

The Greatest Servant

based on John 13:1-20

The time had almost come for the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that it was soon his time to go back to His Father in Heaven.

(Pass around a watch or hold up a picture of a clock)

Jesus had always loved his own in the world, and He loved them all the way to the end.

(Show a picture of a heart or a physical object in the shape of a heart or put your hands over your heart)

Jesus and his friends gathered for the evening meal. The devil had already persuaded Judas Iscariot to turn against his friend Jesus.

(Show a picture of Judas Iscariot or pass a bag of money around - remind the children that this is what Judas accepted to turn against his friend.)

Jesus knew that God the Father had given him power over everything. He also knew that he had come from God was going to go back to God.

(Point your finger to your head to show the action "knew")

During the meal Jesus stood up and took off his outer clothing.

(Pass around a coat or jacket or hold one up for everyone to see)

Jesus took a towel and wrapped it around his waist.

(Pass around a towel and hand it around)

Then pouring out the water into a bowl, he began to wash his follower's feet.

(Use a jug to pour some water into a tub or bowl)

After washing them, he dried them with a towel from around his waist.

(Hold up the towel once again)

It was Simon Peter's turn. But Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

(Do a shoulder shrugging motion as you ask the question)

Jesus answered Peter, "You don't understand what I'm doing right now, but you will understand later."

(Do a finger wagging side to side motion to show that they didn't understand)

"No!" Peter said. "You will never wash my feet."

(Do a cross armed motion to show the word "no")

Jesus told Peter, "If I don't wash your feet, then you are not one of my followers."

(Point to your chest and shake your head to show a "no" action)

So Simon Peter said, "Lord, after you've washed my feet then wash my hands and my head also!"

(Rub your hands over your feet, rub your hands together and rub your hands on your head)

Jesus said, "After a person has a bath his whole body is clean. He needs only to wash his feet. You men are clean, but not all of you."

(Shake your feet as you sit on the floor)

Jesus knew that one of his friends was going to turn against him.

(Point your finger to your temple and nod)

When he'd finished washing their feet Jesus put on his clothes and sat down again. He asked them, "Do you understand what I have just done for you all?" You call me "Teacher" and "Lord" and that's right, because that's what I am.

(Shrug your shoulders with your hands out)

I, your Lord and Teacher have washed your feet. So you should each wash one another's feet. I did this to set an example for you. So now you should do what I have done for you.

(Point to your chest and then point to everyone else)

You see, a servant is not greater than their master. A messenger is no greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you'll be happy if you do them.

(Wag both fingers from either hand to show a "no" action and then put your thumbs up to show a "happy" action)