



## PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

### March 7, 2021 – Jesus Washes Feet (John 13:1-17)

#### Prepare to Wonder

#### Faith Word: Remember

“Do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19c). This bible verse is appropriate for the next four sessions we will be exploring. Lent is a time of reflection and ritual, starting with the ashes on Ash Wednesday to the darkness of Good Friday and the celebration of the Resurrection at Easter.

The first story we will explore is Jesus washing the disciples’ feet. This ritual is usually done in churches at a Maundy Thursday service during Holy Week. The Bible tells the story of Jesus and his disciples meeting for a meal. Jesus takes on the role of a servant and starts to wash Peter’s feet. Peter protests, but Jesus insists by saying to Peter, “Unless I wash you, you won’t have a place with me.”

Jesus wanted to make it clear to the disciples that in God’s world, all were created equal. The servant and the master were loved equally by God and treated the same. Jesus knew he would not be around much longer to teach the disciples, and he wanted them to remember what he did and why, so they would do likewise.

Young children may not grasp the meaning behind the actions of Jesus. What they will remember is that Jesus set an example for others to follow about serving and loving. Through the ritual of washing feet during Holy Week, the children will be reminded that Jesus came so everyone would know God’s love.

### Wonder with Me

#### READ the Bible Story

- Jesus Washes Feet, from John 13:1-17 (*Read from your Bible, see the verses listed below, or see one of the following pages for a picture of the Celebrate Wonder version.*)

**13** It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

<sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

<sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

<sup>8</sup> "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

<sup>9</sup> "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

<sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

## **WATCH the Bible Story**

- <https://youtu.be/YobAF1BPBTk>

## **SHARE the Faith Word**

Faith Word: Remember – means to think about and not forget. Jesus wanted his friends to remember him and to serve others.

In our Bible story today we will hear how Jesus was teaching His friends they must serve others to spread God's love and that they were to remember Him.

## **WONDER Together:**

1. What would you say to Jesus if he came to wash your feet?
2. How can you serve others? How does it feel to serve others?
3. How can helping others remind you of Jesus?

## **Spiritual Practice**

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 4 & 5). On page 5 (*and below*) you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

**Jesus wants us to remember to serve and to show God's love to others.**

**Slowly pour water into an empty bowl. As the bowl fills, remember the ritual of washing feet. Watch how each drop of water fills the bowl.**

**Have each member of the family share one way she or he will serve and share God's love this week.**

**Say a prayer of thanks to gratitude to those who serve and show God's love.**

## Go in Peace

**Blessing:** Touch your child and say: “God loves you; you are a blessing.”

**Prayer:** Dear God, show us how to serve others every day. Amen.

## Additional Activity for each age group

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)



### Bible Storybook

#### Jesus Washes Feet

John 13:1-18

Before Passover, Jesus and his friends were having a meal. The friends watched as Jesus got up from the table and tied a towel around his waist. Then Jesus poured water into a big bowl. The friends watched as Jesus began to wash their feet.

“Jesus, what are you doing?” asked Peter. “I don’t want you to wash my feet. It’s the job of a servant to wash feet. It’s not your job. You are our teacher.”

“Peter,” said Jesus, “it is important that I wash your feet.” So, Peter let Jesus wash his dirty feet.

When Jesus finished washing everyone’s feet, he asked, “Do you understand why I did the job of a servant and washed your feet? I wanted to show you God’s love,” said Jesus. “I want you to serve others like this.”

I wonder: How can you serve others?

