

The Servant Leader Washes Feet

by Carol Duerksen

MATERIALS AND ADVANCE PREPARATION:

- 1 Invite one or more church leaders (pastor, deacon, elder) to be a part of this session. Give them the outline of the session so they can be prepared for the activity as well as the questions at the end.
- 2 Bowls, water, towels for foot-washing.
- 3 Cue several students ahead of time that are willing to be the first to have their feet washed. Let the church leader(s) know who they are.
- 4 A light snack for everyone.
- 5 Bible
- 6 You will need to think through how you will handle issues such as: smelly feet, giggling students, health concerns. Some congregations add Chlorox to the water to keep it cleaner. Another option is to do this activity of foot-washing outdoors at a river or lake, or at a water hydrant. The point of this session is not so much to recreate Jesus washing the feet of the disciples as to emulate his servant attitude between students and your church leaders.
- 7 Hymnal: A Worship Book for each student.

SESSION OUTLINE

- 1 Begin the session by inviting everyone to enjoy the snack you brought for them.
- 2 Allow people to sit and eat for a few minutes, then begin reading from John 13. Begin with the first verse and read loudly as students stop chatting to hear what you are reading. As you read verses 3-5, the church leader(s) should pour the water, approach the students who have been cued ahead of time, and wash their feet. Stop after verse 5 and wait until the first students have had their feet washed.
- 3 Read verses 6-17.
- 4 Explain: "Pastor _____ and (other names) are here with us today to show us that Jesus calls leaders to be servants of those they lead. If you are willing to have your feet washed, nod when Pastor _____ comes to you. If not, just shake your head no.
- 5 Continue with the foot-washing.
- 6 After the foot-washing is completed, read Luke 22:24-27.

7 Discuss:

- a) How did it feel to have your feet washed?
- b) How did it feel to do the washing?
- c) Can you who are leaders share examples of what it means to be a servant in your role?
- d) Students, when you look at church leaders, do you see them as servants of the congregation? Why or why not?

- 8** Sing "Will you let me be your servant?" #307 in Hymnal: A Worship Book. If your class would rather not sing, read the words together or divide it up to be read by guys, girls, or in groups.