

Active Bible Story Telling for Toddlers & Preschoolers

On Jesus Washing Disciples Feet

Supplies:

- *A basin or bowl with water (room temp or very slightly warmer is best)
- *A towel for kids to dry their feet with
- *A wash cloth for washing feet

Ask the kids to remove their shoes and socks. If your kids are really young, you might have to help them with this. And then, tell them the story in your own words. If you want a refresher on the story, read John 13. When you tell it, it might go something like this but feel free to make it younger and more understandable for young children:

Today, I want to tell you about something Jesus did a long time ago. When Jesus was in the upper room with his friends the disciples, he got up from the table. Then he tied a towel around his waist. (If you have these things, you can demonstrate. Otherwise, the kids can use their imaginations.) Jesus told the disciples that it was important for him to wash their feet.

I wonder how the disciples felt when they heard their Teacher say he was going to wash their feet. How do you think they felt? At first, Peter didn't like the idea at all. But, when Jesus explained to him how important it was, Peter was excited for Jesus to wash his feet. Jesus washed the feet of all of his disciples. (Wash the kids' feet. Take your time. They might giggle a little too!)

Afterwards, Jesus explained why he washed their feet. He told them he was showing them an example of what they should do. It is important for us to serve others. Then Jesus told his disciples that he would have to go away, because he knew that very soon he would die on the cross. He wanted his disciples to know something very important. He said to them, "I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

The disciples had heard before how important it was to love God and to love their neighbors as themselves. But, Jesus tells them to love each other by the way they live, to love each other by serving. Serve each other – even when serving means jobs no one really wants, like washing each others' feet.

You can have your kids wash one another's feet as well! It should be a fun hands on way for even young children to understand how we are called to love and serve!