

## Week 28

# Jesus Finishes His Work with His Disciples

### John 13–17

### Objectives

Students will...

- Describe how Jesus led by serving His disciples.
- Identify the new commandment Jesus gave to His disciples.
- Explain whom Jesus prayed for and the significance of His prayer.

### Week at a Glance

*To the Teacher:* Pray for your students daily and prayerfully study the verses given above.

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Lesson</b>	Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet	Judas and Peter at the Last Supper	Jesus Comforts His Disciples	Jesus Prays for His Disciples	Show What You Know Quiz
<b>Big Idea</b>	Jesus sets an example of loving and serving by washing the disciples' feet.	Judas betrays Jesus, and Peter denies knowing Jesus. Jesus gives the disciples a new commandment.	Jesus comforts His disciples by telling them about His Father's house.	Jesus prays for His disciples and for us.	Review for and administer this week's quiz.
<b>Videos</b>				<u><a href="#">The Servant King</a></u> (5:38 min.)	
<b>Materials</b>	plastic tub, large bowl, or bucket; warm water; soap; wash cloth; and towel; image of <i>The Last Supper</i>	loaf of unsliced bread, grape juice with vinegar			
<b>Copies</b>	Daily Bible Connection	New Commandment Bookmark			Show What You Know Quiz

**MONDAY**  
**Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet**  
John 13:1–17

**Hook: Discussion and Hands-On Activity**

**Connect to Prior Learning: Discussion**

- Who did we talk about last week who died?  
*Answer:* Lazarus
- Why did Jesus wait until Lazarus died before coming?  
*Answer:* For God's glory, or so that the Son of God would be glorified.
- What are the names of Lazarus's sisters?  
*Answer:* Mary and Martha
- What did Mary do that upset Judas and the other disciples?  
*Answer:* She poured perfume on Jesus's feet and dried it off with her hair.
- Why did she do that?  
*Answer:* To help prepare His body for burial.
- How do you think it felt to Jesus to have someone wash his feet?  
*Answer:* Answers will vary.
- In the summer when you go barefoot or wear sandals all day, do you ever wash your feet at night? How does that feel?  
*Answer:* Answers will vary.

**Connect to Culture: Foot-Washing Activity**

In the day and culture in which Jesus lived, people wore sandals and walked on dusty roads. When they came to someone's home for a meal, a servant would, according to custom, wash the feet of the guests.

Today I've asked \_\_\_\_\_ to help me with a demonstration.

[**Note:** This activity will look different for homeschooling parents than it will for classroom teachers. Parents can choose one child to participate in the demonstration or can wash the feet of each family member. Another option would be to pair up family members and have them wash each other's feet. Classroom teachers, before the demonstration takes place, choose a student (of the same gender) to help you. Instruct the student you've chosen to sit in the chair at the front of the room so that other students can see the demonstration. Both parents and teachers, ask the student to remove his or her shoes and sox, fold up the leg of his or her pants, and put his or her feet in the warm water. Using soap and water, begin washing the student's feet. Be careful not to tickle the student's feet or make this a silly time. Dry the student's feet well. After the washing and drying is complete, the student can put his or her shoes and socks back on. Once the demonstration is over, have that student share with the others how it felt. The student may share that having clean feet is refreshing but that having the teacher kneel at his or her feet and wash them feels quite strange.]

## Teacher's Notes

### Discussion

Let's take a look at John 13 to talk about another foot washing.

**Reading Focus:** What special event is about to take place? What other event is Jesus preparing for?

**Read Aloud:** John 13:1

The Passover Feast, a special once-a-year celebration, is about to take place. The Passover Feast celebrates God's deliverance of Israel from Egyptian slavery. The Jewish people had once been slaves in Egypt, but God delivered them from their oppressors. He struck down the firstborn of the families in Egypt who had not sprinkled the blood of a spotless (unblemished) lamb (or goat) over the doorposts and lintel of their houses.

#### Question for Comprehension:

- Who are Jesus's disciples?  
*Answer:* The twelve men who followed Jesus everywhere and were in special training with Jesus to become like Him.
- What do you think the verse means when it says Jesus "loved them [His disciples] to the very end"—the end of what?  
*Answer:* The end of Jesus's ministry. The end of His life. Jesus is about to die.

