

Kid's Slot –April 2-8

Feet First (Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet)

OVERVIEW: Feet First (Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet) • I can put others first by serving them.

PREPARATION Deck of Cards, Paper & Markers for each child, Bibles

BIBLE STORY & VERSE: *John 13:1-17*

ICEBREAKER:

- Ask the following questions:
 - What's the dirtiest chore/job you've ever had to do?
(*Clean out the litter box, take out the trash, change a diaper, clean the toilet, clean up a pet "mishap," etc.*)
 - What's the dirtiest job you can think of?

READ: Feet First (Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet)

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. What are some things that you really want? New shoes, a phone, etc.
2. Why do we think we deserve things?
3. Why is it so hard to give them up to serve others?
4. Why do you think Jesus washed the disciples' feet?
5. What was their reaction?
6. What do you think would have been your reaction?

Feet First (Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet)

I love celebrating God and what He's done for us by learning about Him together. Did you know that every year, thousands of Jews traveled from all over to the city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover to worship God and remember how He had saved them from slavery in Egypt? Worship has always been a huge part of following God.

As Jesus was becoming more and more popular, some people believed Jesus was a king sent by God to take over and rescue them from the Romans. So when they heard He was coming into the city, they ripped branches from the palm trees and rushed out to the road.

Crowds gathered as Jesus and His friends, including Peter and John, approached the city. Instead of riding a powerful horse like a king would Jesus road on the back of a donkey. The people didn't care. Many hoped He would put together an army and start a war against the Romans.

They waved their palm branches and even threw their robes across the road as Jesus passed by. Listen to what they sang, (*Read from John 12:13*) *Hosanna!*, the people shouted. *Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel!*

After Jesus entered the city, He continued to teach and point people to God over the next few days.

When Passover arrived, Jesus sent Peter and John to prepare the food in a quiet place apart from the crowds.

They put the finishing touches on the Passover meal as Jesus and the other disciples entered the room, their feet caked with mud and dust from the roads.

The disciples were likely wondering what Jesus had to say to them that night. After all, He'd been making some pretty confusing statements to the crowds who followed Him. Things like, 'I'm going to be lifted up . . . I will bring all people to myself.' It sounded like things were finally going to change for the Israelite people! The disciples may have been wondering if maybe Jesus really WAS going to

charge in and make Himself King!

But when Jesus stood up, it wasn't to make an important announcement. Instead, He rose from the table and removed His outer robe. He picked up a towel and a bowl of water. And before the disciples could figure out what He was doing, Jesus knelt down beside one of the disciples. Jesus took one of his dirty feet and began washing it.

When his feet were clean, Jesus dried them with the towel and moved on to the next disciple. Peter gaped in disbelief. People wanted to make Jesus KING. Yet, here He was doing the dirty work set aside for lowly servants. By the time Jesus reached the end of the table, Peter had made up his mind and asked Jesus a question. *(Read directly from John 13:6-7, NIV)*

'Lord, Peter said to him, 'are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus replied, "You don't realize now what I am doing. But later you will understand."

But Peter was pretty sure He knew what was best in this situation. He continued to refuse: *'You will never wash my feet!' (John 13:8, NIV)*

"Jesus watched Peter with compassion in His eyes and responded, 'Unless I wash you, you can't share life with me,' (John 13:8, NIV)

Jesus' words nearly knocked the breath out of Peter. Whether Jesus was a King or a servant, there was no way Peter wanted to be left out. *'Lord!, Simon Peter replied. 'not just my feet! Wash my hands and my head, too!' (John 13:9, NIV)*

Jesus went on to explain to Peter that he was already clean since he had taken a bath. All he needed was to wash Peter's feet. And that's exactly what Jesus did. When Jesus was finished washing the disciples' feet, He returned to His place at the table.

Let's check out exactly what Jesus said. *(Open your Bible and read John 13:12b, 14-15) 'Do you understand what I have done for you? . . . I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet. So you also should wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. You should do as I have done for you.'*

Peter glanced at his friends up and down the table. Somehow, Peter thought Jesus meant more than splashing water on each other's feet. Jesus meant putting each other first. Jesus had set the bar high for what it means to show humility. All those people praising Him in the streets. All those people who want to make Him king. And yet, He served them. He gave the disciples—and us—the best example of what it means to serve others.

Jesus had made it clear. The most important, noble thing any of them could do wasn't to stand in front of a crowd and receive praise and applause. Their most important job was to put the needs of others ahead of their own.

The same is true for you and me. God put us first by sending Jesus. Jesus put us first by **SERVING** us. He wants us to **put others first by serving them.**

Slapjack Game

What You Need: Deck of cards

What You Do:

- Gather the kids together in a circle. (If you have more than eight kids, divide them in half and give each half a deck of cards.)
- As the cards get dealt out evenly between players, explain the game of Slapjack.
 - Players will go around the circle, taking turns each laying down one card face up in the middle of the circle.
 - Whenever a jack is laid down, all players try to slap their hand down first.
 - The first person to slap the jack or the person with his or her hand on the bottom of the pile keeps all the cards below the jack.
 - That player adds the cards he won to his original stack, and play resumes again.
 - If a player runs out of cards, he is out.
 - The game is over when one person ends up with all cards or if time runs out, the winner is whoever has the biggest stack.

What You Say:

“Usually when we think about winning a game, we think about being ‘on top.’ But in Slapjack, to win you have to get on the bottom faster than anyone else. Being on the bottom of a pile usually isn’t associated with good things, but today we are going to learn why it is better for people who follow Jesus to be the first to take the worst position to serve others.”

That’s Gross!

What You Need: Paper, markers

What You Do:

- With the kids’ help, make a list of gross foods or foods that make a big mess, such as: spilled salsa, chili with beans, old guacamole, or moldy cheese.
- Give each kid a piece of paper and some markers.
- Let kids draw a picture of the worst, grossest food they can think of to clean up. (They can also think of some gross combinations of foods and draw those.)

What You Say:

“Those are some pretty gross pictures. I wouldn’t want to clean up any of that food, and I DEFINITELY wouldn’t want to eat it! **Today we heard about a man who took care of the worst job at a meal, even though He was the most important person.**”

RETURN:

Return to the Life Group and have the kids share their **Bible Verses or Craft Activity**. The children then join in the prayer and fellowship time. Or, you could watch one of the many, many awesome kids’ videos available to you on www.rightnowmedia.org – it’s free!