



# 11. Wash one another's feet

**Age range:** Primary

**Theme:** We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. This term, we begin a series of themes based on wise words – all of them from the Bible, all of them ancient advice about how to live, but in our modern world, they often sound surprisingly up to date! We are linking words from King Solomon's book of Proverbs to stories from the life of Jesus, leading up to Easter. Today, we think about some final words from Proverbs about service and use the story of Maundy Thursday to help us to see this in action in the life of Jesus.



**How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?**

Throughout this term, we encourage you to link each week's collective worship to your school vision – and the way that you live this out through your values. Most of the themes should easily allow for this.

**Resources:**

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
- **You'll need to print the poll on p.3 for each adult in your hall. Place these on their seats before the start.**
- Thank you once again to FreeBibleImages for the pictures from the story used in this script.
- **Reflective prayer activity:** You will need to print the soap outlines on p.4 for pupils to write or draw on, and a bowl to put them into afterwards.

**Gathering:**

**Slide 1:** Use our new gathering words. Why not invent your own actions to accompany them?



- **Leader: We are here together**
- **Children: With ears ready to hear and hands ready to serve.**
- **All: May we be wise in all our actions today.**

**Engaging:**

**Slide 2: Teacher poll: YUCK! Leave a copy of the questions on p. 3 on each adult's seat.**



Ask pupils the question: 'Of the jobs that have to be done in your house, which ones do you hate the most?', allowing a few children to answer.

Then **show them the teacher poll**, asking pupils to vote first on which one they think the teachers would say was their least favourite. Now you can ask your staff to reveal whether the children are correct or not!

There are lots of jobs that we hate to do, and our story is going to be about another one. It's a story about something that Jesus did, and is remembered by Christians all over the world on the day called Maundy Thursday [which is next Thursday]. Listen to the story to see if you can spot what the yucky job was...

**Slide 3:** Jesus and his disciples had finally arrived in Jerusalem for the Passover celebrations, and they were all gathered together in a room as the meal was being served.

**Slide 4:** Whilst they were waiting, Jesus got up from the table, took off his heavy outer clothing and wrapped a towel around his waist.

**Slide 5:** He poured water into a basin and knelt down on the floor. Then he began to wash the feet of his disciples...

**Slide 6:**....drying them with the towel that was around his waist. The disciples were astonished.

**Slide 7:** Later on, when he had put on his outer clothing again and was sitting once more at the table with them, he asked 'Do you understand what I was doing for you when I washed your feet earlier?' No-one answered. 'I have set you an example of how I want you to treat each other. I, whom you call 'Master' and 'Teacher', have washed your feet, and I want you to do the same for each other. No-one is too grand or important to serve another. God will bless you if you act in this way.'

Well, did you spot the 'yucky' job in the story? That's right – it was washing feet. Washing someone's feet in Jesus' day was a revolting job, because people mostly walked everywhere and their feet got really dusty or really muddy, depending on the weather. They didn't have baths or showers regularly like you or I, so I expect that their feet got really smelly too!

Usually the job of washing feet was done by a servant. When Jesus washed his disciples' feet, he was demonstrating that he loved them enough to get down on the floor and clean their dusty smelly feet.

**Slide 8:** So, let's find out which words from King Solomon's book of Proverbs we're thinking about today.



**Slide 9: 'We show what we are like by what we do.'**

I wonder what you think this means? *[talk together briefly, with children giving examples]*

How did Jesus do this in the story that we just heard? How did his actions show what he was like?

You might remember in the story that he asked his disciples to do the same: 'I want you to do the same for each other.'

In many churches on Maundy Thursday, Christians might actually wash each other's feet to show that they want to have this same 'servant' attitude. But it's about more than washing feet!

Jesus showed in how he lived what he wanted his followers to do – having this attitude in their hearts, wanting to serve others.

Let's think about what this means for us, in our school community this week.....

**Slide 10: Responding and words for worship**

We've heard today how Jesus washed his disciples' feet to show them how to serve each other.

We've heard our wise words 'We show what we are like by what we do.'

Together, these words might help us today....

....I wonder how we might show what we are like in our actions?.....

.....I wonder how this might help us to 'serve' others?....

....I wonder how this might change our community?....



**Slide 11: Reflection and Prayer**

In the stillness now, let's quieten our minds and hearts.

You might want to think about some actions that you can do that show what you are like.....in school, at home, or in our wider community.

I'm going to pray a short prayer which you can join in with if you would like to make it yours, making a commitment to serve each other. There are some words for you, after I say the word 'God': 'We will serve each other.'

**Slide 12:** In our school, God: 'We will serve each other.'

**Slide 13:** In our homes, God: 'We will serve each other.'

**Slide 14:** In our community, God: 'We will serve each other.'

**Slide 15:** In our lives, God: 'We will serve each other.'

**Slide 16: Amen**

**Sending: Slide 17**

**Leader:** As we leave this place & time and go into the day ahead...

**All:** May today's words help us to make wise choices.



**To listen to / sing:**

[God is watching](#) (AAOS)

[Our School](#) (AAOS) – you could make your own words for this to fit the theme this week.

To listen to: The Servant King by Graham Kendrick: [The Servant King - Graham Kendrick - Lyric Video with moving images - YouTube](#)



**Slide 18: Reflective prayer activity:**

Write or draw onto small soap shapes ways that we can serve each other this week, at school or at home.

Place your soap in the bowl to show your commitment to try to make this happen.



**From this list, what is your most hated household chore?:**

- **doing the rubbish**
- **cleaning the toilet**
- **ironing**
- **cleaning windows**
- **washing up / emptying the dishwasher**

Your vote will be counted during assembly, so please be ready to show your hand!

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Print & cut for your reflective area:





***“We show what we are like by what we do.”***



**What does it mean to ‘serve’ each other?**



**Talk together about how we can do this in school or at home.**



**Write or draw your idea onto a small ‘bar of soap’ and put it in the bowl as a way of showing your commitment to ‘serve’ someone.**

