
The Children's Program

Jesus said to them "Do You Know What I Have Done to You?"

Please consider using these materials, either in your World Day of Prayer service, or as part of your regular Children's Worship.

Preparation

On a table at the front of the room, place a map of The Bahamas, a Bible, a bowl of water and a towel, surrounded by colourful flowers. If possible, have a sample of the Shoebox Diorama Underwater Seascape as well. The set-up should be suitable for a children's service.

In advance, find a picture connected with something unique in the description of each Island to help the island names become familiar to the children.

The service begins with children marching to the front of the room, carrying signs with the names of twelve islands of The Bahamas: New Providence, Andros, Cat Island, Eleuthera, Abaco, Long Island, Exuma, Mayaguana, Inagua, Grand Bahama, Harbour Island and San Salvador.

Processional Song: *All O' We Is One Family*

Opening Prayer

Leader: We thank you, Heavenly Creator, on this World Day of Prayer, that we can gather together to pray for all the countries of the world, and especially for the people of The Bahamas. Keep our hearts humble to receive your love, open our ears to hear your word, and let us always sing your praises.

Welcome

Leader: The Islands of The Bahamas welcome you. We welcome you with open arms and warm smiles. The Bahama Islands were given the name 'Bajamar' by the Spaniards, who were some of the early settlers to our Islands. As we celebrate, let us think about the children of The Bahamas.

Introduction to The Bahamas

Leader: The Bahamas is a group of seven hundred islands and cays in the Atlantic Ocean, but only

approximately twenty-three islands are inhabited. Most days of the year are hot and sunny. Children in The Bahamas enjoy a variety of activities such as swimming, ring-play games, fishing, basketball, boating, and snorkeling. They can play outside almost all year round. Let us explore, and pray for the protection and positive growth of the children of The Bahamas.

ALL: God bless the children of The Bahamas; keep them safe, and help them to grow in radical love for one another.

Reader 1: The capital city Nassau is on New Providence, one of the smallest islands in the centre of the archipelago. Many tourists visit Nassau on large cruise ships. Andros is the largest island where you will see the third largest barrier reef in the world. It is famous for a variety of fish, and for tasty land crabs. Cat Island has the highest hill which is known as 'Mount Alvernia'. It is 207 feet above sea-level.

ALL: Let's help to keep the ocean and the islands free from pollution.

Reader 2: Eleuthera is famous for producing sweet and juicy pineapples. Abaco is famous for cucumbers and peas, and Long Island is famous for vegetable and fruit farms, as well as a variety of fresh meats.

ALL: Thanks to all who work the land to produce food for all the people living there.

Reader 3: Exuma is where you will find the Bahama Iguana. They are very large and friendly lizards, and children can feed them and hold them in their hands. In Mayaguana and Inagua there are thousands of beautiful pink flamingos. This is the national bird of The Bahamas. In Inagua there is also a natural salt pond which produces over a million tons of salt per year.

ALL: May their natural resources be protected and maintained, and shared with the world.

Reader 4: Grand Bahama is home to one of the oldest underwater cave systems in the world, situated at the Lucayan National Park. Harbour Island is where you find the beaches of beautiful pink

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sand, which glow in the sunlight. San Salvador is the island where Christopher Columbus landed on October 12, 1492, on a journey from Spain. October 12 is celebrated as a public holiday in The Bahamas every year.

ALL: We thank you, God, that we can share in the rich history and geography of The Bahamas.

Leader: Christmas and New Year's Day are very special times of the year in The Bahamas. These are days when Bahamians celebrate their Junkanoo Festival. Children look forward to going to the Junkanoo celebrations with their families. While it is still dark, very early on Christmas and New Year's Day, children, dressed up in newly purchased outfits, are taken out to the streets in Nassau and most of the Family Islands to enjoy the melodious sounds of horns and the lively drumbeats of the Junkanoo music. They watch the variety of dances performed by energetic dancers, and marvel at the colourful and spectacular costumes in the Junkanoo parade.

