



Worship Illustration: Script
Kingdom Adventures
Kings & Kingdoms Part 1: The Life of Jesus
Unit 3, Lesson 14

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

John 13:1-17

Running time: Approximately 6 minutes

Set: The set for Units 1-4 is designed to look like a Medieval Castle. It is the Palace of the King. There is a curtained opening center stage, a ramp stage right and an upper level where characters can enter. There is a window stage left for puppets and a hinged stained glass window stage right that opens to reveal the Bible. For added interest, build windows and levels where the characters and puppets can pop up unexpectedly.

Characters: Sir Praisealot is a brave knight and the Captain of the Castle Guard. He praises God all the time. His weakness is that his pride some times gets in the way. Squire Goofus, the Gallant, is a young man who wants desperately to be a noble knight in the King's Guard. He is very naïve and a bit clumsy. Rufus is a dragon puppet that thinks he is a dog. He delivers messages from the King.

Plot: Sir Praisealot promotes Gus and offers to wash his feet. We learn that the Lord served His disciples as an example of how He wants us to show our love by serving one another.

Costumes: Tunic, boots, chain mail.

Props: Sword, stick horse, Bible, sash, bucket & sponge.

Sound effects (SFX):

1. Intro/Outro music suggestions: familiar castle/battle themes from movies such as The Lord of the Rings, or Monty Python and the Holy Grail, or Productiontrax.com – The Price of Freedom, Iron Lore, Prepare for Battle, Rain of Fire -: 80; (i-movies: Timely, pursuit, heroes, flurry, saber.)
2. Horse galloping
3. Trumpet fanfare
4. Stained Glass Window suggestion: "King of Kings and Lord of Lords" from Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" or other royal song clip. Music plays when this window is opened during each episode to reveal the Bible.

Visual effects (VFX):

1. Video Intro featuring knights on horseback is available at ResourceWell.org
2. Hinged, stained glass window holds the Bible. When opened, light shines out and music plays.
3. Scripture Slide: ***"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." John 13:14, 15***
4. Closing Slide: "Serving the King is the noblest thing!"

Adaptations:

1. Sound Effects: instead of using recorded effects, have children make the sounds
2. Voiceovers: may be spoken off stage
3. This illustration is also available in storybook form located at ResourceWell.org

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Voiceover: (VFX: Video intro)

In ancient days noble knights roamed the land doing good deeds and acts of service for their king. Many of those brave squires served the greatest Lord of all, the King of Kings! Travel with us now as we ride with these mighty men of God on their quest for Kingdom Adventures! (SFX: Horse galloping over video)

Gus (enters through audience)

Tally ho! Tally ho! Come Duncan, to the castle we ride! Hello children, good morrow to you! It is I, Squire Gus. (Bows) Sir Praisealot said that I was to put on my sandals and come to the castle gates at this very hour. I wish I knew what to expect. (SFX: Trumpet fanfare)

Praisealot (enters through curtain)

Greetings to you, Squire Goofus! Today is a momentous day in your career. You have been practicing so hard and serving the King so well that I am promoting you to Senior Knight in Training!

Gus

That is wonderful! What does this mean?

Praisealot

It means you get to wear this nifty sash and it means we must have the ceremonial washing of the feet. Let me get the royal sponge! Be seated, Sir Gus!

Gus

Wait! Are you planning to bathe me?

Praisealot

No, you are clean in God's eyes. I shall only wash your feet.

Gus (grabs sponge)

No! I must wash your feet, my teacher!

Praisealot (grabs sponge)

No, I must wash your feet!

Gus (grabs sponge)

Please, I insist!

Praisealot (grabs sponge)

Gus! No! This is a long-standing tradition! Let it be so for now. We must have silence.

Gus (sits)

Very well. Oh, ooh, a-ha! That tickles!

Praisealot

Squire Goofus, control yourself this is a very solemn occasion. On this day you have moved up to the rank of Senior Knight in Training and I, your teacher have chosen to wash your feet!

Gus

Oh, Sir Praise-a-lot, I am filled with joy and I am grateful but I don't understand why you need to wash my tootsies?

Praisealot

Ah, that is a special way that a teacher can show his love to his student just as Jesus did. I shall get out the Word of God and show you right now! (Opens stained glass window and removes Bible.) (SFX: "King of Kings and Lord of Lords") Here it is. In this report Jesus knew He would be leaving soon.

Gus

Leaving? You mean to go back to heaven?

Praisealot

Yes, but before He left, Jesus wanted to show His disciples how very much He loved them.

Gus

So Jesus washed the feet of His disciples?

Praisealot

Indeed He did! And when He had finished washing their feet, do you know what Jesus said?

Gus

He said, "You need a pedicure!"

Praisealot

No. He asked them, "Do you understand what I have done for you?"

Gus

I was asking myself that very same question. Jesus was their Lord and King; they should be serving Him!

Praisealot (VFX: Scripture slide)

Ah, but the greatest king is the king who loves His people enough to serve them. Jesus said, *"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you."*

Gus

So Jesus was teaching us that we should serve those around us to show them our love.

Praisealot

You are learning well.

Gus

I only wish I could serve well. I feel like everyone around here does nice things for me and I never get to return the favor. Like just now...you, my teacher, washed my feet, but I should be the one serving others!

Praisealot

And so you shall when the time is right.

Gus

There is no time like the present! I am going to begin right now by washing everyone's feet! (goes into audience with sponge) You there, take your shoes off! I'm going to wash your little tootsies and then we shall have the royal painting of the toenails!

Praisealot

Wait! Gus! That boy doesn't want his toenails painted!

Gus

He doesn't?

Praisealot

No! God is not calling us to give every single person a pedicure!

Gus

He's not?

Praisealot

No. The foot washing was just an example.

Gus

I'm not sure I understand.

Praisealot

Come back up here and have a seat and I shall try to explain. During the days when Jesus walked the earth most people wore sandals. So when they walked what would happen to their feet?

Gus

They got stinky!

Praisealot

Perhaps but mostly they got dirty. So, when it was time for dinner they would have to get cleaned up.

Gus

Oh, you mean like when I wash my hands before eating?

Praisealot

Yes, the Israelites would also wash their feet. Now, in wealthier homes there were servants that would come around to each person and wash their feet for them.

Gus

But Jesus was God's own Son! He shouldn't have to do that!

Praisealot

Precisely! Jesus didn't have to...He chose to do the lowest job to show His love. He did it so that we could learn from His example that we should always show love by serving one another!

Gus

I see, so when we do things for others we are showing our love – and being more like Jesus.

Praisealot

Yes!

Gus

And we don't necessarily have to wash their feet. We can serve others in many ways...like doing their chores.

Praisealot

Yes!

Gus

Or taking out the trash! Or helping our little brothers or sisters with their homework!

Praisealot

Yes! Yes!

Gus

Or giving a friend a ride to church on Duncan!

Praisealot

Or cleaning out Duncan's stable!

Gus

Yes! No! I don't want to do that! It's all full of...you know...nasty stuff!

Praisealot

Did Jesus say we should just do the jobs we like to do?

Gus

No, Jesus took the nastiest job. And I want to be more like Jesus so I shall serve Duncan and clean up his stable!

Praisealot

Good show my Knight in Training!

Gus

***Senior* Knight in Training! Come Duncan I shall serve the Lord by serving you! After all...say it with us kids!**

Both

Serving the King is the noblest thing! (VFX: Closing slide) (SFX: outro)