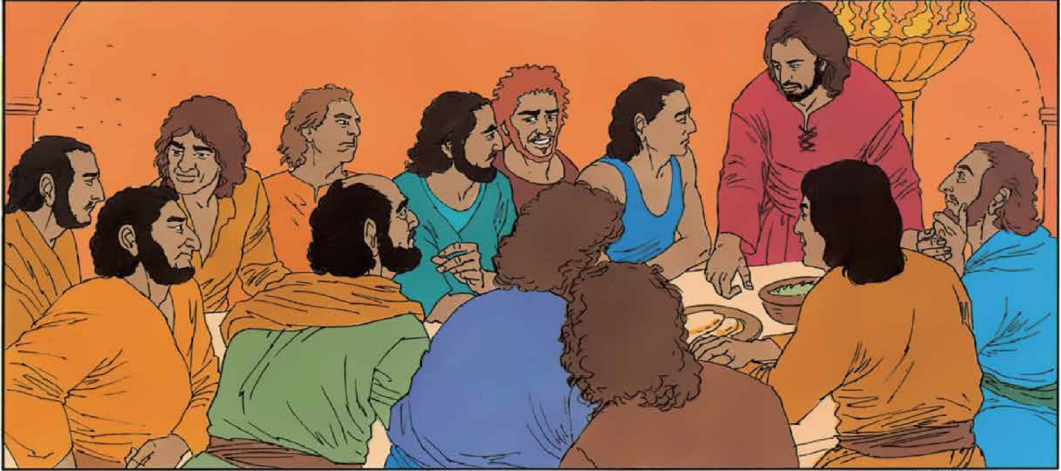


## THE FOOTWASHING

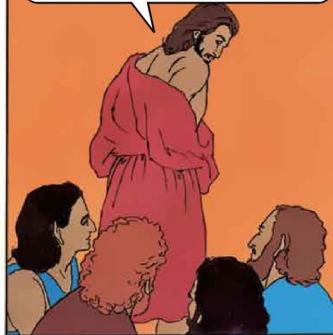
READ FOR YOURSELF: John 13:1-35



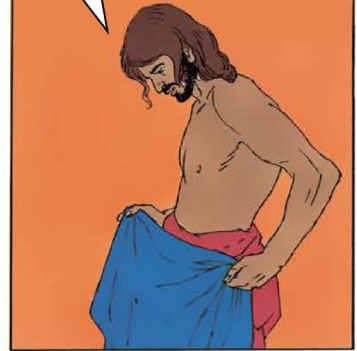
I've looked forward to eating this Passover meal with you before I suffer.



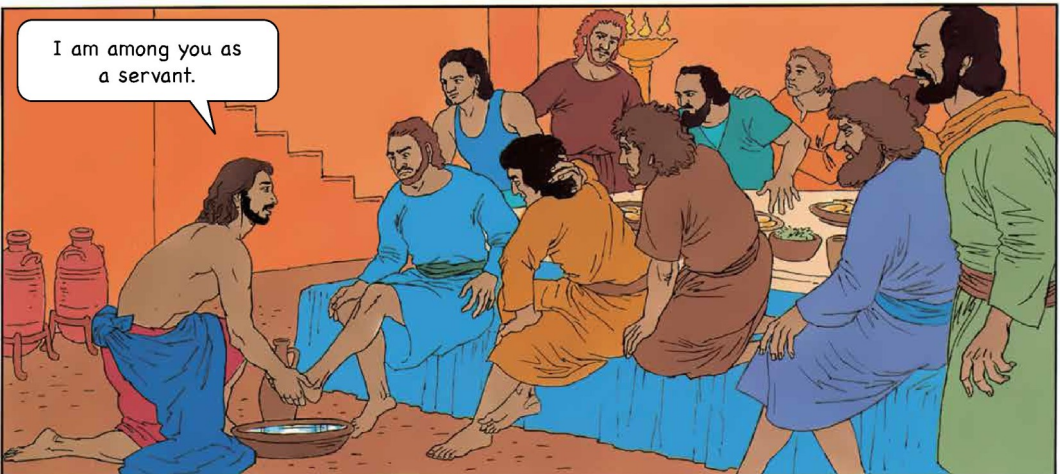
People in authority make others serve them, but it will be the other way round with you.

