

Shoes, feet and all things sweet!



Assembly Resource

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Concept

We are inviting children to imagine what it would be like to walk in other people's shoes, and challenging them to use their feet for good. These Assembly Plans are part of a bigger resource, which can be downloaded from the www.nopainnogaintlm.org website.

Primary School Assembly Plan



Key Idea: Exploring how we can follow in Jesus' footsteps to help those who have damaged feet because of leprosy.

Introductory Activity

Get everyone to stand on their feet. Get them to follow this set of instructions.

On my whistle do the following:

- 1 blow of the whistle = jog on the spot
- 2 blows of the whistle = tap dance on the spot
- 3 blows of the whistle = stomp the ground as hard as you can three times

Yes, you guessed it - our assembly today is all about feet! We're going to think about how we use our feet, and about the problems that some people can face when their feet don't work as they should.

Walking in someone else's shoes

Have you ever taken a pair of your mums, dad's or granny's shoes and walked about in them?

There are some sayings about walking in other people's shoes. We are often told to 'walk a mile in someone else's shoes,' or to 'put yourself in their shoes'. *Use the picture on page 6 to illustrate walking in someone else's shoes.*

It's a bit of a funny thing to say. The idea behind it is to make us think of what it would be like to live their life.

Remember back to trying on your mum's, dad's or granny's shoes. As you walked about in them, you might have started to act like them, saying the things that they say, and doing the things that they do. Spending time in their shoes helps us to see what it would be like to be them.

This morning, we are going to imagine what it would be like to walk about in different people's shoes.

Listen to these different people, and imagine what it would be like to walk in their shoes, and live their life...

Imagine walking around for the day as a pop star or maybe you would rather think of yourself as a famous footballer. You would wake up in the morning and put on your really expensive slippers. You would relax by the pool, have a swim, enjoy some lunch. Maybe then you would head to the gym, followed by a foot massage. After that, you would get ready. It's nearly showtime or match-time, and your starting to get nervous. Your feet feel heavy, and you are not so relaxed anymore. Then, you walk on stage or on to the pitch, the crowd scream your name, and your feet start to move as you feel a big rush of energy fill your body. You are now very happy and loving every minute!

Imagine walking around for the day as a teacher. You get up and think about getting your school shoes on. You walk to your car, and after driving to school, you walk into your class - who are all behaving very well, of course. At lunch, you don't get to sit down and eat because you're on lunch duty. You have to sort out 3 different issues in the playground. Then you are straight back into teaching. As the pupils head for home, you start to mark work, and for the next few hours you sit at your desk, preparing tomorrow's lessons, and sorting out all the things you need to make school work the way it should. You head home, and enjoy relaxing by the fire with your feet up, watching Cbeebies before nodding off to sleep.

Imagine that for the day you are a young boy living in Nigeria, and you have a disease called leprosy. It has stopped you being able to lift up your foot and walk properly. It has also stopped you from being able to feel it when sharp things stick into your feet. You can't walk as fast as the other boys and girls, so you have to set out early for school to get there on time. After an exhausting day at school, its time for your daily foot bath. You soak your feet, and your mum applies a lotion that stops them from getting dry. She notices a big cut on the sole of your foot. You had no idea that you had hurt it, or how it had happened. Leprosy has killed the nerve endings in your feet, and so you can step on something sharp and not even notice it. Your mum says you will have

to take the day off school tomorrow and travel to the special leprosy hospital to get it seen to by a doctor. You go to bed worried about what tomorrow will bring, and really annoyed at yourself for getting a cut on your foot.

The day in the life of the pop star and the footballer sounds very exciting. Walking in the feet of a teacher seems like it is hard work, but worthwhile. Walking in the footsteps of the boy in Nigeria seems really difficult. There is a risk that at any time, he might damage his feet. The boy would also struggle to play and enjoy his day like his classmates at school. Running and playing in the playground would be impossible.

Bible Story

We're going to keep thinking about what it would be like to live with leprosy as we read about Jesus meeting someone who had leprosy. Let's listen to how Jesus helped that person.

Read Matthew 8:1-3

Just like the boy in the Nigeria, the man healed of leprosy would have had problems with his feet, and he might also have had hands clawed by leprosy. In this Bible passage, Jesus sets an example of how we should care for people with feet and hands damaged by leprosy.

