

# The Washing of the Disciples' Feet

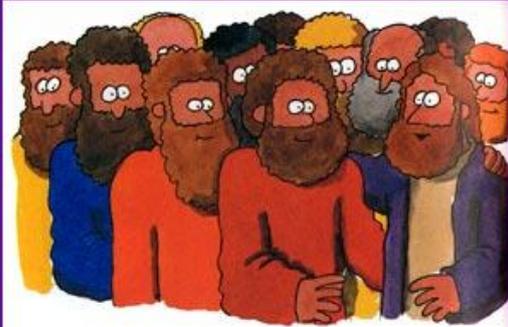
**This Bible story can be found in [John 13:1-17](#).** It tells how Jesus taught the disciples (and us) how we are all equal and how he wanted people to care for one another.



## Washing Feet

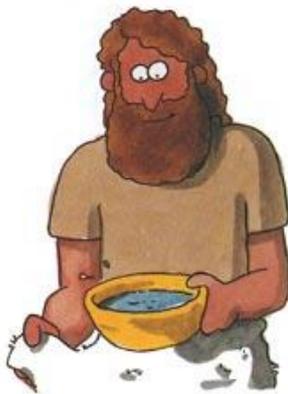
Jesus knew that not everyone liked him. He knew the leaders were angry with him. In fact, they were so angry and so jealous, they wanted to kill him. And Jesus knew that, too.

*Jesus Washes The Disciples' Feet, John 13*



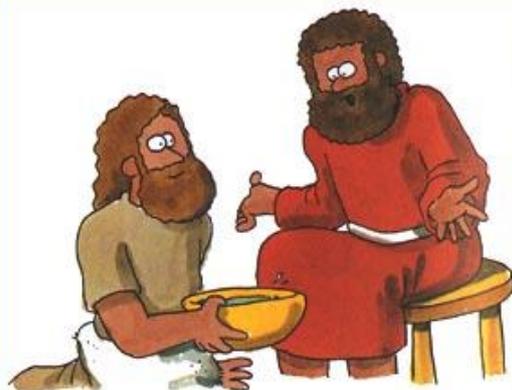
But Jesus still had his special friends: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Simon, Matthew, James, Thomas, Thaddaeus and Judas. They had been his friends for a long time. They traveled with Jesus. And Jesus taught them many things.

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One night, they all got together for dinner. While they were eating, Jesus got up. He put a towel on like an apron. He poured water into a large bowl. Then he began to wash his friends' feet.

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When Jesus got to Peter's feet, Peter said, "I cannot let you wash my feet." "If you don't let me wash your feet, you can't follow me," said Jesus. "In that case," said Peter, "wash my hands and my head, too!"

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After Jesus washed his friends' feet,  
he asked, "Do you understand what I did?  
I showed you how to be kind to each other.  
I am your Lord and Teacher.  
If I can be kind and help you,  
then you can be kind and help each other."

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Walking in sandals on the filthy roads of Israel thousands of years ago made it very important that feet be washed before a meal. Imagine how dirty people's feet were after walking along dusty roads all day in the heat! People often ate sitting on the floor at low tables. Their feet were therefore very close to the food – and other people!

When Jesus rose from the table and began to wash the feet of the disciples ([John 13:4](#)), He was doing the work usually done by servants. The disciples must have been stunned, that Christ, their Lord and master, should wash the feet of His disciples, when it really should be their job to wash his!

### **What Bible stories do you know that show that Jesus saw himself as a servant?**

Peter was particularly uncomfortable with Jesus washing his feet, and, never being at a loss for words, Peter argued, "You shall never wash my feet!" Then Jesus said something that must have further shocked Peter: "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me" ([John 13:8](#)).

Peter, who loved Jesus, immediately asked to be washed all over!

When Jesus washed the disciples' feet, He told them (and us), "I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" ([John 13:15](#)).

**What do you think was Jesus trying to show us in the washing of his friends' feet? How does he want us to behave?**

# Soapy art activity

What better way to make sure you remember this story than by making your very own soap.



Every time you wash, you will be reminded of what Jesus taught us by washing his friends' feet.

## Liquid Hand Soap Recipe



*You will need:*

- 3 Cups Water, distilled if possible but this is not essential
- 2 tablespoons grated hard bar soap (soap with added moisturizers and cream like Dove will not work)
- 1/4 teaspoon washing soda
- 1 teaspoon vegetable Glycerin
- 20 To 50 Drops Essential Oils (Clove, Lemon, Cinnamon, Eucalyptus, Rosemary, Lavender Or Tea Tree all have Anti Fungal, anti bacterial Or anti viral properties)
- Plastic bowls
- Plastic spoons
- Old shampoo bottles or an empty soap dispenser

*I*



### *Instructions*

1. Put the water, grated soap, and washing soda in a small sauce pan over a medium heat. Heat until all of the ingredients have dissolved.
2. Remove the saucepan from the heat and add in the Glycerin and essential oils.
3. Pour the liquid soap into a container or bowl, allow it to sit at room temperature for 6 to 12 hours or overnight.
4. After the liquid soap has had time to rest, mix it up using a whisk or have some fun and use your hands!
5. Pour the finished liquid soap into their bottles.

You could design your own labels to stick onto the bottles.