Prayer: (ALL) O Lord, we are thankful for what you have done to us. Thank you for reminding us to treat each other and our environment with respect and care. Thank you for our beautiful sunshine, beaches and islands that we sometimes take for granted. Thank you for our schools, homes, and churches where we learn about your radical love and service through Jesus' life. We, the children of the world, love you and we will continue to follow Jesus' steps. Amen

Song: *This We Bahamian Praise*

Bible Story: John 13:1-17

This is presented in a skit format. You will need one person to play Miss Rolle, one to play Diana, and one to play Michael.

Miss Rolle: Children, today's story comes from the Bible. I will read for you from the Gospel of John chapter 13 verses 1-17 (NRSV)

1. Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper
3. Jesus, knowing that God had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God,
4. got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself.
5. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.
6. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"
7. Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand."
8. Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me."
9. Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"
10. Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you."
11. For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."
12. After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you?"
13. You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am.
14. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
15. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.
16. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them.
17. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

Jesus washed his disciple's feet, and he told his disciples that they should follow his example. Now, how many of you would wash your friend's feet?

Diana: Miss Rolle, I would not wash my friend's feet because they are smelly and dirty.

Miss Rolle: Jesus washed all of his disciple's feet. It did not matter to him if they were dirty or smelly;

doctors and nurses also wash people's feet when they are smelly and dirty. Jesus loved his disciples and it is always good to do a kind act for someone.

Diana: But are there some other ways to show love or do a kind act than washing someone's feet?

Miss Rolle: I am glad you asked that question, Diana. Yes! There are other kind acts you can do. Do you remember last week when Johnny did not have lunch and you shared your lunch with him? Or when Suzy did not have a pencil or pen and you let her use yours? That's showing radical love. That was a form of 'foot washing'.

Michael: You mean when I let my little sister play with my toys I am being kind?

Diana: Miss Rolle, I think I understand what you are saying now. On Friday, and yesterday I helped Mrs Johnson across the street. Is that what you mean?

Miss Rolle: Yes! That is a perfect example of being kind and showing love to people around you.

Diana: Wow! I love this story. Jesus must have really loved his disciples to get on his knees and wash their smelly feet. I wish I was one of his disciples. I would love to be near him and touch him as he washed my feet.

Michael: Miss Rolle, this story really taught me that I should love my friends and do nice things for them, and to show love, even to my little sister. Now that I understand, I won't mind sharing my lunch.

Miss Rolle: Students, let us focus on what Jesus used in this story, a towel and water; but he also used his hands to wash the disciples' feet. Students, can you do your own 'foot washing' at home by using your hands to help your mother or father with chores around the house; by saying kind words, and by sharing your lunch like Diana did?

Students: Yes we can, and we will. *(The bell rings and the class is finished)*

Hymn: *What I have Done (Words and Music by George Mulrain©)*

Offering

Offertory Prayer: Living God, we offer this money, for the work of World Day of Prayer, and we ask that you use all that we have and all that we are in service to you. Amen.

Reader: Poem:

How can I serve God, I am just a child?

1. How can I serve God, I am tender and mild?
Can I make a difference in this world huge
and wild?

I say again I am just a child;
Where do I begin? What do I say?
Lord I have questions, so I will pray
Please grant me Lord another day to ask
for your awesome answers to this humbling task

2. I will pray without ceasing, until I fully
remember;

A story told in Church School last December;
I think it was just before the Passover Feast
Jesus kneeled down and washed his disciple's
feet

"Do you know what I have done to you," he said;
So should I do unto others as they have done
instead?

Lord I want to serve you, but I am just a child,
I want to make a difference in this world huge
and wild

3. So, after praying, I finally realized,
that I had been serving God all the while,
placing my offering in the collection pan,
playing my clarinet in the school's marching
band,

being a friend to the new children at school
and making sure they knew the rules
I am now a happier child you see,
because I have been serving God in my community

Words by Paulette McPhee ©

Benediction: Loving God, as we leave this place let us not forget the reason why we are here. Let us continue to celebrate and pray for the people of The Bahamas and our brothers and sisters around the world. Amen.