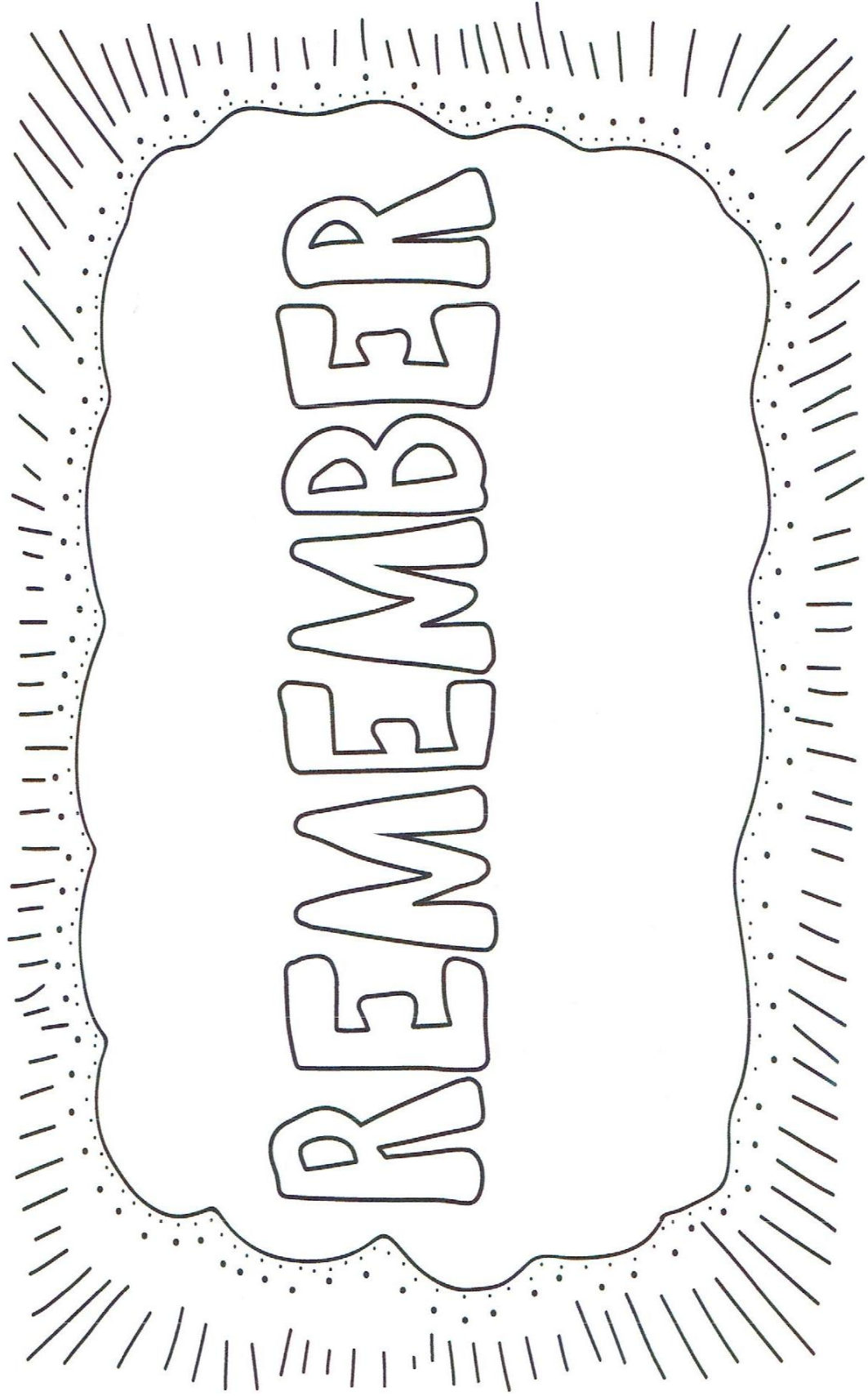


# Color Sheet for all



## Unit 1 Faith Word

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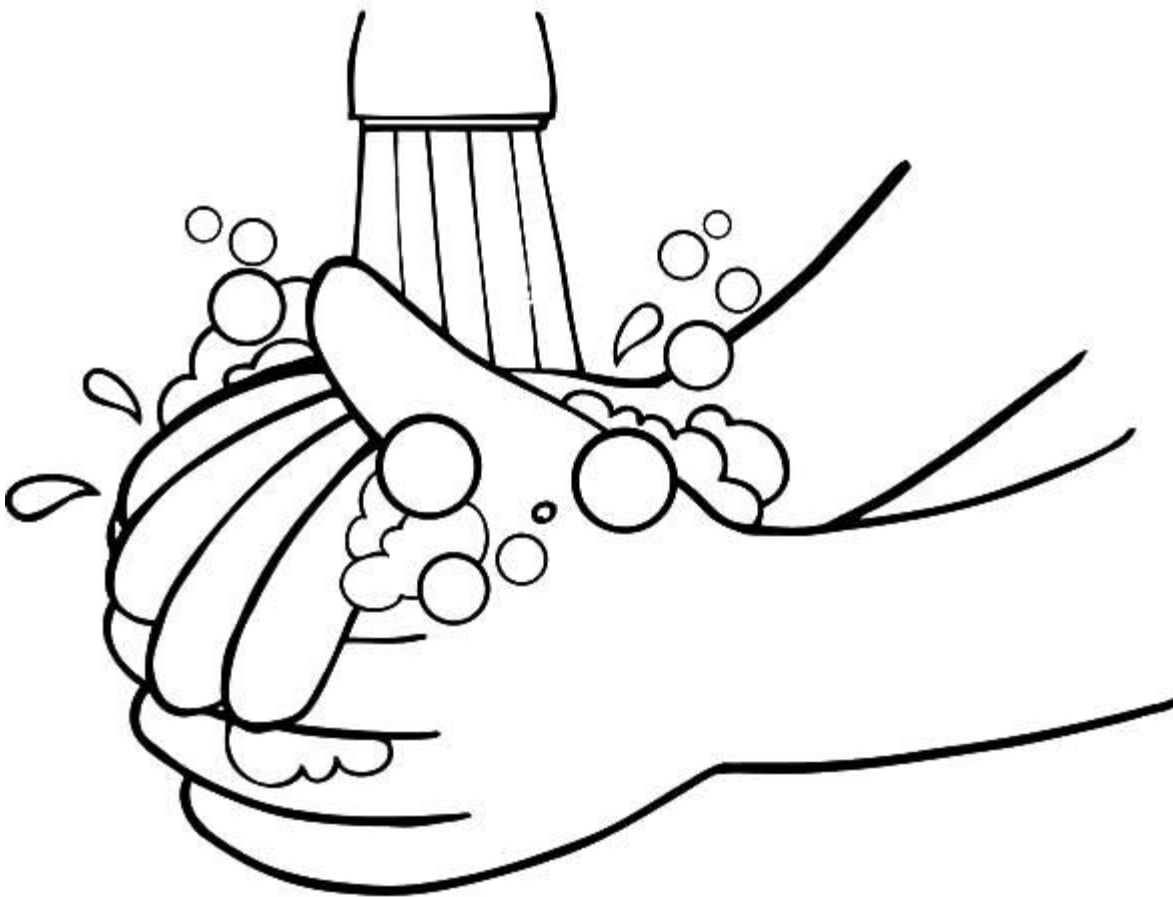
# Preschool Activity

## Exploring Remembrance Through Ritual

**Supplies:** print this sheet to color after doing the spiritual practice activity, small bowl and a pitcher, paper towels or regular towel, and color crayons

**Say:** A spiritual practice is something we do over and over again that helps remind us of God's love and brings us closer to God.

I am going to pour water on your hands as you close your eyes and thank God for loving you. Each time you wash your hands this week, you can remember that God loves you and wants you to serve others.



**Every time you wash your hands, be reminded that God loves you and He wants you to share His love by serving others.**

# Early Elementary Activity

## Family Spiritual Practice

**Supplies:** bowl and water

Jesus wants us to remember to serve and to show God's love to others. Slowly pour water into an empty bowl. As the bowl fills, remember the ritual of washing feet. Watch how each drop of water fills the bowl. Have each member of the family share a way she or he will serve and share God's love this week. Say a prayer of gratitude to those who serve and show God's love.

# Older Elementary Activity

## Family Spiritual Practice

**Supplies:** bowl and water

Jesus wants us to remember to serve and to show God's love to others. Slowly pour water into an empty bowl. As the bowl fills, remember the ritual of washing feet. Watch how each drop of water fills the bowl. Have each member of the family share a way she or he will serve and share God's love this week. Say a prayer of gratitude to those who serve and show God's love.

# Word Search



CLEAN  
DISCIPLE  
FEET  
JESUS

LORD  
PASSOVER  
SIMON PETER  
SERVANT

TOWEL  
WASH  
WATER

## BONUS QUESTION!

Who washed the disciples' feet?  
(Read John 13:1-17)

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