



SIMPLY EASTER

MAUNDY THURSDAY ACTIVITY

When journeying with children, young people and families through the Easter story, we often focus on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and of course, the resurrection and Easter Sunday.

Here's a simple activity to explore Maundy Thursday and Jesus's act of service when he washed his disciples' feet. But there's no need for anyone to take their shoes and socks off!

What you'll need:

- *The Servant King* story from the *Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones
- Photocopied sheets of soles of feet with text, you need to cut the feet out and then laminate them
- Small sponges - you can buy cheap dish scourers or car washing sponges and cut them up into smaller pieces with scissors
- Brown acrylic paint - you need to smear the brown paint on the laminated soles of feet so it looks like dirt/mud. You can apply it with one of the little sponges. You need to make sure that the text is covered by the brown paint
- A bowl of warm, soapy water placed on top of a suitable protective covering - either on a table (the floor works really well, though)

Step by step guide to the activity

(adapt for your own setting and the people you'll be doing it with!)

- Explain how Jesus always did things that were unexpected, and that the things that he did in Holy Week were no different!
- Read the *Servant King* story as a group - get everyone to imagine the stinky feet!
- When the story's finished, tell everyone that they're going to be doing what Jesus did - washing feet! But then say that we won't be taking shoes or socks off to do it
- Hand out the laminated soles of feet so everyone (children and adults) has one. Explain that this is their foot
- Now explain that like Jesus, they're going to be washing someone else's feet, so they need to swap their foot with someone else!
- Gather everyone around the bowl of soapy water (if you've got a big group you might need more than one bowl), give everyone a sponge piece and invite them to wash their friend's 'foot'
- As they wash the brown paint away, the text should become visible
- You could discuss what Jesus meant by 'do this for each other' - did he mean he wanted us to wash each other's feet, or did he mean something else? What could we do for each other?

People could swap their feet back again and take theirs home to remind them of the story. I like to keep this activity as an experience and I keep the laminated feet and use them again the following year. It's become a bit of a tradition for us each year, and everyone remembers Jesus's act of service as part of the Easter story.

Have fun!

Claire x

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The Servant King

The Last Supper, from Mark 14 and John 13 – 14

IT WAS PASSOVER, the time when God's people remembered how God had rescued them from being slaves in Egypt. Every year they killed a lamb and ate it. "The lamb died instead of us!" they would say.

But this Passover, God was getting ready for an even Greater Rescue.

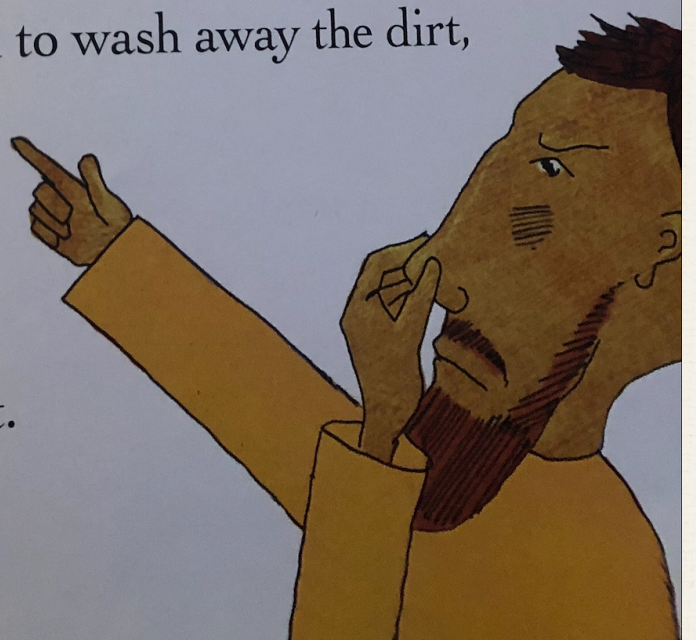
Jesus and his friends were having the Passover meal together in an upstairs room. But Jesus' friends were arguing. What about? They were arguing about stinky feet. Stinky feet? Yes, that's right. Stinky feet.



(Now the thing about feet back then was that people didn't wear shoes; they only wore sandals, which might not sound unusual, except that the streets in those days were dirty — and I don't mean just dusty dirty — I mean really stinky dirty. With all those cows and horses everywhere, you can imagine the stuff on the street that ended up on their feet!)

So anyway, someone had to wash away the dirt, but it was a dreadful job. Who on earth would ever dream of volunteering to do it?

Only the lowliest servant.



"I'm not the servant!" Peter said.

