



BACKGROUND

In the story of the Washing of the Feet (John 13:1–15), Jesus shows His love in a very humble way. He does this by washing the feet of His friends. This was something usually done by servants, but Jesus wanted to teach His disciples that truly loving and leading others means having the ability to serve. This special moment happened during the Last Supper, when Jesus also gave us the gift of the Eucharist. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that the Eucharist is the heart of our faith, where we receive Jesus and are called to live like Him (CCC 1323). When we receive Holy Communion, we're not just taking part in a meal, we're saying "yes" to loving and serving others, just like Jesus did. This story reminds us that being close to Jesus means being kind, helpful, and ready to care for others, especially those who need it most.

Throughout preparation for First Communion, we may hear the phrase 'living the Eucharist'. This scripture helps us to understand this concept. Jesus says, 'I have set the example, and you should do for each other exactly what I have done for you'. When we receive the Eucharist, we become part of the Body of Christ and by serving others as Jesus did we bring Christ Jesus' presence into the lives of others so that, in tangible and practical ways, we *live* the Eucharist.

INTRODUCTION

In this activity, the children will become more familiar with the story and have an opportunity to unpack it further through discussion as a group.

Begin by reading the scripture in its entirety, then distribute the story cards and have the children work together to sort the cards into the correct order, either by laying them out on the floor or putting them up on the wall. Once the cards are in order, read the story again using the cards. Then debrief the scripture, using the suggested questions.





JESUS WASHES THE DISCIPLES' FEET - JOHN 13:1-15

It was before Passover, and Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and to return to the Father. He had always loved his followers in this world, and he loved them to the very end.

Even before the evening meal started, the devil had made Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, decide to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew he had come from God and would go back to God. He also knew that the Father had given him complete power. So during the meal Jesus got up, removed his outer garment, and wrapped a towel around his waist. He put some water into a large bowl. Then he began washing his disciples' feet and drying them with the towel he was wearing.

But when he came to Simon Peter, this disciple asked, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered, "You don't really know what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"You will never wash my feet!" Peter replied.

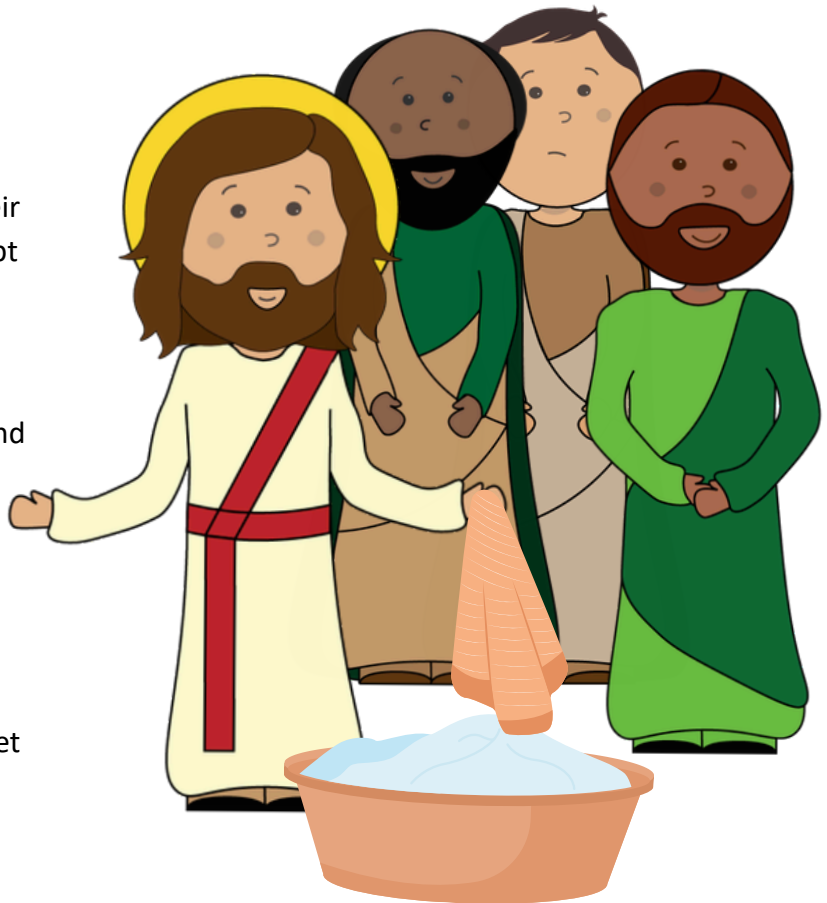
"If I don't wash you," Jesus told him, "you don't really belong to me."

Peter said, "Lord, don't wash just my feet.

Wash my hands and my head."

Jesus answered, "People who have bathed and are clean all over need to wash just their feet. And you, my disciples, are clean, except for one of you." Jesus knew who would betray him. That is why he said, "except for one of you."

After Jesus had washed his disciples' feet and had put his outer garment back on, he sat down again. Then he said: Do you understand what I have done? You call me your teacher and Lord, and you should, because that is who I am. And if your Lord and teacher has washed your feet, you should do the same for each other. I have set the example, and you should do for each other exactly what I have done for you.



DEBRIEF

- What part of the story did you find most surprising or interesting? Why?
- Why do you think Jesus washed His friends' feet? What was He trying to teach them?
- How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus washed their feet?
- What does this story tell us about how we should treat others?
- How is this story connected to the Eucharist and Holy Communion?



**Jesus washes the
disciples' feet**

John 13:1-15

Now before the festival of the
Passover, Jesus knew that his
hour had come to depart
from this world and go to the
Father.



Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The devil had already put into the heart of Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray him.



And during the supper Jesus
knowing that the Father had
given all things into his
hands,

and that he had come from
God and was going to God,



got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.

Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet



and to wipe them with the
towel that was tied around
him.

Jesus came to Simon Peter,
who said to him, "Lord are
you going to wash my feet?"



Jesus answered, "You do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand."

Peter said to Jesus, "You will never wash my feet."



Jesus answered,
“Unless I wash you,
you have no share with me.”

Simon Peter said to Jesus,
“Lord, not my feet only, but
also my hands and my head!”



Jesus said to him, "One who
has bathed does not need to
wash,

except for the feet, but is
entirely clean.



And you are clean, though
not all of you.”

For he knew who was to
betray him; for this reason he
said, “Not all of you are clean.”



After Jesus had washed their
feet, put on his robe and
returned to the table,

Jesus said to them,
“Do you know what
I have done to you?”



You call me Teacher and Lord
- and you are right, for that is
what I am.

So if I, your Lord and Teacher,
have washed your feet, you
also ought to wash one
another's feet.



For I have set an example,
that you should so as I have
done to you.”

