

## Washday 2016

Big Questions to get you going...

- Are we willing to get our hands dirty in the service of others?
- What can do we to show love in action in our communities?
- How do we follow the example of Jesus?



Washday uses the idea of washing to encourage us to think about the heart of Christian values. The activities and ideas behind reflection and action

- Should we do less or do more?
- Should we give something up or do something extra?
- When Jesus washed the feet was he doing more or doing less?

### The Washday resource is a series of Bible stories, reflections and practical ideas for Lent 2016

- **Washday** runs from Ash Wednesday to Maundy Thursday.
- The resource is written for primary schools though teachers may find (at least parts of) it useful at KS 3. **We would recommend that secondary schools contact their local clergy/chaplains to explore the possibilities of the 'adult' material available to parishes.**
- Many of the adult activities suggested in the parish resource could have significant safeguarding implications for primary schools. You may wish to discuss these with your **local church** but we did not wish to raise these in this pack because of the potential safeguarding issues.
- The resource can be used in whole school **Collective Worship** or it might be better used in class or small groups
- The **reflections** are not intended to be used all at once, the feelings sections are written in simpler language to be used with younger groups. You may, of course, adjust the language of the others if you wish. The questions can be used as discussion starters or treated as rhetorical, simply as prompts for thought. At least one reflection in each week is directly related to the Bible story.
- It is not necessary to always ask children questions about the stories, or even discuss them at all they can be told and just left to settle in the minds of the hearers.
- The **actions** are simple and indicative. You might choose to have a completely different set of actions. It is important, however, that some action takes place. These actions, while being of some good in themselves, are also symbols of service, love and following the example of Christ.
- Sections in italics are intended for use with children, though we would encourage you to adapt the words to your needs and circumstances—especially the ages of the children.
- The **Bible stories** can be used as they are or you may wish for use children's versions. Each story is followed by a note. These are not the meanings of the stories nor are they morals they are intended only to give a starting point for thinking about the Bible extracts.
- As part of Washday we suggest you set up a **display** which changes through the season of Lent. Ideas for additions to the display are given each week. Start the display with a simple Bowl of water and a towel—reminders of the washing of the disciples feet, the story in the last week. This display could be in a classroom or form a changing focus for Collective Worship. As part of the display make a photo record of how it develops over the Lenten project. Make sure that you discuss the changes with the children as they happen so that they have a good idea of what the changes show and mean.

# Washday - Week 1

## The Story of Naaman. 2 Kings 5

Naaman, the commander of the Syrian army, was highly respected and esteemed by the king of Syria, because through Naaman the Lord had given victory to the Syrian forces. He was a great soldier, but he suffered from a dreaded skin disease. In one of their raids against Israel, the Syrians had carried off a little Israelite girl, who became a servant of Naaman's wife. One day she said to her mistress, "I wish that my master could go to the prophet who lives in Samaria! He would cure him of his disease." When Naaman heard of this, he went to the king and told him what the girl had said. The king said, "Go to the king of Israel and take this letter to him."

So Naaman set out, taking 30,000 pieces of silver, 6,000 pieces of gold, and ten changes of fine clothes. The letter that he took read: "This letter will introduce my officer Naaman. I want you to cure him of his disease."

When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes in dismay and exclaimed, "How can the king of Syria expect me to cure this man? Does he think that I am God, with the power of life and death? It's plain that he is trying to start a quarrel with me!"

When the prophet Elisha heard what had happened, he sent word to the king: "Why are you so upset? Send the man to me, and I'll show him that there is a prophet in Israel!"

So Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and stopped at the entrance to Elisha's house. Elisha sent a servant out to tell him to go and wash himself seven times in the River Jordan, and he would be completely cured of his disease. But Naaman left in a rage, saying, "I thought that he would at least come out to me, pray to the Lord his God, wave his hand over the diseased spot, and cure me! Besides, aren't the rivers Abana and Pharpar, back in Damascus, better than any river in Israel? I could have washed in them and been cured!" His servants went up to him and said, "Sir, if the prophet had told you to do something difficult, you would have done it. Now why can't you just wash yourself, as he said, and be cured?" So Naaman went down to the Jordan, dipped himself in it seven times, as Elisha had instructed, and he was completely cured. His flesh became firm and healthy, like that of a child. He returned to Elisha with all his men and said, "Now I know that there is no god but the God of Israel; so please, sir, accept a gift from me." Elisha answered, "By the living Lord, whom I serve, I swear that I will not accept a gift." Naaman insisted that he accept it, but he would not.... "Go in peace," Elisha said. And Naaman left.

