

## THE GOSPEL OF

**JOHN**

STUDENT LESSON

THE GOOD  
SERVANT**Open it**

1. Is it easier for you to receive help when you are in need or to give help to someone else when they are in need? Why do you feel this way?

**Daily Devotions**

Day 1 — Today's Theme: Explore It

Read John 13:1–20.

2. Who is planning to betray Jesus?
3. What is Jesus performing in this passage?
4. Who has an issue with what Jesus does?
5. What is the example Jesus tells them to follow?

## Day 2 — Today's Theme: We Need to Model Christ

### Read John 13:1–5.

Who is the greatest? The question we all ask one another. We are always striving to be the best. No one likes to think of themselves as second place or not as important as the next guy. We struggle with the idea that this world is not all about us. The love we receive from our parents can give us the false assumption that we have authority over them. They drive us everywhere, go to our games, and even stay to watch us. Moms and dads will arrange their schedules to make sure we get to all of our events. Sadly, that sometimes means even missing church on a Sunday morning for something we want to do. They pay for our food, clothes, that new electronic, or fill in the blank — and we have to have it now. We need to humble ourselves to know that it comes from a place of love, and these are gifts that manifest from that love.

The disciples kind of do the same thing. Back in Luke 22:24, they argue amongst themselves, "Who of us is the greatest?" Even as Christians we find ourselves thinking about status at times. That being said, Christ who is THE GOAT does something no one saw coming — He washes His disciples' feet, even the feet of Judas, who He knew would betray Him. Even still, He puts on clothes that are meant for a servant and does this to serve them. You were not part of the cool crowd if your job was to wash feet. Just try and think about how you would feel if you had to wash your Teacher's feet in front of the whole classroom — not a fun job.

Christ demonstrated His love for His disciples! We need to do likewise and be different from the world, even if we have to interact with someone we don't like or who is mean or rude to us or just plain smells bad. We need to show that person the love of Christ. Be a servant to that person. In doing so you will show them the love of Christ.

**6. Why is it hard to not think of yourself first and to put others' needs (and even wants) before your own?**

**7. In what practical ways can you put your friends' and family's needs first?**

**8. What does it mean to be humble?**

## Day 3 — Today's Theme: Reluctant Servant

### Read John 13:6–10.

To understand the significance of this interaction between Peter and Jesus, we need to take a second to consider who Jesus is. Throughout the Gospel of John, the main focus has been on who Jesus is — that He is the Son of God and that He and the Father are one. He is the Creator of the heavens and the earth. He is the I AM, so great He can only be described as I AM. This is the Incarnate God who washes the feet of Peter.

With this understanding, we could definitely understand why Peter was coming from a place where he feels so unworthy of Jesus washing his feet, an act that is normally reserved for the lowest of the servants. We also notice that all the other disciples did not say anything, but Peter stood out. He had been serving Christ for some time now. We could all learn a little humility from Peter's example. Sometimes God asks us to submit to Him in ways we don't like or that may be difficult. But the best way to be a servant of Christ is to fully surrender to His lordship over your life.

Jesus had already chosen each of the disciples there to be a part of his Body. Sometimes we break fellowship with Christ when we fall into sin. This does not mean we are not saved. Once God's chosen you, you're always part of the family. The washing of the feet is a symbol of your coming back to Christ. That's why He told Peter he does not need a full bath, just the washing of his feet to keep walking with Him. We all fall short. Let us humble ourselves and allow Christ to wash us and bring us back into fellowship with him.

A wise man once told me, "You can take many steps away from Christ, but it only takes one to come back."

Super Mario

9. Can you think of a time someone you respected and looked up to stopped what they were doing to help you?

10. What could you be doing to help others around you who are not as strong in their faith as you are?

11. How do you react when you feel that your faith is struggling? How do you get back into fellowship?

## Day 4 — Today's Theme: Love Others Even When It's Not Easy

**Read John 13:11–17.**

Isn't it great when people are nice to you? If we could just all get along and play Candy Land all the time, wouldn't that be so much fun! Just kidding. Our world is not like that, as you well know. People don't always get along and that is because of sin. On a big scale, you see people and countries going to war; on a small scale you see the people you call friends saying mean things about you behind your back.

As believers, we should always strive to be like Christ. That is not an easy thing to do, but I'm sorry to say, nowhere in the Bible does it say it's going to be. Actually, it says that we are going to be persecuted for being part of the body of Christ.

Judas. He is the one who will screenshot your conversations just to make trouble with you and your friends. Imagine that Christ is going to pay the price for your sins. Yes, you, the person reading this. The price He pays is a great one and Judas is the guy who turned Him over. Yet Jesus washed his feet, showing him love, and gave him the chance to repent.

If Christ is willing to do this for the people who put Him on the cross and say, "*Father forgive them, they know not what they do,*" who are we to hold anything against anyone? We are not greater than Jesus. He is Lord. Yet He invites us to join in the work He is doing and gives us the great commission to Go and Do. Let us be the hands and feet of our Lord and Savior.

**12. What stops you from forgiving people you don't get along with?**

**13. What are some ways Christians distinguish themselves from unbelievers?**

**14. What would you say to a friend who is holding something against someone? In what ways would you encourage that person?**

## Day 5 — Today's Theme: The All-Knowing

### Read John 13:16–20.

Each of us is different yet God has a plan for all of us. All things work together according to God's will. Even the people who oppose God and rebel against Him ultimately bring glory to God.

We see this here with Judas. When Jesus is talking in verse 18, He is not speaking about election but the role in God's plan. Even Judas' role was known before anything happened. Jesus chose Judas for this purpose (see John 6:70 and John 13:18). Even when we think things are at their worst, remember that God is in control. There is no outcome that He does not already know. Rest in that fact.

Accept the people God put in your life.

To sum up, be a servant. Love others by serving them. Do as your God has done. We will fall and mess up, but God is there to pick us right back up. Live like you have been chosen by God, the King of the universe.

**15. Jesus knew what was going to happen before it did. Does this mean Judas had no free will?**

**16. What do you think your role is in building the Kingdom of God?**

**17. In what way can you better depend on Christ?**