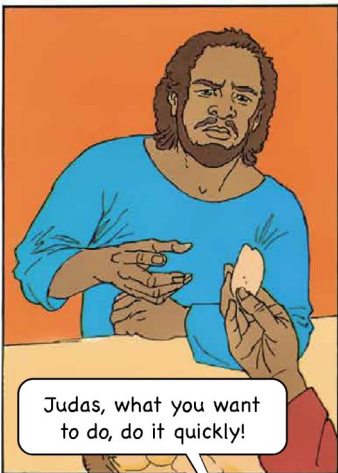
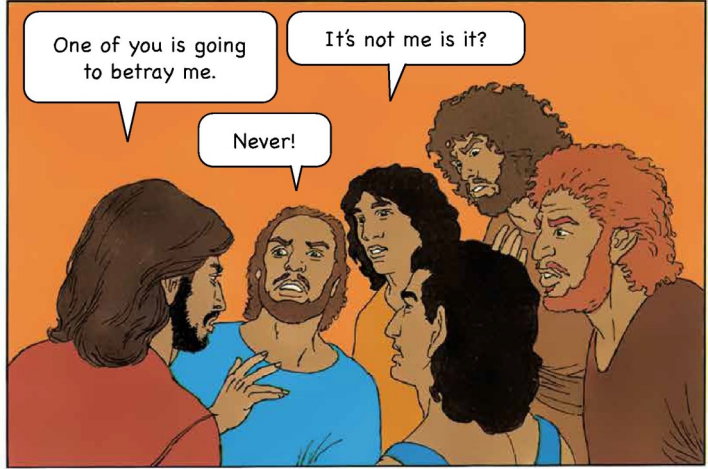
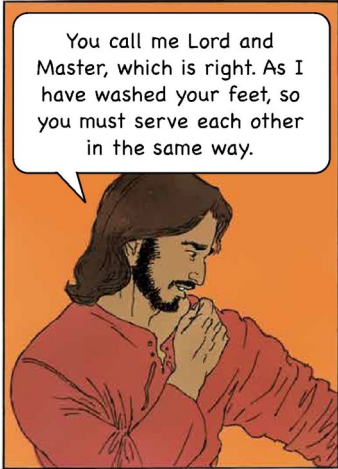
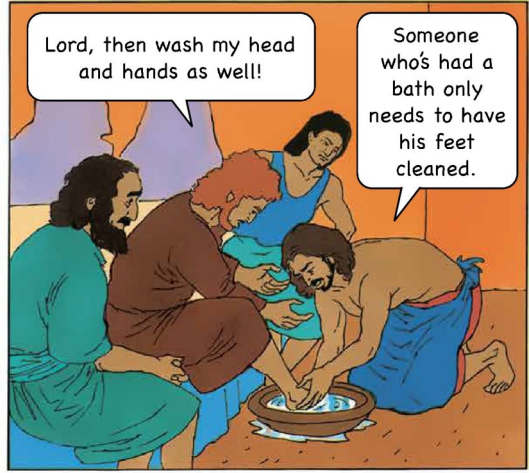


The most serving one of you will be your leader.



I am among you as a servant.





## THE FOOTWASHING

The Lord Jesus knows that He is going to die. He also knows why. But before that He wants to tell His disciples once more what is most important for Him. He does that during His last Passover meal with the twelve.

You can read about those most important things that Jesus said before his death in John 13-17. And what is striking in those chapters? That the Lord Jesus speaks more than 30 times about love. Love is what is the most essential for Jesus: the love of God the Father for his children, the love of Jesus for people, the love that Jesus' followers have for Him and for each other and for all people. The love of God!

Jesus shows what that love means: by washing the feet of the disciples. It is a dirty job that gets done in warm countries by slaves. Jesus, who has just recently been welcomed into Jerusalem as king, humbles Himself now as a servant. Why? He sees others more important than Himself. He gives Himself. **That** is love!