## Note

The story of Naaman is a favourite Old Testament tale. We find an almost fairytale type plot of the captive girl telling a tale of a cure in her homeland and the subsequent journey of the sick man. Notice that Naaman goes, wrongly, to the king of Israel first - echoes of the journey of the Magi. Naaman is then outraged at his treatment by Elisha, but finally swallows his pride and does what he is told to do. This results in his cure. Elisha shows his humility by refusing payment and Naaman becomes convinced of the reality of the god of Israel and Elisha.

Ash Wednesday is an important day in the Church Calendar . It marks the beginning of Lent and is recognised in many churches by the act of 'Ashing'. You may already recognise this in school, or you may wish to talk to your local clergy about how it could play a part in your pattern of worship. However in 2015 Ash Wednesday occurs in the 'half-term' break so celebrating the day itself might not be possible or appropriate. The

## Reflections

### Feelings

- *How do you think that Naaman felt when he was made better?*
- *How do you feel when you are unwell?*
- *How do your feelings change when you are better again?*
- *How do you feel when your friends are poorly?*
- *Can you think of ways to share your feelings?*

### **Wonderings**

- *Let us wonder for a moment about why Namaan became so angry.*
- *Do you ever get angry?*  
*Does being angry stop you from doing things which are good for you?*
- *What did Namaan have to do to get better?*
- *Why do you think it was difficult for Namaan to do this?*

### **Choosing**

- *We all have to do things that are difficult*
- *What things do we find difficult to do for ourselves?*
- *What do we find difficult to do for others?*
- *Let's think for a moment about what we can do to make sure that we do the right things even if they might be hard for us.*

### **Action**

*Lent is a time for doing something special. We often talk of giving something up for Lent but is that what we need to do? How easy is it to give something up? Would it be harder or easier to do something extra rather than going without?*

*One of the 'extras' we can do is give something to charity.*

*Look at some charities—what would be a good charity to choose to go with your washday theme? We have chosen some water charities for you to think about, you might have better ideas.*

<http://www.wateraid.org/uk>

<https://www.charitywater.org/>

<http://www.justadrop.org/>

*Choose a charity to support during Lent. See the section below on display.*

*Each week includes an action and we are suggesting that for each action each person pays a contribution or 'fine'. Decide how much each activity will cost and for each collect the money, through the washday weeks. Make the cost simple and not too much. You are not paying to do something special or buying anything - just doing something more, something special.*

### **Prayer.**

*Father God,*

*The story of Namaan shows us that we should not be too proud to the simple things we need to do.*

*Help us to understand the things we need to do*

*and give us the humility to do them without thinking of ourselves.*

*(In Jesus' name)*

**Amen**

### **Display**

Add some charity material to the display - a poster or a handout, this could be printed from the internet. You may like also to add some children's drawings or other work to illustrate the work that the charity does. Discuss with the children the importance of turning our understanding of Bible stories into action—Charity is one way of doing this.

## Washday - Week 2

### Jesus speaks of the Pharisees Matthew 23 (excerpts)

Then Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples. "The teachers of the Law and the Pharisees are the authorized interpreters of Moses' Law So you must obey and follow everything they tell you to do; do not, however, imitate their actions, because they don't practise what they preach....

...The greatest one among you must be your servant. Whoever makes himself great will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be made great....

..."How terrible for you, teachers of the Law and Pharisees! You hypocrites! You clean the outside of your cup and plate, while the inside is full of what you have obtained by violence and selfishness. Blind Pharisee! Clean what is inside the cup first, and then the outside will be clean too!

### Note

In Jesus' time the Pharisees were important teachers and leaders. They were respected by all the Jewish people and served as an example of what was needed for a Holy life. In this part of Matthew's Gospel we find Jesus challenging the Pharisees and using the idea of washing to show that, no matter how much you might follow the rules these will not wash the bits that really matter. The words of Jesus would not only have challenged the Pharisees themselves but also the perceptions of the Jewish crowd. In New Testament times 'Pharisee' was not a synonym for hypocrisy, this use has grown from the biblical influence on the development of language in western cultures, the New Testament Pharisees were genuinely significant and important leaders. This challenge from Jesus went to the very heart of Jewish society.

It is both interesting and important that this story mentions the great becoming servants - something we will meet again in the last week of Washday.

