

Do this in remembrance of me. (Luke 22:19c)

## Jesus Washes Feet – John 13:1-17

### Prepare to Lead

#### Activities At-a-Glance

##### GATHER TOGETHER

- Paint a Footprint (Art)
- Find the Bible Verse (Puzzle)
- Ways to Be a Servant (Reflection)
- Washing Feet (Journaling)

##### EXPERIENCE WONDER

- Serving Shoes (Game)
- Personal Rituals (Spiritual Exploration)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activities)

##### WONDER MORE

- Washing Table (Sensory)
- Messy Paint (Art)
- Remember the Story (Game)
- Service Project Brainstorm (Activity)

#### Supplies At-a-Glance

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|------------------------|--|
| <i>crayons</i>         | <i>plastic table covering</i>              |
| <i>colored pencils</i> | <i>dolls or small toys</i>                 |
| <i>markers</i>         | <i>travel-size soap</i>                    |
| <i>scissors</i>        | <i>pitchers</i>                            |
| <i>watercolors</i>     | <i>plastic containers in various sizes</i> |
| <i>paintbrushes</i>    | <i>fingerpaints</i>                        |
| <i>small cups</i>      | <i>construction paper</i>                  |
| <i>paper</i>           | <i>wipes</i>                               |
| <i>cardstock</i>       | <i>smocks</i>                              |
| <i>small bowls</i>     | <i>butcher paper</i>                       |
| <i>towels</i>          |  |

#### Suggested Books

- Easter Love Letters from God: Bible Stories* by Glenys Nellist
- Hands Say Love* by George Shannon

### Tips for the Leader

- Welcome to *Celebrate Wonder*! Whether you are new to this program, or you have been using it for some time, there is much to explore as you embark on a faith journey with children. In this section, you will find tips for particular sessions, and the *Celebrate Wonder* line as a whole.
- This page also provides you with a session outline of activities and supply list.
- Activities that are consistent in each session, such as Gather Together, Share a Story, Wonder with Me, Examine the Bible Verse, and Go in Peace are not included in this outline. Each activity in the outline requires supplies that are not included in your *Celebrate Wonder Kit*.
- As you prepare to lead, be sure to prepare any items you are using from the Class Pack.

## Prepare to Wonder

### Faith Word: REMEMBER

Today we are exploring the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. As Jesus and his disciples are having a meal, Jesus kneels down and begins to wash the feet of his friends. This act typically is something done by a servant, so the disciples are surprised. Peter says to Jesus, "No! You will never wash my feet!" This is a strong response. But Jesus, who soon will be led to his death, has a purpose behind his actions.

By washing his disciples' feet, Jesus wants to make it clear to the disciples that in God's world, all are created equal. The servant and the master are loved equally by God and treated the same. Jesus wants his friends to remember him by his example of serving others, especially those society says should serve him instead. We, too, can serve like Jesus. This story reminds us of Jesus' life and of who we are called to be as his disciples.

Many churches use this story during Lent or Holy Week and hold a foot-washing service. When we participate in this ritual, we remember Jesus and answer his call to follow his example. Children might see this practice as a yucky job and not as something we do today. Try comparing this practice with other acts of service, such as helping a neighbor take out the trash, caring for someone who is sick, or helping a friend clean up a spill. Through this story we can help children know and see that they are serving like Jesus when they do unexpected acts of love.

### Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, pay attention to your feet or hands. At the end of the day or when you bathe, wash your feet or hands three times. As you wash, say the Bible verse, "Do this in remembrance of me." Think about all the places your feet or hands have been. Rejoice in knowing you have helped serve. You are an example of Jesus.

# Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

## Paint a Footprint – Preschool

**Supplies:** Reproducible Kids' Book, cardstock, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, small cups or bowls, smocks (optional)

**Prepare Ahead:** Photocopy "Painting a Footprint" (Reproducible 1A) on to cardstock for each preschooler. Fill small cups or bowls with water.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Painting a Footprint" and set up the painting supplies.

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, Jesus washes the disciples' feet.

**ASK:** What do your feet look like?

- Encourage children to paint their footprint however they would like.