Jesus used his feet to go places others wouldn't go, and help people other's wouldn't even talk to. The man with leprosy would have been used to people doing their best to steer clear of him. Jesus walks right up to him, reaches out his hand and heals him. This wasn't the first time Jesus had helped someone other's didn't want to go near. The woman at the well was there during the heat of the midday sun because her fellow villagers disliked her so much. Jesus doesn't walk away, instead he talks with her, and helps put her life back on track.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus, an organisation called The Leprosy Mission work hard everyday to help people who have leprosy. The Leprosy Mission workers are willing to walk into the homes of people with leprosy, to sit with them, listen to their story, and give them the medicine and help that they need. They have helped the boy from Nigeria whose feet we imagined walking in earlier by giving him medicine, caring for his cut in hospital, and giving him special shoes to stop him accidentally hurting himself again. We are going to watch a short video which shows how The Leprosy Mission helped this boy recover from his damaged foot.

It also gives us some fun ideas of how we can partner with The Leprosy Mission and follow in Jesus' footsteps, by protecting feet damaged by leprosy.

Show the 'Shoes' video, found at www.nopainnogaintlm.org

Invite the pupils to take part in a silly shoe day, and raise money through sponsorship to help feet damaged by leprosy. Just £10 can make a difference in the life of someone with leprosy, giving them shoes that will protect their feet. £120 could give someone like the boy in this story, Aboubacar, the surgery he needs to correct his foot drop and transform his life completely.

Closing prayer

Lord, we thank you for our feet. We thank you that we can jog, dance and stamp them. We pray for people whose feet do not work properly, and that have leprosy. Bring healing and help to them. Help us to put ourselves in other people's shoes, and understand what it would be like to live their lives. Help us also to use our feet to help others. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Post Primary School Assembly Plan



Key Idea: Exploring how we can follow in Jesus' footsteps to help those who have damaged feet because of leprosy.

Our assembly today is thinking about shoes and feet, how we use them, and how we can help feet that are damaged. We're going to begin by thinking about shoes and hearing some strange and interesting facts about them.

Introduction - Facts about shoes

- As the first lady of the Philippines from 1965 to 1986, Imelda Marcos enjoyed many perks. When the family fled the island, the Malacañan Palace was found to have 1056 pairs of shoes.
- The American term for trainers - sneakers, got their name because people noticed that with the rubber sole, you could now sneak around!
- A bit like people in Northern Ireland who have a new carpet, you must always take off your shoes when entering a house in Japan. Guests are given slippers to wear.
- Ancient Romans were the first to construct distinct left and right shoes. Before that shoes could be worn on either foot.
- The average woman walks 3 miles more per day than the average male - that's 1000 miles a year!
- The saying 'Walking in someone else's shoes' started life as an American Indian saying. It would originally have encouraged people to 'walk in one another's moccasins'.

Walking in someone else's shoes

Have you ever taken a pair of your mum's, dad's or granny's shoes and walked about in them?

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Remember back to trying on your mum's, dad's or granny's shoes. As you walked about in them, you might have started to act like them, say the things that they say, do the things that they do. Spending time in their shoes helps us to see what it would be like to get in character, and behave like them.

This morning, we are going to imagine what it would be like to walk about in different people's shoes.

Imagine what it would be like to walk in the shoes of the following people, and live their life...

Imagine walking around for the day as a pop star or maybe you would rather think of yourself as a famous footballer. You would wake up in the morning and put on your really expensive slippers. You would relax by the pool, have a swim, enjoy some lunch. Maybe then you would head to the gym, followed by a foot massage. After that, you would get ready. It's nearly showtime or match-time, and you're starting to get nervous. Your feet feel heavy, and you are not so relaxed anymore. Then, you walk on stage or on to the pitch, the crowd scream your name, and your feet start to move as you feel a big rush of energy fill your body. You are now very happy and loving every minute!

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able to feel it when sharp things stick into your feet. You can't walk as fast as the other boys and girls, so you have to set out early for school to get there on time. After an exhausting day at school, it's time for your daily foot bath. You soak your feet, and your mum applies a lotion that stops them from getting dry. She notices a big cut on the sole of your foot. You had no idea that you had hurt it, or how it had happened. Leprosy has killed the nerve endings in your feet, and so you can step on something sharp and not even notice it. Your mum says you will have to take the day off school tomorrow and travel to the special leprosy hospital for treatment. You go to bed worried about what tomorrow will bring, and really annoyed at yourself for getting a cut on your foot.

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Closing prayer

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Putting yourself in other people's shoes!

