



FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of March 13, 2022: John 13:1-17, 33-35

Memory Verse

John 13:1: *"Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father."*

Craft Corner

Coloring with your Feet

(all ages): *You will need a large piece of white paper, taped to the floor; crayons or markers* Say: "When Jesus was alive it was important to wash people's feet because they wore sandals and their feet would get dusty. You are wearing socks so your feet stay a little cleaner which is good because you will want clean feet for this activity." Tape a large piece of paper to the floor. Have the kids try to hold a crayon in between their toes to color on the paper on the floor. It might be easier if they sit in a chair and try. Say, "Helping others can be difficult sometimes like coloring with your feet, but you can do it!"

The Story: New Life for Dry Bones

There is a story in the bible about Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. He did it when he was having supper with them. He took a bowl, full of water and tied a towel round his waist. Then he went around to the disciples one by one, got them to take off their sandals, and washed their feet.

Peter told Jesus that he didn't want him to wash his feet, but Jesus told Peter that he would understand later why his feet should be washed, and then Peter let Jesus wash his feet too.



In hot countries, when people wear sandals, their feet get dirty from the dusty roads. In some houses people's feet were washed by servants before they sat down to a meal. It would be a bit like someone saying to us, "Take your muddy boots off before you come in". My mom used to say that to me. Maybe yours does too. Sometimes if my socks were wet and my feet were mucky my mom would wash my feet too.

Jesus told his disciples when he was washing their feet

Activity:

Washing (all ages)

You will need: toys with feet, basins of water, towels (baby wipes might be easier for younger children).

Simply let the children wash the feet of the toys as you introduce this week's story.

Talk about the story and Jesus washing the feet of the disciples. Talk about why feet were usually washed in Jesus' time and who usually washed them as described in the children's story. Talk about Jesus being like a servant to his disciples by washing their feet. Discuss ways that they could serve others today when washing people's feet is not a usual occurrence: get them to think about what they could do for others to show Jesus' love.

All Age Prayer:

Clean feet, dirty feet,
fresh feet, smelly feet,
big feet, small feet,
healthy feet, sore feet.
All of these, O God,
you ask us to wash,
not to make them clean but
rather to show love. So, help
us to obey. Amen.

that they ought to do things for each other. None of them was more important than another. They needed to look after each other as he was looking after them.

In some churches on the Thursday of Holy Week (Maundy Thursday) the minister washes the feet of some of the members of the congregation. This is to remind people of what Jesus did and how they should care for each other.

Here's part of a poem about washing feet:

He was only a little lad was Leonard – well, he was five, nearly, and he had a big brother Dean, who was eight, and they both lived around the corner from me.

It was Maundy Thursday,
and a few of us were celebrating it in a friend's flat;
and we'd got to the bit in the story
where Jesus washed the disciples' feet.

We sometimes acted things out.

We said we did it to
help the children understand the story,
but most of the grown-ups liked doing it too.

The washing-up bowl was full of warm water
and soapy bubbles,
and Leonard had been invited
to wash his brother's feet.

It was a task undertaken with utter seriousness
and with laughter and infectious joy.

Wash his feet?

Soap him up to the knees more like!
Cup and splash the water over his ankles,
and tickle him under his toes.
Bath-time had nothing on this!

Leonard had bubbles running in all directions
and lather running back down his arms
into his turned-up sleeves.

And he followed up the washing
with a thorough drying, with fluffy towels.
All the way down from the knees to the toes.