Washing of the Feet Prayer Service

Are we literally supposed to wash everyone’s feet?
Probably not. Jesus often spoke on multiple levels.
On one level, he was saying “literally, wash each other’s feet as a sign of humility, like I have done for you.”
And on a deeper level, he was saying, “humble yourselves and live sacrificially, as I have done for you.”
But practicing this literal foot washing is a great training ground for learning to serve, and be served.

A “washing the disciples’ feet” lesson for kids
What you need:

- A Bible
- For younger kids, a copy of the Students Storybook Bible
- Two towels (one for under the basin, and one to dry with)
- A basin or roasting pan (don’t have either? put the kids on the kitchen counter and use the sink!)
- Warm water
- Soap (optional)

1. Read John 13:1-17 (see below).
2. SAY: We’re going to do this, just as Jesus commanded.
3. Wash each other’s feet, making sure that every person has a chance to wash and be washed.
4. Afterward, ASK:
   - What were you thinking while you washed his/her feet?
   - How did you feel?
   - Why do you think you thought/felt that way?
   - What were you thinking while having your feet washed?
   - How did you feel?
   - Why do you think you thought/felt that way?
   - How does it make you feel that Jesus would wash our dirty feet?
   - Why do you think Jesus wants us to do this?

5. After the end, share this beautiful love letter from God:
Dear _________,

Did you know that the disciples did what Jesus asked? They never forgot how Jesus washed their feet that night. They never forgot how much Jesus loved them. So they took that love into the world. And you can do the same. Never forget how much Jesus loves you. Show that love to others. If you do that, everyone will know that you are one of his disciples.

Love,

God

John 13:1-17

Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist.

5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?”

7 Jesus replied, “You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.”

8 “No,” said Peter, “you shall never wash my feet.”

Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.”

9 “Then, Lord,” Simon Peter replied, “not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!”

10 Jesus answered, “Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you.” 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. 13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.