

JESUS TURNS THINGS UPSIDE DOWN

BIG IDEA

Jesus established a different kingdom where the most important people are happy to serve in humble ways.

PREP *(Kids can help!)*

Buy a washable marker

Buy a packet of jelly snakes or similar

Find 9-10 marbles or small lego blocks

Find a largish container (such as an oven dish). Half-fill with flour

Get wet wipes or a face cloth

Get a bowl of warm water

Write an envelope for each person with a paper inside saying **YOUR MISSION** plus an instruction to do a humble task for another member of the family this week e.g. "YOUR MISSION is to wash Mum's car"

Put everything into the Faith Box before you start (except the wash cloth and water and flour container)

INTRO

Today we are reading a story about how Jesus turned a lot of people's ideas upside down, and how Jesus did a yucky job that a king would never do.

Often when people are important or powerful they lord it over others, but Jesus wanted to show that his kingdom was different and that being humble and serving others was the most important thing of all.

He also showed the disciples that only he can clean us up – not just on the outside but he would give us new hearts on the inside too.

GAME

For today's Faith Box Time we all have to take off our shoes and socks!

CHOOSE A CHILD WHO IS WEARING SOMETHING GREEN TO GO FIRST. Have them stand in the flour tray and see how many objects they can find and pick up with their feet in 30 seconds (use a timer).



Then Mum or Dad washes and dries the child's feet with the clean bowl of water.

Put the objects back into the flour. Now that child has to take the flannel and towel so they are ready to wash and dry the feet of the next person to stand in the flour box.

Continue until everyone has had a turn and the winner is declared.

THE CHILD WHO GETS THE MOST OBJECTS, is the winner and gets to hand out the treats. But they have to serve everyone else first and themselves last.

READ

“The night before Jesus died, he met with his disciples for a meal. Because they had walked a long way, their feet were covered in dust and dirt. It was the custom in those days for a servant to wash the guests' feet. However there were no servants there... Meanwhile, the disciples had been arguing amongst themselves as to which of them would be the greatest in God's kingdom. But Jesus told them that they had got it all wrong. They were arguing about who was the best; who was the greatest. But Jesus told them, “Here in this world the rulers and the wealthy are the greatest, but with you it is different. For whichever of you is the humblest will be the greatest. The one who wants to be the leader must be the servant of all!”

The disciples didn't understand that a person who is really great is willing to be a

servant. Jesus pointed out to them that He was their servant, even though he was their master: and they should serve each other as He served them. Then he demonstrated what He meant: He wrapped a towel around his waist, poured water into a basin, and began to wash their feet and to wipe them dry with the towel. When he came to Peter, Peter didn't want him to do it, because he didn't want Jesus to act like his servant...

Jesus said, “If I don't – you can't be my disciple!” “Then Lord, don't wash just my feet but my hands and my head too!” Peter exclaimed.

But Jesus said, “You only need your feet washed now and you're clean from head to toe. My concern, you understand, is holiness, not hygiene. So now you're clean.”

Then he went back to his place at the table and he said, “Do you understand what I have done to you? If I, the Master and Teacher washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. I've laid down a pattern for you. What I've done... you do...

Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them. ”

Adapted from John 13:1-13

TAKE OUT THE WASHABLE MARKER AND WRITE one letter from the 'word' V E R S T A N on the top of each person's bare foot (or feet, depending on the size of your family – adults may have a letter on one foot and children on two).

Now ask the children to arrange everyone's legs so their feet make the word 'servant' (adults may need to help, depending on ages).

Try lying on your back on the floor to do it!

EXPLORE

QUESTIONS

How did you like washing your brother or sister's feet?

If you were a very important person like a prefect or captain of a team would you think you should do things like helping someone struggling with their gear?

What is different about the way people behave in God's kingdom?

What does being humble mean?

Jesus showed us an example of how to love one another.

He was humble, which means he didn't do only the jobs that seemed important or fun. Washing those men's dirty feet was a job for slaves. Rich and important people would never lower themselves to do something like that. Jesus was saying, "Look, everyone is important in God's kingdom and everyone has dignity; **and to be a good leader you must be a good servant.**" (Matthew 20:26, Mark 10:43-45)

QUESTIONS

Why did Peter protest that he didn't want Jesus to wash his feet?

What are the jobs you least like doing at home?

What are some ways in our family that we could follow Jesus' example and serve others?

HAND OUT A WET WIPE OR WASHCLOTH TO EVERYONE and tell them to wash off the letters on the feet of the person to their left.

Then look at that person and thank them for something they do in the family that is a humble task.

*"Life is an exciting business - most exciting when lived for others."
- Helen Keller*



PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank you for teaching me that to be great in your kingdom is to care for others. Help me to know that it is more important to be a servant than a star. Amen.

LIVE

Give everyone their 'YOUR MISSION' envelope and let them think about how they plan to carry it out. Each night, say thank you to those who have done their task.

FAITH BOARD



OTHER IDEAS

1 This week might be a good time to say "thank you" to some of the people who serve you – e.g. give a thank you note to a Sunday School teacher or make a card for someone who has been kind to you.

2 Read "The Story Blanket" by Ferida Wolff and Harriet May Savitz.

3 Make your own bath salts. You could use them as a gift for someone or to have some fun in the bath.

RECIPE:

4 cups Epsom salts

1 cup table salt

1 cup baking soda

Food colouring

Essential oil or perfume (optional)

½ tsp glycerine (optional)

Mix all together well with a spoon.

Put into jars.

BUY FOR NEXT SESSION

- Packet of balloons
- Cookies/biscuits