

Lying Down and Getting Up!!!

(Read the following story from John 13:1-17. Stop as indicated to let your child(ren) participate and respond. Show them where this story is found in your Bible.)

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Jesus Washes The Disciples' Feet

Jesus had come down from heaven to live on earth. But Jesus knew that soon it would be time for Him to go back to heaven. This would be the last time that Jesus would eat dinner with His friends, the disciples. Jesus wanted to show the disciples how to serve, how to help each other because Jesus knew that GOD WANTS US TO SERVE OTHERS. *(Discuss with your child what it might mean for them to serve their friends.)*

In Bible times, people did not wear shoes and socks. Everybody wore sandals. Their feet got so dirty because they walked everywhere on roads made out of dirt. Whenever people went into a house, they would take off their sandals and a servant would come and wash their feet.

On that night, Jesus and His disciples went to their friends' house for dinner. But when they got there, no servant came to wash their feet. They all waited and waited and waited but still no servant came to wash their feet. The disciples did not want to wash each others feet. That was work only a servant would do and besides, the disciples were guests! So, everyone just went and sat down at the table with their dirty feet. *(Ask your children what kinds of things no one at your house wants to do, such as taking out the trash or picking up the toys.)*

You can imagine how surprised everyone was when Jesus got up from the table and walked over by the door where there was a pitcher of water, a bowl and a towel. Jesus took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, poured water into a big bowl from the pitcher and began to wash the disciples, His friends, feet. Then, Jesus wiped their feet dry with the towel wrapped around His waist. Jesus was doing the job of a servant, yet Jesus is the Son of the One true living God. But Jesus wanted to

do the job of a servant and wash the disciples' feet!

GOD WANTS US TO SERVE OTHERS, too.

When Jesus finished washing the disciples' feet, He put His robe back on and sat down at the table. Jesus told them that they should follow His example. Jesus wanted the disciples to serve each other, to help each other just like Jesus had served them, helped them, when He washed their feet. GOD WANTS US TO SERVE OTHERS.

These commandments that I give to you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

— Deuteronomy 6:6-8

1. Who had dirty feet?
2. Who usually washed dirty feet?
3. What did Jesus do?
4. **What did Jesus use to dry the disciples' feet?**
5. What did Jesus want the disciples to learn?
6. Who wants us to serve others?

ANSWERS:
(1) Jesus and the disciples (2) The servant
(3) Washed the disciples' feet (4) A towel
(5) How to serve others (6) God

At Home And On The Road

At a meal or in the car, discuss the following with your child.

What a great example Jesus gave us! He is our great, great God, but He **became like a servant to wash His disciples' feet**. The disciples' feet were probably very dirty and VERY stinky. No one wants to do the job of a servant when it comes to dirty smelly feet (or washing the dishes, or taking out the trash), but Jesus showed us that we should serve others, just like He did.

Discussion: Discuss with your child why it is so important to be a servant. Jesus served others, and He wants us to be just like Him. Jesus taught **His disciples' that humility is the opposite of pride, and those who are humble are the true disciples of Jesus**. Ask your children what things they can do to serve others at home, at school, or at play time.

Sing Deuteronomy 6:5 to the tune of "Head and Shoulders, Knees and Toes":

"Love the Lord your God, with all your heart and all your soul,
Love the Lord your God, with all your heart and all your soul,
With all your heart, and all your soul, and all you strength,
Deuteronomy 6 verse 5, 6 verse 5, 6 verse 5."

Hands and Forehead

Enjoy the following scripture verse with your child.

Doorframes And Gates

Enjoy this project that reinforces the lesson to your child.

(Have fun with this project that reinforces the lesson to your child.)

Serving Others. Draw a chart of five things your child says he or she can do to serve others. Draw a chart of five things you can do to serve others too. Post the charts in a place that is visible day-to-day such as the refrigerator or the bathroom mirror. Make a game out of seeing who can get the most things done the quickest. Check off items as you go and set up a reward for the winner of the game.