



# Faith Together at Home

## Givers and Receivers

Follow  
Jesus

### Gather Together

Gather together in a comfortable place in your home. Have a younger child bring a Bible, an older child/adult bring a candle, and an adult bring some matches. Begin by lighting the candle and asking everyone to sit quietly for a few moments, listening for God.

Invite everyone to take off their shoes and socks, then read John 13:1-17 from a Bible or children's Bible. In this passage, Jesus washes his disciples' feet. In Bible times, most people traveled by walking and their feet became hot and very dusty. It was customary for the servant of a house to wash a guest's feet. But in today's Bible story, the disciples are in for a surprise! Jesus, their teacher, washes their feet himself!

### Discover Together

Foot washing requires some practical planning, but the power of this shared experience makes it worth gathering a tub, warm water, and towels and finding a place in your home for the activity. A powerful and unfamiliar ritual, such as foot washing, may be resisted by some of your family members (even Peter resisted!). Other family members may experience the giggles. Anticipate such reactions and be patient with your team of disciples. Make sure everyone has a turn being a foot-washer and having their feet washed. Begin and end the activity with prayer.

### Talk Together

Ask these questions of each other:

- Why do you think Peter resisted letting Jesus wash his feet? When have you resisted receiving someone's love and attention?
- What does Jesus give us every day?
- Would you rather give a gift or receive a gift? Why?

### Study Together

Teach your family the following Hebrew phrase: *shiviti adonai l'neg'di tamid* (pronounced shi-vee-tee ad-oh-nigh la-neg-dee tah-meed). Practice saying the phrase a few times. Translated, this phrase means, "I will walk in his dust." It expresses the Hebrew tradition of becoming like one's teacher. Name your favorite teacher. What qualities do they have that you strive for in your own life?

### Serve Together

Honor your family's favorite teacher. Think of a pastor, Sunday school teacher, school teacher, grandparent, or another person who serves others through teaching. Send this person a card or an email or call them to tell them how much you appreciate them.

### Family Prayer

Say this prayer or blessing at the close of your time: **Loving God, help us to be joyful givers and gracious receivers. Amen.**