

# Footprints

Denise Spurrell, Pembroke, Ontario

## Preparation

Decorate with footprint items and have a display that will help the ladies visualize themselves in the setting of the poem 'Footprints in the Sand'.



## Introduction

Several times in the Gospels Jesus said to His disciples, "where I am going, you cannot come". They did not understand that He was referring to the Cross and the fact that He was going back to the Father. This theme 'footprints' is to focus our attention on four footprints that were left by Jesus.

- The Footprint of Prayer
- The Footprint of Forgiveness
- The Footprint of Love
- The Footprint of Service

These footprints are symbols of our pattern for living so that others may catch a glimpse of the love of Christ. A verse of song 628 in the SASB says,

*'Saviour of light, I look just now to thee;  
Brighten my path, so only shall I see  
Thy footprints, Lord, which mark the way  
for me;*

*Light of my life, so surely thou wilt be,  
O Man of Galilee!'*

May our pathway be such that people will see Christ's footprints evident in our living.

**Song:** SASB 510/TB 378, *Mine To Rise  
When Thou Dost Call Me*

## Prayer: The Footprint of Prayer

Hebrews 7:25 says, "Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God

through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them".

Prayer should be the most important part of the Christian's life. It gives us a one to one relationship with our God. It is a refreshing and strengthening time. Jesus gave us a supreme example of a life of prayer. Sometimes He went apart from the crowd to commune with His heavenly Father. Sometimes He prayed all night. He prayed before He was nailed to the Cross; He prayed for His disciples and for all who would believe in Him. Hebrews 7:25 tells us that "He ever lives to make intercession for us".

**Song:** SASB 106/TB 228 or 224, *Arise,  
My Soul, Arise*

## The Footprint of Forgiveness

Matthew 6:12-15 "Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

Jesus' whole life was an act of forgiveness. He forgave men's sins, even when He was being

abused and treated unkindly. But when Jesus prayed from the Cross 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do,' it was the greatest act of forgiveness ever. Even in the midst of such pain and suffering He forgave and prayed for others. How closely do we resemble the Master? Are we always ready to forgive or, maybe, sometimes a little reluctant. Matthew 6:12-15 tells us, quite plainly, that unless we forgive others, our Heavenly Father cannot forgive us.

### **Chorus**

*My lovely Jesus came and He  
has set me free*

*I thank you Jesus for Your glorious  
liberty*

*When I was lost in sin with no one to deliver  
me*

*My lovely Jesus came and He has set me  
free.*

*He set me free, He set me free  
He broke the bars of prison for me  
I'm glory bound, my Saviour to see  
Glory to God, He set me free.*

### **The Footprint of Love**

John 15:12-14 says, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command."

We can never even begin to understand the kind of unconditional love which Jesus expressed to mankind. Because of that great love, He extends compassion and mercy even when we don't deserve it. How does our love measure up to that standard of Christ? Jesus commands us to "Love each other as I have loved you."

**Song:** SASB 357/TB 577 or 558, *My Jesus, I Love Thee, I Know Thou Art Mine*

### **The Footprint of Service**

Mark 10:45 says, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many".



John 13:16 says, "the servant is not greater than his Lord". Jesus Christ came to be the servant of all. He came not to be ministered unto but to minister. What an example He set for us when He washed the feet of the disciples! Here were

people with tired, dusty, dirty feet. Christ saw the need for service and, without any fuss, did what needed to be done! Are we always ready to be a servant? Do we take not only the concerns of others to our Heavenly Father, but also do whatever we can to be of service to them?

The song, '*Find Us Faithful*' sung by Steve Green would be appropriate to play here.

To follow in the footprints of Jesus requires a complete and sincere commitment. Jesus informed His disciples that where He was going, they could not follow. Jesus went all the way to Calvary for each one of us. If we are faithful in following in His footprints, He will lead us BEYOND Calvary to receive the crown of life.

### **Poem: Footprints**

**Song:** SASB 483/TB 644, *Down In The Valley With My Saviour I Would Go*

### **Benediction**