

Love Feast Family Resource

WHY do we do this?

Read John 13:1-17 and Matthew 26:26-30.

Or you can try the story 'The Servant King' from the Jesus Storybook Bible. On that evening, Jesus made it a point to do two things: he made an example of servanthood and a commandment of celebration. Every time we do this, we are following Jesus!

WHAT do we do?

When we have foot washing, we do these things:

- 1) The first person puts a towel on or over themselves and kneels down in front of the second person
- 2) The second person puts their feet in the water, which is nice and warm. Then the first person washes the feet of the second person. It's easy: just pour water over their feet gently with your hands.
- 3) The first person carefully takes each foot and dries it with their towel. No tickling!
- 4) The first person stands up and the two people share a hug, then the first person gives the towel to the second person, who kneels down to wash the feet of someone else.



When we receive communion, we do these things:

- 1) We spend some time reflecting on the sacrifice Jesus made to pay for our sins.
- 2) We eat a little bit of bread (or cracker) that has been torn or broken to remember that Jesus' body was hurt badly, broken and killed, to pay for our sin.
- 3) We drink a little bit of juice (usually red or purple) to remember that Jesus had to use his blood to pay for our sin.
- 4) If we can, we serve each other the bread and the juice, to remember that Jesus served us and wants us to serve others. We also do this to remember that we are one church family.
- 5) We thank Jesus for giving himself as the sacrifice that paid for our sin. Sometimes it makes us feel sad. It might make us feel very happy. We might feel more than one thing together, because Jesus dying on the cross is beautiful and awful at the same time. It's okay to do this in remembrance of Jesus in the way that means the most to you.



WHO does this?

Who can wash feet? Anyone who would like to can have their feet washed. Anyone who would like to can wash someone's feet.

When we serve others, we are treating them the way we would like to be treated, and it's good for everyone to do that.

Who can receive communion? A person who has been born again into the family of God, who is saved, who knows that they are a Christian and has asked Jesus to be their Lord and Savior.

It's good for parents to talk to their children and use their judgment about whether or not the time is right for them. Read Romans 10:9 to help you with this discussion.

HOW do we participate at home?

It will be easiest if you gather the things you need before you come to worship service. You might prefer to have your liquids in a place with a hard floor in case of spills, or to put down a plastic tablecloth.

When we wash feet at church, we like to go around in a circle, but you don't have to do that. Please feel free to make it work for your family. Maybe the parents wash all the kids' feet, or maybe your kids are big enough to take a turn. If they are too bashful, that's okay. We are serving each other in grace and kindness. If washing with water and tubs and towels is too hard for your family, or you can't get down on the floor, try something else! You can use a wet washcloth or baby wipes. One woman in the Bible used tears and hair; Jesus didn't judge her and he won't judge you!

When we receive communion at church, we use special bread and we break it with a brother or sister. Then we break our bit into five pieces to represent the five wounds of Christ. When we are together, we all eat our bread and drink our juice at just the right time, and we say just the right things. But when we receive communion at home, it will probably look a little different - and that's okay! Pastor Charlie will tell us when it is time to listen quietly to the music and to serve each other the bread and juice. Then your family will do communion in the way that works best for your family. It's nice to serve each other the bread and say, "This is the body of Christ, broken for you," and then the juice and say, "This is the blood of Christ, poured out for you." It's nice if you can all eat and drink at the same time. But if that doesn't work, it's okay! Take your time. When Paul cautioned the Corinthian church not to eat the bread or drink the cup of the Lord "in an unworthy manner," he was not being nitpicky about the ceremony of communion. When you are using the bread and the juice in remembrance of Jesus, you are doing it right!

WHAT DO WE NEED?

- A ready heart - we use the week before Love Feast to ask forgiveness from the Lord and from those we have hurt. Then we are ready to serve, be served, and receive communion with thanksgiving.
- Bread or crackers of any kind
- Juice of some kind (we usually use grape juice). You can share a cup, or use regular cups, or even use medicine cups!
- Warm water in a container big enough for at least one adult foot
- A towel (or two!)
- or some foot washing alternative: a wet washcloth or wipes



Kids' Worksheet

Before Foot Washing

Read John 13:13-17. Explain in your own words why we wash each others' feet.



What can I do to get ready?

- Help your grown-ups gather supplies. Make sure the water is warm!
- Help your brothers and sisters get ready: socks off, pant legs rolled up
- Get ready to be as kind and gentle as you can!

Before Communion

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26. Describe communion in your own words. Why is it special?

What can I do to get ready?

- Talk with your grown-up and make sure you are a member of God's family.
- Talk with God. Ask his forgiveness for any sins that are bothering you.
- If you need to, ask any person that you have hurt for forgiveness.
- Help gather the supplies for communion!

After Foot Washing  

After Communion  

draw or write how each experience made you feel