

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

## **Jesus Washes Feet – John 13:1-17**

### **Prepare to Wonder**

Today we are exploring the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. As Jesus and his disciples are having a meal, Jesus does something unexpected. He 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. He wants his friends to remember him by his example of serving others.

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 something we don't 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**

Jesus poured water on the disciples' feet to teach them they must serve as servants to spread God's love. Go to a sink and close your eyes as you wash your hands. Think of one way you can serve others. Through your one action of service, you become a servant, like Jesus, and continue the work that he started. Pray for the children in your class, that they will feel God's love and want to serve as Jesus did.

## Welcome to Wonder

*Prepare Ahead:* As a family, create a Wonder Table. Find a small table or area in your home. On the table, place a candle, a plant or flower, and any other special items you want to include.

*Tip:* Use this space while engaging in the lesson.

- Gather together as a family near your Wonder Table.

### WONDER together

- When you think of the word *remember*, what do you think of?
- What helps you remember things?

### CONTINUE to wonder

- What is something you do over and over that helps you remember God?
- How do you remember God loves you?

### PRAY together

- Dear God, thank you for giving us ways to remember you. Amen.

### SING together

- Use your Annual Music CD or download the song, "Remember Your Love" (<https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Annual-Music>).
- Play the song, "Remember Your Love."
- Sing and celebrate.

## Wonder with Me

*Supplies:* CEB Bible, Wonder Cube (Digital Class Pack), optional: Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook

### READ the Bible story

- Read the Bible story: John 13:1-17.
- Roll the Wonder Cube. Take time to answer a few of the questions.

### WATCH the Bible story

- Visit <https://www.cokesbury.com/Celebrate-Wonder-Video> to download and watch today's Bible story, or watch on [www.amplifymedia.com](http://www.amplifymedia.com).

### **SHARE the Faith Word**

- Faith Word: REMEMBER—The definition of *remember* is to think about and not forget.
- Jesus wanted his friends to remember him and to serve others.

**WONDER:** How can you remember to serve others?

### **Experience Wonder—Tracing a Footprint (Art)**

*Supplies: construction paper (multiple colors), pencil, marker, scissors, painters' tape*

- Help one another trace each foot on a piece of construction paper.
- Carefully cut out each traced footprint.
- Place each footprint on a hard floor surface to create a path to follow. Tape the footprints down to hold them in place.
- Each time you walk over this path, remember Jesus and the importance of serving others.

**WONDER:** What part of the story did you like best? What would you say to Jesus if he came to wash your feet?

### **Spiritual Practice—Exploring Remembrance Through Ritual**

*Supplies: Celebration Chart (Digital Class Pack), sink or a bowl with a pitcher of water, paper towels, optional: Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book*

- Gather together around a sink or bowl with a pitcher of water.

**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.

**WONDER:** What spiritual practices can you name?

**SAY:** We will each wash our hands with our eyes closed as we thank God for loving us. Each time we wash our hands this week, we can remember that God loves us and wants us to serve others.

**WONDER:** How can you serve others this week?

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

- Find a time to read together the *Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book*.