### Reflections

#### Feelings

- *Imagine that you have been given something very valuable but it is covered in muck and grime. How does it feel in your hands?*
- *What does it look like? What does it smell like?*
- *Now think what happens as you clean the object... imagine that you can see the dust and grit washing away ... imagine that you can see the object appearing bit by bit as you scrub and scratch the dirt away.*
- *How do you feel as the thing of value and beauty steadily appears?*

#### Wonderings

- *Let us wonder for a moment: what we can learn from the words that Jesus said about the Pharisees?*
- *What do you think Jesus means by the words 'You clean the outside of your cup and plate, while the inside is full of what you have obtained by violence and selfishness'?*
- *Is Jesus talking about a real cup and plate?*
- *How can we 'wash away' selfishness?*
- *I wonder what else besides selfishness makes us dirty inside? Is violence a good example?*

### **Choosings**

- *Jesus is saying that the Pharisees seem to choose to be 'unclean' inside - like an unwashed cup.*
- *Would you choose to be 'unwashed'?*
- *When would you choose to stay unwashed?*
- *Why?*

### **Action**

*Create a symbol of your own for the washday project at your school. You could use some of the ideas on the Charity material that you found last week. Each of you has a special washday sheet (see the last page) draw your finished design into the right place on the sheet.*

*This is the first action and should also be recorded on the sheets, along with the contributions.*

### **Prayer**

*Heavenly Father*

*Jesus challenges us all to remember that we are here to serve others  
and to learn*

*Guide us as we grow to learn from Jesus' words  
to think and do the best we can  
so that we will help and serve to the best of our ability*

*(In Jesus' name)*

**Amen**

### **Display**

*The story uses the symbol of a dirty cup to show us that we should take care be hypocritical - saying one thing and doing another. Add two identical cups, one dirty and one clean to remind us of this picture (metaphor).*

## Washday - Week 3

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary Luke 10 : 28—32

As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him in her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat down at the feet of the Lord and listened to his teaching. Martha was upset over all the work she had to do, so she came and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!" The Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, but just one is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her."

### Note

This is a very famous story which gives us a glimpse of a very homely scene where we see a gentle side to Jesus as he speaks to Martha about the choice that she has made. Our lives are full of choices and we must always take care to make the right choice. Sometimes we have to pause and think or we might just go on doing the things we have always done without seeing that something else might be of much greater importance.

### **Reflections**

#### Feelings

- *Martha was busy doing lots of things around the house which she thought were the right things to do.*
- *How do you think that Martha felt when Jesus did not tell Mary to help her?*
- *What do you think Jesus voice sounded like when he spoke to Martha?*

#### Wonderings

- *Mary chose to do the right thing, while Martha was cleaning and washing and tidying. Sometimes we have to decide the best time to do things.*
- *When do we wash?*
- *Do we always wash when we **need** to?*
- *Do we wash when we **want** to?*
- *Why do we need to wash?*
- *Why might we want to wash?*

#### Choosings

- *Did Martha make the right choice about what to do when Jesus came visiting?*
- *Was what Martha was doing wrong or bad?*
- *Can you think of a time when you have chosen to do a god thing rather than the 'right' thing?*
- *Do you always choose the right thing to do?*
- *How do you choose what to do?*
- *What or who helps you to make a choice?*

### **Action**

*This is a chance to make a good choice and to tidy our rooms. Before you set out on this talk to people at home to make sure that it is a good time to do this and think about it for yourself too—would it be a sensible choice to start to sort things out just before bedtime? Or at 8 in the morning on a school day? So spend some time making your room neat. Take care to look carefully before you begin and then to look again when you have finished How does the change make you feel?*

Don't forget to collect the money

This story could provide a good stimulus for children's own prayer writing, they can use the prayer in this section as a model. The prayer is built on something that is learned from the story. Encourage children to find their own ideas from the story to build their prayers around.

### **Prayer**

*Father God*

*The story of Martha reminds us that we should make the right choice at the right time.*

*We have to make many choices,  
at home and at school,  
at work and at play.*

*Help us always to make good choices  
so that we will be able to help others and ourselves  
learn and grow in the way that you want us to.*

*(We ask this in Jesus' name)*

**Amen**

### **Display**

Martha was busy in her home, we usually think that she is busy washing and cleaning up. In order to remind us of this story add some cleaning materials to the display. You can use empty bottles or containers so that the display remains safe.

If children have written their own prayers these too, could be added to the display.

## Washday Week 4

### The Baptism of Jesus Matthew 3: 13

At that time Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. "I ought to be baptized by you," John said, "and yet you have come to me!" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires." So John agreed. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and alighting on him. Then a voice said from heaven, "This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased."