## Find the Bible Verse – Younger Elementary

**Supplies:** Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

**Prepare Ahead:** Photocopy "Find the Bible Verse" (Reproducible 1B) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Find the Bible Verse."

**SAY:** We have a new Bible verse this month. Let's see if we can solve the puzzle to learn what it is!

- Encourage children to complete and color the page.

## Ways to Be a Servant – Older Elementary

**Supplies:** Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, colored pencils or markers

**Prepare Ahead:** Photocopy "Ways to Be a Servant" (Reproducible 1C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Ways to Be a Servant."

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, Jesus teaches the disciples that it is good to serve others.

**ASK:** What are some ways that you can be a servant to others?

- Encourage children to write or draw their response on the page.
- Invite willing volunteers to share.

## Washing Feet – All Ages

*Supplies:* Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

*Prepare Ahead:* Photocopy "Washing Feet" (Reproducible 1D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Washing Feet."

**SAY:** Jesus washed his friends' feet because he loved them and wanted to serve them.

**ASK:** Who is someone you love?

- Encourage children to write or draw about how they can help or serve someone they love.

## Come Together

*Supplies:* Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, purple cloth, battery-operated candle, a sandal or pair of sandals

*Prepare Ahead:* Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a purple cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22) to use later in the session. Place the sandals inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

**SAY:** We are in the special season of Lent.

**ASK:** What do you know about Lent? Do you know what Bible stories we remember during Lent?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Jesus Washes Feet" (pp. 260-261) from the storybook or read John 13:1-18 from a CEB Bible.

**PRAY:** Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus as an example for us. Amen.

## Wonder Time

### Share a Story

*Supplies:* Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 1 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

**WONDER:** What do you remember most about the story?

## Interactive Bible Story

*Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book*

*Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 1F–1G).*

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

**WONDER:** How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus washed their feet?

## Wonder with Me

*Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors*

*Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 11 & 14).*

*Locate and cut out the Unit 1 story figures (Class Pack—p. 6) if you haven't already.*

*Display the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 22).*

**SAY:** Today's Faith Word is *remember*.

- Show the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster and invite the children to wonder about the image.

**SAY:** The definition of *remember* is to think about and not forget our faith.

**ASK:** What helps you remember things?

- Have a child place the bowl and towel on the Wonder Mat.

**WONDER** together:

- How do you remember God loves you?
  - What is something you do over and over that helps you remember God?
  - What do you know about your faith?
  - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal a sandal.

**WONDER:** How does a sandal help you remember our Bible story today?

## Experience Wonder

### Serving Shoes – All Ages

- Have the children stand in a circle and look at one another's shoes.
- Tell the children to take off both shoes and put them in a pile, then split the children into pairs.

**SAY:** Jesus' friends had to take their sandals off to have their feet washed. Then they had to find their sandals again! We aren't going to wash our feet, but we do need to find our shoes and put them on again.

- Have each pair of children take turns finding their partner's shoes and helping put them on. No talking! One child can hold up a shoe; the other child can nod yes or no if it is the correct shoe. When the correct shoes are found, the child must serve the other partner by putting on his or her shoes.

**WONDER:** How did it feel to serve your partners by finding their shoes and helping them put their shoes on? How can helping others remind you of Jesus?

## Personal Rituals – All Ages

*Supplies: paper, pencils*

**ASK:** Do you have special faith activities that you do on your own?

**SAY:** Something we do over and over again is sometimes called a ritual. We are going to work on developing rituals to show love to others, as Jesus did. This will help us remember how much Jesus loved others.

- Distribute paper and pencils, and have the children write responses to the following questions.

**ASK:** What makes you feel close to God? How can you show love to others?

- After the children have answered the questions, have them read their answers aloud. Work together as a class to use each child's response to help the child find a way to develop her or his own unique ritual.

*Tip: Younger children may need extra help thinking of activities. Have children work in groups; help children who are shy or who are having trouble thinking of ideas.*

## Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

*Supplies: CEB Bibles*

**SAY:** Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Luke 22:19c. Let's find it in our Bibles.

**ASK:** Is Luke in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Luke located in the New Testament? (*third book*) In what chapter of Luke is our verse located? (*22*) What is the verse number? (*19*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15).  
Read the verse together.