**Reading Focus:** Which one of the disciples do you think is going to betray Jesus?

**Read Aloud:** John 13:2

#### Question for Comprehension:

- Where are the disciples?  
*Answer:* At an evening meal.
- Who is planning to betray Jesus?  
*Answer:* Judas Iscariot

#### Connect to Art: *The Last Supper* by Leonardo Da Vinci

The custom in Jesus's day was to recline on low cushions around a low table when eating. This specific meal is often called the Last Supper because it is the last time Jesus is able to eat with his disciples before His death.

[Display an image of Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*—available on Google Slides.]

Here's a painting of the Last Supper by Italian painter and inventor Leonardo da Vinci (1452–1519). Take a close look at the painting and make some observations about the people and the details in the painting.

- Where is Jesus in the painting? Why do you think Da Vinci placed him there?  
*Answer:* Jesus is in the center of the painting. To show that he is the focus of everyone's attention and the most important person in the room.
- Can you find Judas Iscariot, the one who is to betray Jesus?  
*Answer:* Judas is on Jesus's right (the left side of the painting) in the front of the group of men nearest Jesus.

## Teacher's Notes

[Display a zoomed-in section of Da Vinci's *The Last Supper* that shows Judas Iscariot more clearly—available on Google Slides.]

- What is Judas clutching in his right hand? Why do you think Da Vinci portrayed him this way?

*Answer:* Judas is clutching a money purse. He was in charge of the group's money. He was the one who paid for the group's needs and kept an accounting of their funds.

Naturally, then, he would be holding the money purse. Judas's clutching the money purse may also illustrate his greed, which is one of the sins that drove him to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

**Reading Focus:** What does Jesus do that no one would have ever expected?

**Read Aloud:** John 13:3–5

**Question for Comprehension:**

- What is Jesus doing?  
*Answer:* Washing the feet of his disciples
- Who usually washes the feet of the guests who come to dinner?  
*Answer:* A servant

This act occurs just days after Jesus rode into Jerusalem and people shouted “Hosanna” to proclaim that Jesus is God’s Messiah. Yet the Ruler of All is acting like the servant by taking care of all the smelly feet.

**Question for Comprehension:** How do you think the disciples feel when Jesus washes their feet?

*Answer:* Answers may vary, but students may suggest that the disciples felt uncomfortable since usually a slave washed feet. Jesus was the respected teacher they followed, not a slave.

**Reading Focus:** How does Peter respond when Jesus washes his feet?

**Read Aloud:** John 13:6–11 [Perhaps choose one student to read Simon Peter’s words (vv. 6, 8a, and 9) and one to read Jesus’s words (vv. 7, 8b, and 10–11).]

**Question for Comprehension:**

- Why doesn’t Peter want Jesus to wash his feet at first?  
*Answer:* We don’t know for sure what he is thinking, but the idea of God Almighty washing the feet of a lowly fisherman may seem just too crazy.
- Why does Jesus want to wash Peter’s feet?  
*Answer:* Being washed clean by Jesus identifies Peter as one of Jesus’ followers.
- How does Peter respond when Jesus explains that washing would make it clear that Peter identifies with Christ?  
*Answer:* Peter responds by asking for Jesus to wash his head and hands as well. Peter wants to be totally identified with Christ.

**Reading Focus:** Why does Jesus wash his disciples’ feet?

**Read Aloud:** John 13:12–17

## Teacher's Notes

**Question for Comprehension:** What is Jesus's reason? [Direct students' attention to verse 15.]

*Answer:* Jesus is giving His disciples an example. They are to do for others as He has done for them.

Notice what Jesus says in verse 17. Does He say if you *know* these things? Is merely having the knowledge that followers of Jesus should serve in even the lowest, smelliest ways—is that enough? No! If you *know*, then you should *do*! Knowledge should result in action, or else it is useless.

**Question for Comprehension:** What does verse 17 say will happen to those who *do* these kinds of acts of service for others?

*Answer:* They will be blessed.

The one who will be blessed is the one who does acts of service. Jesus sets an example that we should follow.

## Discovery Words

1. Judas **betrayed** Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.  
*betray*—to give information about someone to an enemy
2. The thief continued to **deny** that he stole the money.  
*deny*—to refuse to admit the truth
3. I have decided to become a **disciple** of Jesus.  
*disciple*—*follower* who believes and learns from the leader
4. **Jesus's disciples** believed He was sent by God.  
*Jesus's disciples*—The twelve men who follow Jesus everywhere and were in special training with Jesus to become like Him: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Thaddeus, Bartholomew, Thomas, James the Younger, Matthew, Simon the zealot, Judas Iscariot.