### Note

The story of Jesus' baptism is a well known tale. It makes a very powerful picture of Jesus with the clouds opening and the dove descending - an image of the Holy Spirit - and the whole is wrapped in the voice of God. The story presents a dramatic illustration of the Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The image is not the only part of the story. We must also notice the tremendous humility of Jesus, and especially the obedience to what God requires. Whatever the origins of baptism its importance here is that Jesus sees it as something that the Father wants Jesus to do. This baptism is not the same as our 'Christenings', older pupils might like to think about when Baptism (a pre-Christian rite) became 'Christening' - a baptism in the name of Christ. You might start with Matthew 16: 28—end.

### Reflections

#### Feelings

- *When do you get dirty? Do you ever get sweaty or sticky? Do you sometimes end up covered in mud?*
- *How do you feel when you are clean?*
- *What words describe the difference between feeling 'dirty' or 'mucky' or 'grubby' and feeling clean*
- *How would you help others to understand how we can make ourselves 'clean'?*

#### Wonderings

- *Let us wonder for a moment what it would be like to be always dirty...*
- *If you lived with a face that is always dirty do you think that you would get used to it?*
- *I wonder, what you would think if someone then washed your dirty face overnight and you woke to find it clean?*
- *I wonder what words you would use to describe your clean face to others?*

#### Choosing

- *Jesus helped John to understand that we should think carefully about our choices. What can seem the most obvious or easy choice might not be the right one.*
- *What helps us to think about our choices?*
- *What can we use to help our thinking?*
- *Are there any stories which have helped you to make better choices?*
- *Does music or art help you think more clearly?*
- *How could you help others make good choices?*



### **Action**

This is Mothering Sunday, we often give special things to our mothers on this day - take flowers or chocolates, make cards. But this year perhaps we could **do** something special for our mums (or at least help...)

- *Washing up*
- *Tidying a room that is **not** yours*
- *Even helping to wash the car...*

### **Prayer**

*God of all care,*

*When we are born our parents choose our names  
and make a home for us to live in*

*As we grow help us to take our proper place in your world,  
the home you made for all of us.*

*(In Jesus' name)*

***Amen***

### **Display**

Through our display we can weave together some themes adding a baptism certificate and baptismal candle (speak to your clergy) will remind us of the story. Adding a mothers' day card will bring in the ideas of care and for some children will also be a reminder of who took them to be baptised - and who gave them their names.

**Special** - invite one of the mothers of a child in your class to talk about what happens at a baptism.

## Washday - Week 5

### The Transfiguration Mark 9: 2—7

Six days later Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain, where they were alone. As they looked on, a change came over Jesus, and his clothes became shining white — whiter than anyone in the world could wash them. Then the three disciples saw Elijah and Moses talking with Jesus. Peter spoke up and said to Jesus, “Teacher, how good it is that we are here! We will make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He and the others were so frightened that he did not know what to say. Then a cloud appeared and covered them with its shadow, and a voice came from the cloud, “This is my own dear Son — listen to him!” They took a quick look round but did not see anyone else; only Jesus was with them.

#### Note

This story is not so well known. It is told by Matthew, Mark and Luke and comes about midway through the ministry of Jesus. It plays an important part in the way that the Disciples understand who Jesus is and what he is doing. In this story Peter, John and James are given a glimpse of the ‘true’ Christ shining with glory—and their reaction is one of confusion and fear!

### Reflections

#### Feelings

- *Pretend the you are going to be given a present.*
- *It is something that you have been wanting for a long time, something that you have been waiting for.*
- *What is it? How do you feel knowing that you are going to be given the gift?*
- *Who is giving you the present?*
- *They reach out and pass the present to you, how do you feel when you take hold of it?*
- *Now it is time to open it - now what do you feel?*
- *How would you share these feeling with your friends?*

#### Wondering

- *I wonder what is the most special thing that you can imagine?*
- *What is it?*
- *Is it something for yourself or something to share?*
- *I wonder, how would you react if you were given this thing?*
- *What words would you use to tell others about it?*

#### Choices

*Sometimes our choices might bring unexpected things. The disciples had chosen to follow Jesus.*

- *Do you think that they expected to see him shining with glory on a mountain top?*
- *What other things about their choice do you think surprised them?*
- *Do you think that they might have wanted to go back on their choices at any time?*
- *Have you ever wanted to go back on a choice that you have made? Or at least change the choice?*
- *Why?*

### **Action**

This is the last week of our washday. We cannot wash out our school but we can help each other tidy up. Our last activity is exactly that. In the same way that you tidied your room, tidy school. First look at your school and see it in its untidy state then tidy up - you might stay in your own classes, or if you are very brave you could tidy each others' rooms. It may take a little organising. Take 'before and after' pictures like you did when you tidied up at home.

