JOHN 13:12-13**

4 DOWN "Most assuredly, I say to you, a \_\_\_\_\_ is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him." **JOHN 13:16**

5 ACROSS "If you know these things, \_\_\_\_\_ are you if you do them." **JOHN 13:17**