

### 3. Jesus Washes Feet (John 13:1-17)



“If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other’s feet.” (John 13:14)

#### Before You Teach

As our Bible story begins, Jesus knew he would not be with the disciples long. So he performed an act of service for them--foot washing--something servants usually did when a person came in from walking on dusty roads in sandals. He said it was an example of how they should serve others when he was gone.

When it was Simon Peter’s turn to have his feet washed, Peter resisted, saying that Jesus would never wash his feet. Jesus explained that refusing the washing would prove that Peter was not one of Jesus’ own. Peter responds by enthusiastically agreeing to the washing and even offering up his head and hands, but Jesus said that most of the disciples were clean and need only wash their feet. Custom of the time held that those who had bathed needed only to have their feet washed upon entering a home. This is also possibly a suggestion that the disciples are clean because of baptism.

## EXPLORE

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#### Sacred Conversations

- Encourage to sit with you
- Demonstrate a listening position for the children.
- Ask wondering questions.

**ASK:** I wonder:

- How do you feel when you have washed?
  - What are some things that you do for guests when they enter your house?
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#### Hear and See the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*—John 13:1-17).

**SAY:** Today, we’re exploring a story about a time when Jesus served the disciples.

**ASK:** How can you serve like Jesus?

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#### Interact with the Bible Story

- Assign parts and act out “Jesus Washes Feet” (Bible Story Sheets--Session 3).
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#### A—Puzzlers (Activity Sheets)

- Give each child a copy of "Whose Feet?" (Activity Sheets—p. 7). Let them complete the puzzle.
- Allow them to work on the "In the Story" activity (Activity Sheets—p. 8).

**SAY:** Our Bible story for today reminds us to serve others as Jesus did.

#### B- Scented Hand Soap (Optional Craft)

**SAY:** Though washing feet is not a custom in our community, washing our hands is something we do often. Let's make some soap we can use as a reminder of the Bible story.

- Give each child an empty bottle, and have them add about 3/4 of a cup of water to the bottle. Then have each child add about 1/4 cup of the castile soap to the bottle. Help them add about 20 drops of your chosen essential oil for scent. Replace the bottle pump/lid. Shake well.
- Give each child a copy of "Soap Label" (Leader Guide--p. 24), and have them choose a label shape they like. Then let them write the scent followed by the words *Hand Soap* on the label. Let the children decorate the label, cut it out, and tape it to the soap bottle.

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#### Say the Bible Verse

- Review the scripture of the month John 13:14
- Review/practice the sign language and verse.

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#### At Home with God - Family Faithline Activity

- This week, we are learning about Jesus washing feet in John 13:1-17. Read this story together in the Deep Blue Kids Bible.
- Wonder together:
  - What would it be like to live in a community where having a servant wash your feet was an every day thing?
  - What do you think it was like to have your feet washed by Jesus?
  - When has someone whom you admired done something special for you?

Take time to remember what Jesus did for His disciples and the example he set for us by having a family foot washing in which each person takes a turn washing another's feet. As an alternative, you may wash one another's hands if that is more comfortable.

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(John 13:14)

#### Soap Label

