

A Home Footwashing Service



I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them

You will need:

- Basin
- Pitcher of water
- Towel

Consider having a meal and at the conclusion of the meal or in the middle of the meal begin the service. Set an environment of prayer. Light a candle. Silence any distractions. Play meditative music if it is helpful for your prayer.

Silence and Stillness

*Take a brief moment to allow thirty seconds of silence and stillness to enter the room.
Meditative music could begin.*

Reading

John 13:1-19 / John 13:12-15

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"

*At this point, you can wash one another's feet.
Once completed, continue with the scripture.*

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Reflect upon the experience of washing feet.

- How did it feel to kneel down? How did it feel to stand up? Did you feel as a servant?
 - Can you remember other times like this?
- How did it feel to be humbled as someone washed your feet? How did it feel to thank them and to smile?
 - Can you remember other times like this?

How can you take your experience in this ritual and apply it to your daily life?

- Engage in a random act of kindness
- Leave flowers on a friend's doorstep
- Call someone just to check in on how they are doing
- Share words of love and appreciation
- Make amends for something you have done that may have been hurtful
- Stand up for those who are unable to do so for themselves
- Support someone, despite if you agree with their choices
- Lend a listening ear to someone going through tough times
- Use your God-given gifts in new ways

In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, how has this experience impacted you?

Are there ways that you can continue to serve others throughout this time of separation?

Intercessions

Say aloud or silently the prayers that you have this day.

Lord's Prayer

Conclude by praying together the Lord's Prayer