**TUESDAY**  
**Judas and Peter at the Last Supper**  
John 13:18–38

**Discussion**

**Connect to Prior Learning:**

- What did we learn yesterday that Jesus did for his disciples?  
*Answer:* He washed their feet.
- Why did Jesus wash their feet?  
*Answer:* To give them an example that the person who is the greatest should be servant to all the rest
- Where were the disciples when Jesus did this?  
*Answer:* At a meal—the Last Supper

What we are going to talk about today also happened at the Last Supper.

**Reading Focus:** What terrible thing happens at the Last Supper?

**Read Aloud:** John 13:18–20

**Question for Comprehension:** What does Jesus mean in verse 18 when He says that “one who shared my bread has turned against me”?<sup>1</sup>

*Answer:* He means that someone eating food with Him is not a true friend and is going to turn against Him.

**Reading Focus:** What else does Jesus say about this person who is going to turn against Him?

**Read Aloud:** John 13:21

**Question for Comprehension:** How do you think it would have felt to be one of the twelve closest followers when Jesus said, “One of you is going to hand me over to my enemies”?

*Answer:* Answers will vary.

**Reading Focus:** How do the disciples respond to Jesus’s words?

**Read Aloud:** John 13:22–25

Jesus loved all His disciples, but John (who was writing this account) was especially close to Jesus.

**Reading Focus:** How does Jesus answer His disciples?

**Read Aloud:** John 13:26–27

Judas has already decided to betray Jesus. Now Jesus is calling him out, letting Judas know that Jesus knows what he will do.

**Reading Focus:** How do the other disciples take this news?

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## Teacher's Notes

### Read Aloud: John 13:27b–30

Wow! Even though Jesus says He will hand the bread to the one who will betray Him, the other disciples still don't get it. Even when Judas leaves, they think he is going to go take some money to the poor. Jesus says Judas will betray Him, but His words don't fit the story that is playing in the disciples' head. They believe Jesus is about to become the King on earth, so the idea of His being betrayed doesn't make sense to them. It's like they have ears that do not hear and eyes that do not see.

**Reading Focus:** What does Jesus say to the rest of His disciples once Judas leaves?

**Read Aloud:** John 13:31–38 [Perhaps have the class or a single student read Peter's verses while you (the teacher) read Jesus's verses.]

Jesus says that where He is going His disciples cannot yet follow. They will follow Him later.

### Question for Comprehension:

- What place is Jesus talking about in these verses?  
*Answer:* He is talking about His death and going to see His Father in heaven.
- What does Peter say he is ready to do for Christ?  
*Answer:* Peter says he is ready to die for Jesus.
- What does Jesus tell Peter he will do three times?  
*Answer:* He says that three times Peter will deny that he even knows Jesus.

**Reading Focus:** What new commandment does Jesus give the disciples?

**Reread Aloud:** John 13:34–35

### Question for Comprehension:

- What is the new commandment?  
*Answer:* To love one another like Jesus loves us.
- How does Jesus love us?  
*Answer:* He serves us; He sacrifices Himself for us; He dies for us.
- What does this kind of love for others show people?  
*Answer:* That we are disciples (followers) of Jesus.

## Wrap Up: Discussion

- How can we obey this new command to love others like Jesus has loved us?
- Do any of us naturally want to love others in ways that require personal sacrifice?
- Where would you get the power to love others like Jesus?

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Jesus Comforts His Disciples**  
John 14:1–14

**Discussion**

**Connect to Prior Learning:**

- Who were the two disciples we learned more about yesterday?  
*Answer:* Judas and Peter
- What is Judas going to do?  
*Answer:* He is going to betray Christ by turning Him over to those who want to kill Him.
- What is Peter going to do?  
*Answer:* He is going to deny three times that he ever knew Christ

Jesus has just washed the feet of two men who have followed Him for three years. One will betray Him and one will deny him that very night.

Jesus knows what is going to happen. He knows this meal is His last with these men. They think He will be made king, but instead He is going to be killed. Instead of the disciples giving comfort to Jesus—He gives comfort to them.

**Reading Focus:** What does Jesus tell them?

**Read Aloud:** John 14:1–4

**Question for Comprehension:** In your own words, explain what Jesus told the eleven remaining disciples.

*Answer:* God the Father has a big house with lots of rooms. Jesus is going there to get a place ready for them. Jesus will come back one day to get the disciples and take them to be with him.

