

## Teaching Plan - Learning more about Jesus in everyday things. (Soap)

**Aim** - To show that Jesus came to serve others and that we need to follow that example.



**Welcome**



**Game/Activity**

**What's in the bag?** Pass it round and give people the opportunity to feel it and guess what is in it.

**Items:** towel and soap/handwash



**Game**

Charades about washing - people take turns to mime.

Washing the car.

Washing face.

Putting clothes in the washing machine.

Washing baby.

Washing the dishes.

Washing hair.

Washing windows

Taking a shower

Washing the floor.

Hanging out the washing



**Bible reading:** John 13: 4-9 then 12 - 17



**Drama** - need sandals, bowl of water and towel.

Before the drama ask people what it would be like to walk along a dry, dusty road in the sandals or flip-flops on a hot day. Have they ever worn this kind of sandal on the beach and got tiny grains of sand in between their toes? Explain that Jesus and his friends lived in a hot country where roads were very dusty, so whenever people went to a friend's house, one of the servants would get a towel, some soap and a bowl of water and would wash their feet so they felt clean and comfortable.

Need narrator, Jesus and 2 people willing to have their feet washed. **Please ensure that the 2 people who are getting their feet washed have given clear consent for this** - it might be best to ask leaders to have their feet washed. Everyone else is at the meal - could give out small pieces of pitta bread for them to eat.

Jesus and his friends were having a meal together. Suddenly, Jesus stood up and wrapped a large towel around his waist. Then he poured some water into a bowl and got some soap ready.

'I'm going to wash your feet,' Jesus told his friends. They were very surprised.

'But that's a servant's job,' they said.

Jesus began to gently wash his friends' feet with the water and dry them on the towel.

Hmmmm, that felt really good. Their feet were no longer hot and sticky.

'Are you going to wash my feet?' asked Peter. 'Yes,' said Jesus.

'But I can't let you do that - you're not a servant,' said Peter.

'Washing feet isn't a very nice job.'

'I'm washing your feet because you are my friend,' said Jesus.

'Friends should always do kind things to help each other.'

**Question: What do you think Jesus was teaching his followers by washing their feet?** The answers will help you gauge people's understanding.



## Talk

We don't wash people's feet much in Scotland but when Jesus lived it was hot and sandy and dusty and people's feet got dirty and sweaty. So, when you went to a friend's house their servant would come with water, soap and a towel and wash your feet. It was not a very nice job and so important people would never wash the feet - only servants.

Jesus was teaching us something quite different - he was the leader of his group of followers - they called him Lord and teacher - the boss really. So, it was a very strange thing for Jesus - a very important person - to wash his follower's feet.

Jesus wanted to show us that we should not think about ourselves as important, but we should be thinking about how we can show God's love by helping other people.

What can you do to show God's love and help other people? (Get people to give answers - either all together or in small groups)



Need bowls of warm water, soap and towels. Explain that we are going to wash each other's hands rather than feet - this will take a lot of time but don't hurry it. As we wash hands, we are showing the person that God loves and cares for them - and so do we. Try to do it without too much talking - play some gentle music in the background.



## Prayer Time

Give everyone a Post-it and ask them to write (with help as needed) the names of people who help them. Come and stick on a big piece of card which says **Thank you Jesus for ....**

Leader then says an echo prayer e.g.

**Leader:** Thank you Jesus for all the people who help me

**All:** repeat

**Leader:** Show me what I can do to help other people.

**All:** repeat

**Leader:** Thank you Jesus for your love for us all

**All:** repeat

**Leader:** Help me to be more loving to other people.

**All:** repeat.

Amen



## Possible Craft -

On a cardboard footprint write on one side Jesus loves .... (Person can write in their own name with help where needed) On other side people can colour them roughly black or brown with pencils - charcoal would work great. Perhaps also use Pritt stick and sprinkle with sand.



## Possible Songs

- Jesus is the king (Prospects)
- This is our God the servant king
- Your love is a perfect love (Prospects)
- A new commandment I give unto you (explain some of the words)
- This little light of mine