



Jesus Washes His Friends' Feet

John 13:1-17

WEEK 1

POINT ➡ WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.

Open your Bible to John 13, and show kids the words. SAY: **The Bible is God's special book that shows how God takes care of people. To-day we'll learn how Jesus came to the rescue by washing his friends' feet. Jesus loved his friends, but he knew it was time to leave them. Jesus was going back to heaven.**

ASK: **Tell about a time you had to leave someone you loved to go somewhere else.**

SAY: **Jesus wanted to do something special for his friends before he left the earth. He got a towel and some water and washed his friends' feet. Washing feet was a job only servants did back then. But Jesus wasn't a servant, so he was doing something very special.**

ASK: **What are some jobs people have that serve other people?**

SAY: **Peter didn't think someone as wonderful as Jesus should wash people's feet. He told Jesus no. But**

Jesus said, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." Peter wanted to belong to Jesus! He asked Jesus to wash his hands and head, too.

ASK: **Think of someone who seems too important to do one of the jobs we thought of before. What makes them too important?**

SAY: **Jesus told Peter that only his feet were dirty, so that was all he needed to wash. Then Jesus told his friends to take care of others the way Jesus had taken care of them. Jesus still takes care of us today, and that's why ➡ WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE. We can belong to Jesus, too!**





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Have kids stand facing you. SAY:
**Let's play a copycat game. When
I do something, you do what I do.
If I pretend to wash my feet, you'll
pretend to wash your feet, too.**

Play for a while, changing from
one motion to another and having
everyone copy you. For example, you
could wave, then turn in a circle, and
so on. Keep motions to a minimum
so it's easy for the kids to follow .

After a few minutes of this, turn
around so the kids can't see you. It
will be hard for them to know what
to do.

**ASK: While Jesus lived on earth,
what did he do?**

**How can you be like Jesus
even though you can't see
him?**

**SAY: When Jesus washed his
friends' feet, he said to copy him
and help other people. He wants us
to copy him and help others, too.
It was hard to copy me when you
couldn't see me. And sometimes**

it might seem hard to copy Jesus
when you can't see him. But he
set an example in the Bible. And
because ➡ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS
ALIVE**, we know he can show us
what to do today.



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**POINT ➡ WE BELIEVE
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Gather kids around you. SAY: **Jesus helped his friends. He helped them by washing their feet and showing them how he wanted them to help others.**

➡ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE** today, too. So that means he can still help us and show us what he wants us to do. **Let's ask Jesus to tell us one way to help others.** Have kids spread out around the room and pray quietly for a few moments.

Gather kids back together.

ASK: **What did Jesus tell you to do to help others?**

What can you do this week to help someone else the way Jesus helps you?

SAY: **We can remember the times Jesus has helped us before, and that's why ➡ WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.** And when Jesus lives in us, we can help others the way Jesus helps us.



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SAY: ➡ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.** One way to show that we believe in Jesus is to live the way he taught us to. Jesus washed his friends' feet to teach them it's important to help each other. He said he was setting an example of how to live and serve others. When we try to live like Jesus did, we show others ➡ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.** Let's see what that's like.

Choose one child to act as Jesus and another to be the Copier. All the other kids will line up facing the Copier, with Jesus standing behind them. SAY: **Everyone in line needs to figure out what Jesus is doing and shout it out. But you can only look at the Copier. Copier, you'll copy any motion Jesus does to help everyone know what Jesus is doing.** Help "Jesus" come up with motions such as hopping, patting his or her head, or waving arms. Play several rounds, letting kids switch roles.

ASK: **How did the Copier help you know what Jesus was doing?**

What can you do to help other people know what Jesus does?

SAY: When we live like Jesus did, we show other people what he's like. We can be like the Copier in our game, helping other people know how Jesus came to serve and love us. Even though we can't see Jesus, we have examples to follow of people who love Jesus. These people help us show ➡ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.**



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Have kids bend *Wikki Stix* into the shapes of tools they're familiar with, such as a hammer, nail, or screwdriver. It's okay if shapes are rough. Have kids show what they created and tell what people use it for.

Next have kids bend *Wikki Stix* into the shapes of bowls and towels. (These shapes may be two-dimensional.) While they work, SAY: **Tools aren't just for building! Jesus used a bowl of water and a towel as tools to wash his friends' feet. He did this to show them how he wants people to treat each other. Jesus wants people to be kind to one another and help each other. We can help each other. When we do, we show others that ➡ WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.**

Jesus used tools (have kids hold up their *Wikki Stix* creations) **to help his friends. We can use tools, too.**

Let's shape some things we could use to show others that ➡ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE**, such as a Bible, a mouth, a piece of paper and crayon, or any other ideas you have. Allow time.

ASK: **Tell about your creation and how you could use it to help a friend know Jesus is alive.**

SAY: ➡ **WE BELIEVE JESUS IS ALIVE.** When he lived here on earth, he helped his friends. And even though we can't see him or touch him, he's alive and can give us the tools we need to show others that he's alive!