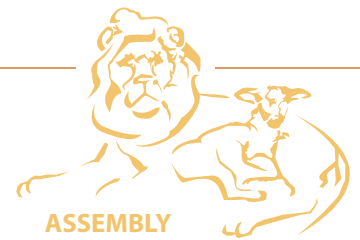


WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 13:3-17



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS**WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET****Supplies**

- three basins
- potting soil
- water
- disposable drop cloth
- towels

This will be a fun exercise for the children. Fill the first basin with water, the second basin with potting soil, and the third basin with water. Lay the basins in a row on a disposable drop cloth. Have the children form a line to go through the stations.

They will wet their feet in the first basin then walk into the second filled with potting soil. The potting soil should stick to the children's wet feet, representing the disciples' dirty feet.

Station yourself at a chair near the third basin. Have them wash their feet and then towel dry them. (You may need to change the water every few children.) This exercise is simply an attention grabber that will help them remember the story. After you are finished, talk about Jesus' example and review John 13:15-16.

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PUPPET SKIT

This puppet skit is designed to show how two children might argue about who is the greatest.

Puppet 1: I'll bet my dad is taller than your dad!

Puppet 2: Your dad might be taller than my dad but my dad is smarter than your dad!

Puppet 1: Your dad is not smarter. Besides, we have a boat and you don't.

Puppet 2: So who wants a boat anyway, we have a swimming pool.

Puppet 1: We go swimming from our boat in the lake, we don't need a pool.

Puppet 2: We can go swimming any time of the day and even at night!

Puppet 1: We can go boating and swim from the boat whenever we want. Plus we can go fishing too!

Puppet 2: I am a better fisherman than you. You never catch anything.

Puppet 1: Yeah, well I caught a huge (spreads arms wide) bass last summer.

Puppet 2: Yeah, well I caught a huger bass and I went to Canada and caught a musky!

Puppet 1: I can cast my line and get my sinker in a bucket far away!

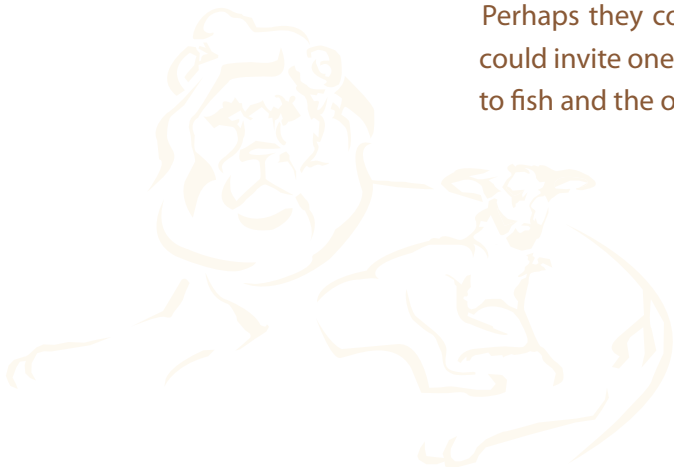
Puppet 2: Well, I could get my line in a bucket from farther away.

Puppet 1: No, you can't.

Puppet 2: Yes, I can.

Puppets continue back and forth arguing until the teacher comes up and corrects them for arguing. The teacher could then turn to the class and ask them how the puppets might serve one another.

Perhaps they could suggest the puppets ask their respective parents if they could invite one another over to share. They could have one outing to the lake to fish and the other outing at night to swim.



WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: JOHN 13:3-17

WHERE IS the Gospel?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Paul tells us, in Philippians 2:7-8, that our attitude should be the same as that of Jesus who "made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Jesus, God Himself, performed His greatest act of service for us by giving up His life for us. The events in the upper room were pointing ahead to what would soon happen in the crucifixion. It was demeaning for Jesus to wash the disciples' feet taking away the outward dirt with water and a towel, how much more demeaning was it to wash their hearts by taking upon Himself their sin and shedding His own blood as an atoning sacrifice.