John was so moved by Jesus' love that he was later called the 'apostle of love'. He therefore also calls himself 'the disciple whom Jesus loved'. John begins his story about the arrest of Jesus with these words:

*"It was now the day before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father. He had always loved those in the world who were his own, and He loved them to the very end" (John 13:1).*

## MEMORY VERSE

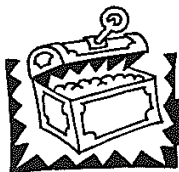
*"And now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."  
(John 13:34)*

## WHO IS JESUS?

### Servant

*"Who is greater, the one who sits down to eat or the one who serves? The one who sits down, of course. But I am among you as one who serves" (Lucas 22:27).*

The disciples are surprised that Jesus washes their feet. Perhaps they have forgotten that the Messiah was already called Servant in the Old Testament. And yes, Jesus also washes the feet of Judas, the man who will betray Him. Jesus says:  
"Love your enemies."  
And He does what He says. On the cross He demonstrated His love by taking away the sins of the whole world. That is why we can be clean and pure before Him. Fantastic, don't you think? That makes us love Him even more!



## YOU HAVE JESUS' LOVE IN YOU

What do you know about love as Jesus intends it? Nothing, unless you discover how much the Lord Jesus loves you. He has made you clean and pure. If you receive love from Him, you too are able to share love with people around you.

How do you receive the love of Jesus? Listen to everything what the Bible says as if Jesus is saying it to you personally. Trust that everything Jesus is doing is also for you. With your whole heart thank Him. You will be filled with His love and you can start sharing it with others.

### TIP

When you talk to Jesus, you can feel warmth in your heart. When you thank you can become enthusiastic, because of His love. This warmth, this enthusiasm and love, you can share. Give yourself to others, as the Lord Jesus has given Himself to you.

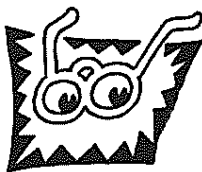
## OLD TREASURES

The Messiah is called king in the Old Testament, but also a servant, a slave. Such opposite titles are difficult to understand as naming one person, until you get to know Jesus.

*“Here is My servant, whom I strengthen - the one I have chosen, with whom I am pleased. I have filled Him with My Spirit, and He will bring justice to every nation” (Isaiah 42:1).*

*“My servant will succeed in His task; He will be highly honoured” (Isaiah 52:13).*

But before the Messiah will be honoured as God's servant, He will be humiliated and despised by people ...



## EXTRA INFORMATION

### Slavery

A slave was the possession of his master. He was not a slave freely. You became a slave if you could not pay back your debts or maybe your parents had been slaves before you.

Slaves could be sold easily to another owner. They did the dirtiest jobs in the house or in the business. On the other hand, sometimes they were given honourable work and some even become managers in business. In Jesus' day there was slavery in all countries of the world. But slaves in Israel had to be released after six years.

The Bible calls people slaves of sin. No matter how good you try to be, you keep doing wrong. You are chained to it. Jesus humbled Himself to become a slave in order to buy us free from slavery. He changes us from slaves who think we have to earn God's grace into children of God who freely receive God's grace!



**DO YOU KNOW...?**

1. How many times does Jesus mention love in John 13-17?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Who usually washes the feet of guests before the meal?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Cross out what Jesus does not do:

- He gets up from the table -*
- takes off his cloak -*
- wraps a towel around His waist -*
- pours water in a basin -*
- washes the hands of the disciples -*
- washes the feet of the disciples -*
- dries them off with the towel around His waist.*

4. By what nickname is the disciple John known?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How does John know that Judas is the betrayer (John 13:25, 26)?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Which important command does Jesus give His disciples?

- a) Have love for one another.
- b) Wash each others' feet.
- c) Do not betray Me.

7. How will people know who are disciples of Jesus (John 13:35)?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**BIBLE READING**

Sun	John 13:1-20
Mon	Luke 22:24-27
Tue	John 13:21-35
Wed	Isaiah 42:1-9
Thu	Psalm 115
Fri	Psalm 116
Sat	Philippians 2:1-11



**ACTION POINT!**

*Write on a piece of paper in large letters:*

LOVE =

Now list the things that are said about love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.

And under the list write:

**Love never ends!**

(Put the piece of paper on a prominent place on the wall.)