"Nor am I!" said Matthew.

Quietly, Jesus got up from the table, took off his robe, picked up a basin of water, knelt down, and started to wash his friends' feet.

"You can't," Peter said. He didn't understand about Jesus being the Servant King.

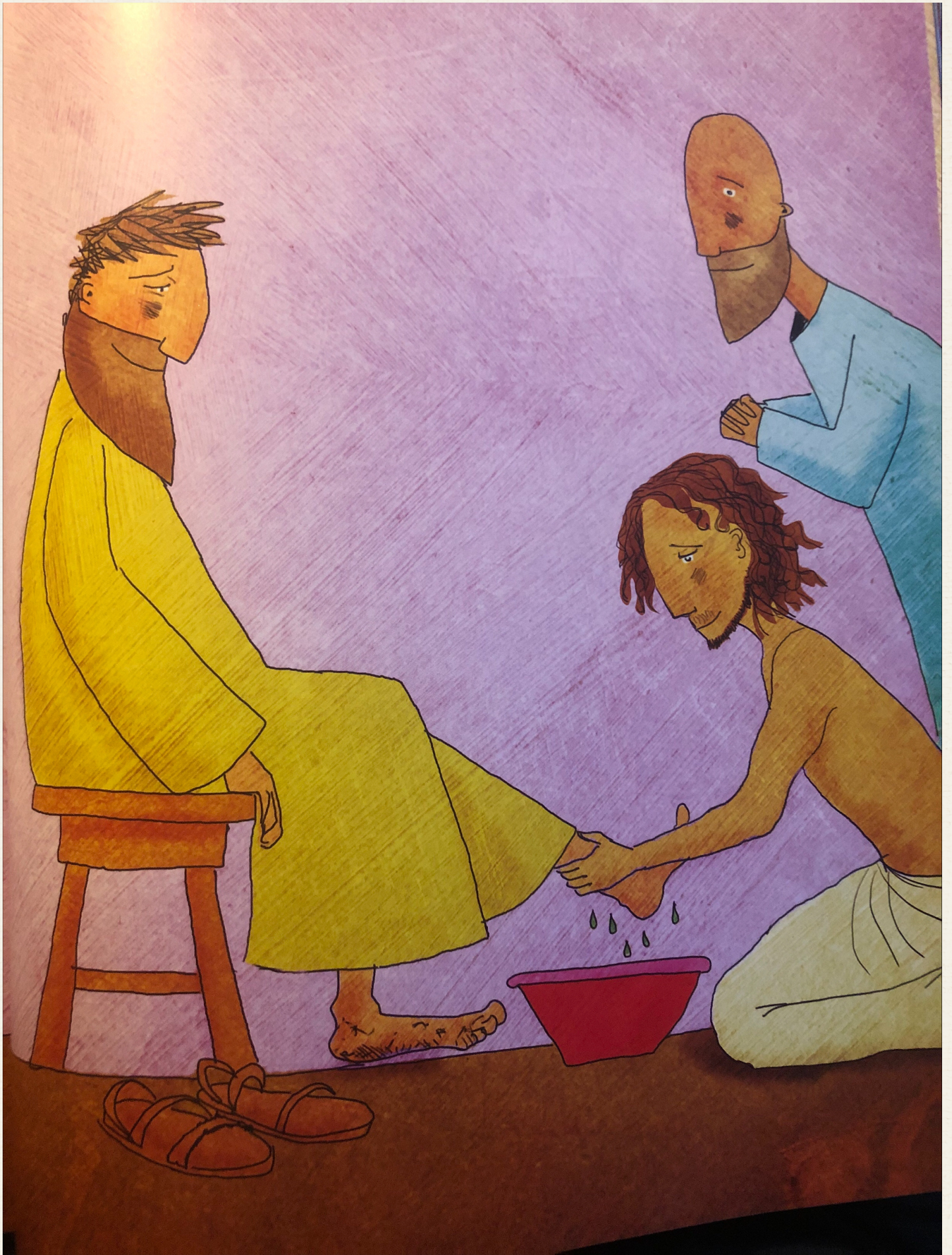
"If you don't let me wash away the dirt, Peter," Jesus said, "you can't be close to me."


Jesus knew that what people needed most was to be clean on the inside. All the dirt on their feet was nothing compared to the sin inside their hearts.

"Then wash me, Lord!" Peter said, tears filling his eyes.
"All of me!"


One by one, Jesus washed everyone's feet.

"I am doing this because I love you," Jesus explained.
"Do this for each other."






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