Jesus concludes His amazing explanation of what He is going to do by saying, “You know the way to the place where I am going.”

**Reading Focus:** Do the disciples agree with Jesus’s conclusion or not?

**Read Aloud:** John 14:5–7

**Questions for Comprehension:**

- Does Thomas know where Jesus is going or how to get there?  
*Answer:* No.
- Jesus is going to God’s big house. Jesus has said that there is only one way to get there. Who is the way?  
*Answer:* Jesus



## Teacher's Notes

Yes. Jesus is the way to God. He is the only Truth. Satan used lies to get Adam and Eve to take the “please yourself” path, which lead them (and leads all of us) to death. But Jesus is *Life*—the only way to get off the path of death is to trust Jesus and the work that He did on the cross. He alone can connect us with (reconcile us to) God.

**Reading Focus:** What was Philip confused about?

**Read Aloud:** John 14:8–14

**Question for Comprehension:** What was Philip confused about?

*Answer:* He didn't understand that Jesus *is* God.

Remember, God is three persons in one, a trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. When Jesus was on earth, people were seeing God. Jesus showed them (and shows us) what God is like.

**Question for Comprehension:**

- What works has Jesus done that show He is one with the Father?

*Answer:* He has performed miracles that no human could do.

- What does Jesus say His disciples will do?

*Answer:* They will do even greater works.

Jesus says to His disciples, “You may ask me for anything in my Name. I will do it.” Jesus's words do not mean that He is a heavenly vending machine. Just insert a prayer for whatever you want and, voila, He has to serve you. Asking in His name means asking for things that line up with who He is as the righteous Son of God and with His plans for our life. He wants us to ask. He wants us to do great things—not for ourselves, but for Him.

Even though Jesus is not far from His own death, He gives comfort to His disciples by talking about three topics:

1. The heaven to come (God's big house)
2. The way to God (Jesus is the way)
3. The great things they will do for God in days to come

# THURSDAY

## Jesus Prays

John 17

### Discussion

#### Connect to Prior Learning:

- What was Jesus doing when He talked to His disciples about God's big house, the way to get there, and the good work they would do?  
*Answer:* He was comforting them.
- Why did the disciples need comfort?  
*Answer:* They had put their hope in Jesus thinking He was about to set up His kingdom on earth. When Jesus dies they will be crushed because they will think their hope is gone.

Jesus is about to face the toughest challenge anyone has ever faced. What He does is exactly what we should do with every challenge we face.

**Reading Focus:** What does Jesus do when faced incredible trouble?

**Read Aloud:** John 17:1

#### Question for Comprehension:

- What does Jesus do when faced incredible trouble?  
*Answer:* He prays.
- Does Jesus bow His head and close His eyes to pray?  
*Answer:* No
- What does He do instead?  
*Answer:* He looks up toward heaven.
- Why do we often bow our heads and close our eyes to pray?  
*Answer:* Doing so keeps us from being distracted by other people or things we might see while we are praying.
- Does God hear our prayers any differently if our eyes are open or closed?  
*Answer:* No

**Reading Focus:** Whom does Jesus pray for first? For what is He asking God?

**Reread:** John 17:1

#### Question for Comprehension:

- What does Jesus mean by "the time has come"?  
*Answer:* Jesus is about to end His three years of ministry and lay down His life.
- What does Jesus ask God to do?  
*Answer:* Bring glory to Him, the Son.
- Why does Jesus the Son want glory?  
*Answer:* To give it all back to God

## Teacher's Notes

Kingly glory comes with a crown and with people bowing down to honor their ruler, but Jesus's glory comes through a brutal death. Why? Defeating death so that we can have life is far more glorious than being crowned as an earthly king.

**Reading Focus:** What does God give Jesus? What does Jesus give to those followers whom God has given Him?

**Read Aloud:** John 17:2–4

### Question for Comprehension:

- What does God give Jesus?  
*Answer:* All authority
- What does Jesus give to those followers whom God has given Him?  
*Answer:* Eternal life
- According to Jesus's prayer, what is eternal life?  
*Answer:* Knowing God and Jesus. (*Know* here is not "to know about" but "to know personally"—to be adopted into His family.)

**Reading Focus:** The disciples were thinking Jesus would be glorified and become king on earth. But that is not what Jesus is thinking. What does Jesus ask for?

**Read Aloud:** John 17:5

### Question for Comprehension:

*Answer:* Jesus asks to receive again the glory He had with God before the world began. That's a lot higher than ruling one little nation.

