

Aim: Jesus changed the Passover into the communion service and told us to follow His example. Fundamental 16
Resources: What We Believe for Kids by Jerry D Thomas; What We Believe for Teens by Seth J Pierce; God Loves Me 28 ways – Bible Adventures for Young Readers. All published by Pacific Press Publishing Association.

This term we are looking at what the Seventh-day Adventist Church believes. Today we are doing Fundamental 16 – the Communion service.

Do you know why we do the foot washing, special bread and grape juice at church? (Read John 13:15 – Jesus told us to.)

Do you remember what the foot washing stands for? (Jesus washing away our sins)

Do you remember what the special bread stands for? (Jesus body that was broken/died on the cross)

Do you remember what the grape juice stands for? (Jesus blood that was poured out on the cross)

Since the foot washing represents Jesus washing away my sins, what would dirt represent?

Washing is used several times in the Bible to teach about sin. David wrote in Psalm 51:7^{NLT} "Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me and I will be whiter than snow."

When you have your feet washed during communion, what does it mean? (That you want Jesus to take your sins away and make you clean from sin)

There are a few things that you need to do if you want Jesus to take away your sins:

- In Matthew 5:23, 24, Jesus said if a person was bringing a gift to the temple and remember that someone was angry or upset at them, they must first go and fix things up with that person. Is anyone angry or upset with you?
- In Matthew 6:14^{NLT} Jesus said "If you forgive those who sin against you, your heavenly Father will forgive you." Are you angry or upset with anyone? – You need to ask God to help you forgive them.
- 1 John 1:9^{NLT} says "If we confess our sins to Him He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all wickedness." Have you confessed your sins to God?

Read what Peter did when Jesus came to wash his feet in John 13:6-11.

Washing feet was normally done by a servant and that was probably what Peter was thinking when Jesus came to wash his feet. When Jesus tells Peter "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me," Peter realises that the foot washing is a symbol for washing from sin. Baptism is also a symbol for washing away sins, but even though we still sin, we are only baptised once.

What does it mean when you wash someone else's feet? You are following Jesus example as He commanded, but God doesn't just want us to do the right thing, He wants us to do it for the right reason too. One thing that the disciples had not learnt at this stage was how to serve. Jesus had told them more than once that He had come to serve others.

Read Matthew 20:26-28. Remember the parable of the wedding feast where someone is brought from the bottom of the table to sit in the most important spot? As you wash someone's feet, remember that Jesus loves this person very much and He wants you to show His love to them too. What can you do to show God's love to this person? What can you do to show God's love to other people?

Why did Jesus have to die? It was the only way to save us. Because we sin we must die, but Jesus died in our place. Imagine you are standing in front of a judge. The judge reads out what you are accused of – you have to plead guilty, because you are guilty. You are sentenced to death, but then Jesus steps forward and says, "Let me swap places with you; I will take your punishment and you can have my life." – That's what we are accepting when we eat the bread of communion.

The grape juice represents Jesus blood, but even more importantly, blood in the Bible is used to represent cleansing. In the Old Testament, the blood of animals was sprinkled in the Sanctuary to represent the removing of sins. 1 John 1:7^{NLT} says "The blood of Jesus... cleanses us from all sin."

Do you want Jesus to take away your sins – to make you spiritually clean? Do you want to follow Jesus example and look for ways to serve other people – to show God's love to them?