### **Prayer**

*God of Glory*

*The story of Jesus shining with brightly on the mountain  
gives us a sight of how our choices might lead to things we do not expect.*

*Be with us as we follow through our choices and they lead us to both wonderful  
and challenging things. Give us the strength to keep going the right way  
no matter how joyful or difficult these things may be.*

*(In Jesus name)*

**Amen**

### **Display**

The transfiguration showed the disciples something unexpected, out-of-the-ordinary, and special about Jesus. Add a special 'extra-white' stain remover or washing supplement—something that could make Jesus' robes whiter than 'anyone in the world could wash them'.

## Washday - Week 6 - Holy Week

### Jesus Washes his Disciples' Feet John 13 : 1—15

It was now the day before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. He had always loved those in the world who were his own, and he loved them to the very end. Jesus and his disciples were at supper. (The Devil had already put into the heart of Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, the thought of betraying Jesus.) Jesus knew that the Father had given him complete power; he knew that he had come from God and was going to God. So he rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel round his waist. Then he poured some water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel round his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Are you going to wash my feet, Lord?" Jesus answered him, "You do not understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later." Peter declared, "Never at any time will you wash my feet!" "If I do not wash your feet," Jesus answered, "you will no longer be my disciple." Simon Peter answered, "Lord, do not wash only my feet, then! Wash my hands and head, too!" Jesus said, "Those who have had a bath are completely clean and do not have to wash themselves, except for their feet. All of you are clean — all except one." (Jesus already knew who was going to betray him; that is why he said, "All of you, except one, are clean.") After Jesus had washed their feet, he put his outer garment back on and returned to his place at the table. "Do you understand what I have just done to you?" he asked. "You call me Teacher and Lord, and it is right that you do so, because that is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you.

### Note

This is a very well known story about Jesus and the disciples. In the story Jesus washes the feet of the disciples and has to persuade Peter that he should do this. In this story, again, Jesus is showing that if we want to be proper disciples then we must show that we have learned from Jesus our teacher. We do that by doing the simple things that might not seem important or we might feel are 'beneath' us. If you are using this text you may wish to omit the bracketed sections.

### Reflections

#### Feelings

- *What sorts of things do you like doing?*
  - *Eating nice food*
  - *Special toys*
  - *Playing with animals*
  - *Minecraft...*
- *Who gives you these things or does these things with you?*
- *Are these people special?*
- *How can you be special to others?*
  - ◇ *Can people be special without giving things?*

#### Wonderings

- *Let us wonder for a moment about what the disciples may have thought about Jesus washing their feet.*
- *I wonder, what you think when people do things for you, especially nice things?*
- *Does it make you want to things for them?*

- *I wonder what you like to do for other people?*
- *Let's wonder for a moment, did washing the disciples feet make a difference to what they thought about him and what they thought about themselves?*

### **Choices**

- *The disciples, especially Peter, had to make the choice to let Jesus wash their feet?*
- *Would you have made the same choice in their place?*
- *Would you make the choice to let Jesus wash your feet?*
- *Why?*

### **Action**

*In this last week we think of action which is not service or doing things for others. Let us think of 'symbolic' action, something that we do to show something - Jesus washing the disciples' feet. Can you think of times when you have done something to show how you feel, or how you might want something to be done? As a class devise a symbolic action which could be used to simply demonstrate one of your school values. Share this with everyone during worship.*

The final worship of the term could include one or more of these symbols which could be shared with the community. You may, of course, like to stick with the symbolic washing of feet as in the gospel story.

### **Prayer**

*God of us all,*

*When Jesus washed the disciples feet he showed them that they had to be servants of everyone.*

*Show us how we can serve the people we live with.*

*Help us to understand their needs and our strengths*

*so that in our service we can always do our best.*

*(In Jesus' name)*

**Amen**

### **Display**

In this last week add bread and wine to the display. You may wish to discuss with your class the range of symbols that are now included in the display both the familiar Christian symbols of bread, wine, water and candle as well as the children's own symbols and the other objects such as the towel.

Ask are any of the symbols more important (or significant) than others? Which ones and why?

# Washday

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

My Washday Symbol

Washday Week	Action	Amount	
Week 1	Choose a Charity	-	
Week 2	Design a symbol		
Week 3	Making good choices		
Week 4	Doing something special		
Week 5	Making the School tidy		
Week 6	Washing our feet		

# Washday

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

My Washday Symbol

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Week 1	Choose a Charity	-	
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