**Reading Focus:** Who gave each disciple to Jesus?

**Read Aloud:** John 17:6–8

### Question for Comprehension:

*Answer:* God the Father

**Reading Focus:** What has Jesus been doing while with His disciples?

**Read Aloud:** John 17:12

### Questions for Comprehension:

- What has Jesus been doing while with His disciples?  
*Answer:* He has been keeping them safe, guarding them.
- Which disciple is headed for ruin? Why?  
*Answer:* Judas. He has chosen to betray Jesus

Jesus goes on to tell the Father, "I am coming to You now." Clearly Jesus knows He is going to die soon. He asks God to give the disciples the same joy that He has. Jesus doesn't pray for just His twelve disciples.

**Reading Focus:** Who else does Jesus pray for?

**Read Aloud:** John 17:20

## Teacher's Notes

**Question for Comprehension:** Who else does Jesus pray for?

*Answer:* Jesus prays for everyone who will believe in Him because of the message His followers share with them.

Jesus asks God to make all those who follow Him close and united just as God the Father and God the Son are united. Later Jesus prayed . . .

**Read Aloud:** John 17:24–26

Jesus wants us to be with him where He is. For us to be with Him, we have to leave earth by death unless Jesus comes back to take us home while we are alive. We think of death as something sad—and it is, in a sense, because the person who dies is presently separated from us. But Jesus is glad—and we can be too—when one of His followers comes home to heaven because He wants us to be with Him.

Sometimes on earth it's easy to feel unwanted or unloved—but Jesus loves his disciples. They were not always lovable. They argued a lot about who was most important. They were still not aware that Jesus is about to be killed. Yet—He loved them because He chose to. He chooses to love us as well and wants us to be one with him—connected to Him now because we believe in Him and connected to Him forever once we die.

## Video

View [The Servant King](#) video (5:38 min.).

**FRIDAY**  
**Show What You Know (Key)**

**Multiple Choice:** Choose the letter that best answers the question and write it in the blank.

\_\_\_**A**\_\_\_ 1. What unusual thing did Jesus do while He and the disciples were at dinner together?

- A. He washed their feet.                      B. He healed the blind man.                      C. He cooked the meal.

\_\_\_**C**\_\_\_ 2. Which disciple did not want Jesus to wash His feet?

- A. Andrew    B. Judas    C. Peter

\_\_\_**B**\_\_\_ 3. What did Jesus say was the reason He chose to wash His disciples' feet?

- A. To humble them                                      B. To give them an example of serving others                                      C. To make their feet smell better

\_\_\_**C**\_\_\_ 4. What is the new commandment Jesus gave His disciples before He died?

- A. To travel around the world telling His message to others                      B. To study His Word every day                      C. To love one another

\_\_\_**A**\_\_\_ 5. What was Mary preparing Jesus's body for when she washed His feet?

- A. Burial    B. Feast    C. Baptism

\_\_\_**A**\_\_\_ 6. The disciples thought Jesus was going to be king. What did Jesus know was going to happen?

- A. He would be killed.                                      B. He would be sent to another country.                                      C. He would continue healing people.

\_\_\_**B**\_\_\_ 7. Jesus told His disciples that one of them would betray Him to His enemies. To whom was He referring?

- A. Philip    B. Judas    C. Matthew

\_\_\_**B**\_\_\_ 8. About which disciple did Jesus say that before the rooster crowed he would deny Jesus three times?

- A. Andrew    B. Peter    C. James

\_\_\_**A**\_\_\_ 9. Jesus comforted His disciples by reminding them that God had sent Him and by telling them of the many rooms He was preparing for them. Where are these rooms?

- A. In God the Father's house                      B. In the temple                      C. In Jerusalem

## Teacher's Notes

B 10. Whom else did Jesus pray for in addition to His twelve disciples?

- A. Those who did not experience a miracle.      B. Those who would believe in Him even though they did not see Him on earth.      C. Those who did not have Jesus wash their feet.

D 11. When Jesus prayed, He said that He wanted us to be with Him where He was. What does His statement tell us?

- A. Jesus wants us close.      B. The death of someone who knows Jesus is an answer to Jesus's prayer.      C. Those who know Jesus as Savior go to be with Him when they die on earth.      D. All of the above.

**Short Answer:** Write your answer to the question on the lines provided.

12. Who is someone you can serve this weekend? What can you do to serve them?

Answers will vary. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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