



# A FAMILY FOOT-WASHING SERVICE



*Holy Week*

# SERVICE GUIDE

John 13:15

*"For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."*

On Thursday night of the last week of His life on earth, our Savior washed the feet of His disciples with the encouragement for us to follow His example. Possibly this evening your family might want to take His encouragement literally and share in this very special and meaningful service in your own home. Included is a possible suggestion for how this might take place.

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1. Agree ahead of time when and where this will take place.
  2. Gather your supplies
    - a. A bowl of room temperature water.
    - b. Two towels. Dish or hand towels work well.
    - c. A Bible to read from.
  3. Ask your family to gather and sit in chairs in a circle. Ask them to remove their shoes.
  4. Open with prayer, thanking God for His presence with you this evening.
  5. Introduce what is about to happen by saying that on the night He shared the Last Supper with His disciples, Jesus also washed their feet. It would be unheard of for a respected leader to do this for someone else; servants usually handled this unwelcome task.
  6. Read John 13:1-16 which describes Jesus' activity.
  7. Ask, "Why did Jesus insist on washing His disciples feet?" Lead in a discussion of what it means to serve. Remind your family that Jesus is only hours away from going to the cross to serve as our sacrifice.
  8. Share with your family this might be slightly awkward, but it's okay. You want to do this because of your love for your family and your desire for them to know you want to do whatever you need to do to make sure they are taken care of.
  9. Bringing the bowl of water and a towel over each shoulder, kneel before the first member of your family. Begin to pray for them. Consider their individual needs, challenges, and successes. This time is really not designed for you to be critical or harsh with them. Above all, tell the Lord of your love and concern for them and your joy that they are your family.
  10. As you pray, take one of their feet in your hand. Wet one of the towels in the bowl of water and gently wipe their foot. Use the second towel to dry their foot. Move to the second foot and repeat.
  11. When finished, take their hand and complete your prayer, asking God to bless them in the days ahead.
  12. Continue in the same manner with each member of the family.
  13. Conclude your time with a group prayer.