**SAY:** Our Bible verse today comes from another version of our Bible story.

**ASK:** How is this story in Luke similar to the story we read today? How is it different?

## Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

*Supplies:* copies of the Unit 1 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book, 1F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Easter Love Letters from God: Bible Stories by Glenys Nellist, Hands Say Love by George Shannon, quiet toys and soft items, small bowls and towels, paper, crayons,

*Prepare Ahead:* Photocopy the Unit 1 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 1F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw a favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Encourage children to retell the story with the bowls and towels and to act out washing one another's feet.

*Tip:* All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

## Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

### Preschool – Washing Table

*Supplies:* plastic table covering, several plastic containers, dolls, bars of sample-size soap, pitchers, towels, water

*Prepare Ahead:* Fill plastic containers halfway with water.

- Have the children wash the dolls with the soap, rinse them with the pitcher of water, and dry the dolls when they are done.
- Let the children play as long as time allows.

**WONDER:** What would you say to Jesus if he came to wash your feet?

*Tip:* Have plastic aprons available for the children to help keep clothes dry.

### Early Elementary – Messy Paint

*Supplies:* finger paint, construction paper, smocks, hand wipes

**SAY:** Sometimes we get messy. People in Bible times wore sandals, and their feet got really dirty.

**WONDER:** Can you think of a time when you got messy?

**SAY:** Let's use our hands to get a little messy. We are going to use finger paint to create a picture of Jesus washing the disciples' feet or to write the Bible verse.

- Give each child a smock to put on and a piece of thick paper.
- Invite the children to use the finger paint to create a picture or to write.
- When the children have completed their art, use hand wipes to clean their hands.
- Set the pictures aside to dry.

## Older Elementary – Remember the Story

**Supplies:** *Reproducible Kids’ Book, scissors, bowl*

**Prepare Ahead:** *Photocopy “Remember the Story” (Reproducible 1E). Cut apart the clues, put them in a bowl, and mix them up.*

**SAY:** Our focus today is on remembering our faith through rituals. Let’s see how well you remember the ritual we learned about today.

- Draw a clue from the bowl, read it, and let the children call out the answer. Correct them or provide helpful hints as necessary. (Answers, in order on the page: Passover, meal, God, towel, feet, Simon Peter, feet, example)

## Intergenerational – Service Project Brainstorm

**Supplies:** *large pieces of butcher paper, markers, various art supplies (optional)*

- Divide the participants into groups of three or four. Give each group a large piece of paper, markers, and other art supplies, if using.

**SAY:** In our Bible story today, Jesus showed us how to be a servant by washing the disciples’ feet.

**SAY:** Foot washing at home is not a common practice anymore, but there are many other ways we can serve our family, friends, and community.

**ASK:** How can we serve others?

**SAY:** Together with your group, think of ways to serve in each of these categories.

- Give the groups time to brainstorm.
- Invite groups to share their ideas.
- Consider putting your plan in action. Choose one or more of the service project ideas and make a plan as a group to carry out that idea.



# Go in Peace

## Spiritual Practice – Exploring Ritual Through Remembrance

*Supplies:* bowl of water, cup or ladle, towel

**SAY:** A spiritual practice is something we do over and over again that helps remind us of God’s love and brings us closer to God.

- Gather the children around the small bowl and pitcher.

**SAY:** I am going to pour water on your hands as you close your eyes and thank God for loving you. Each time you wash your hands this week, you can remember that God loves you and wants you to serve others.

- Guide the children through the spiritual practice, allowing each child to come up and have water poured on their hands.
- Bless each child as they come up.

**SAY:** Jesus loves you, and you are a blessing.

**PRAY:** God, show us how to serve others every day. Amen.

## Family Spiritual Practice

*Supplies:* Reproducible Kids’ Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

*Prepare Ahead:* Photocopy “Family Celebration Letter” (p. 128) for each child.

**SAY:** Let’s look at the Take-Home Pages for today (Reproducibles 1F–1G). Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages and the Family Celebration Letter home with each child.