Foot Washing Activity

Materials Needed

plastic tub or bowl suitable for washing feet, warm water, allergy free soap and lotion, towel
o*ptional*: wet wipes

Prepare in Advance

Gather materials. If it is not possible to wash with water use wet wipes. Choose whether the teacher will wash the children's feet, or the children will wash each other's feet.

New Church Concept Washing

'To wash' signifies to be purified from evils and falsities, which is to be regenerated. Therefore 'a person that has bathed' signifies a person who has been purified or regenerated in respect to the spiritual. This is done by a life according to the goods and truths and doctrine from the Word. To the extent that this is done, the person is purified or regenerated; for to live according to the goods and truths of doctrine from the Word is to will them and so to do them, which is the same as to be affected by them and to love them. See *Arcana Coelestia* 666



Discover the joy of having your feet washed, or of serving others by washing their feet.

1. Do you ever walk outside in sandals, or bare feet? What happens to your feet?
2. When the Lord was on earth people's feet were often dirty because roads were made from hard packed dirt, and people wore sandals. When it rained the paths became muddy, and mud stuck to people's shoes or feet. When the weather was dry, the roads became dusty. So people's feet were almost always dirty. If you were visiting someone they would offer to wash your feet when you arrived. It was how people made guests feel comfortable.
3. One day Simon, a Pharisee, invited Jesus to have dinner with him. Did Simon wash the Lord's feet when He arrived? (No—the Lord said that he had not.) Do you think the Lord's feet would have been dirty? (Probably)
4. A woman who had not been invited came in. Simon and his other guests knew that she had behaved badly, so they called her a "sinner." Have you every behaved badly, or done something wrong? Everyone makes mistakes. This woman had come to the Lord to say she was sorry. She wanted Him to forgive her. Have you ever asked to be forgiven? What happened?
5. It is important to ask for forgiveness and to say we are sorry if we have done something wrong—and it is especially important for us to ask the Lord to forgive us, because He alone can forgive.
6. How did the woman show she loved the Lord? (She washed His feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. Then she put sweet smelling oil on them.) She must have loved Him a lot! Imagine using your hair to wipe the Lord's feet.
7. Let's discover how the Lord's feet must have felt when they were cleaned. Wash the children's feet or have them wash each other's feet. As feet are being washed encourage children to enjoy the sensation of the water and the smell of the soap, to think of being cleaned.
8. The Lord's forgiveness can wash away bad attitudes and feelings, which allows us to make a fresh start—to try again. We need to let Him wash us and make us clean so we can go to heaven.

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