The Children's Program: Resources

Junkanoo Mask



Supplies

- Construction paper in any color
- 1 rubber band
- Scissors
- Glue
- Feathers
- Glitter

Directions

Cut out a mask using your construction paper. (Trace it first to make sure it's big enough.) Place lines of glue all around the mask. Sprinkle on the glitter. Take the feathers and glue them to the sides of the mask. Cut the rubber band. Glue the ends to the side of the mask. Let dry.

Shoebox Diorama Underwater Seascape



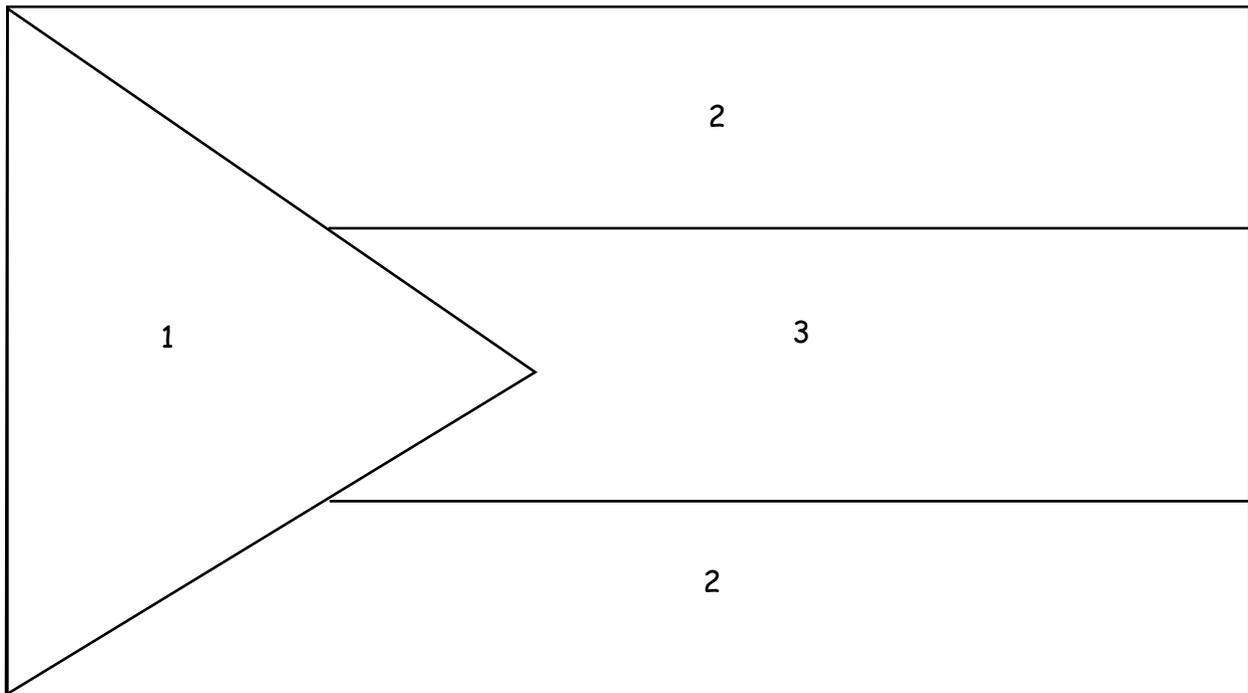
You might have seen a diorama in a museum. A diorama is a three-dimensional model of a scene.

Supplies

- Shoe box or tissue box
- Cut-outs of different fish and marine life
- Sand
- Sea Shells
- Bluepaint/crayon/ marker
- Glue

Directions

Decorating the outside of the box is optional.
 Create your base:
 Paint the inside of the box blue (let dry).
 Spread glue at the bottom of your box to stick down your sand and sea shells (let dry).
 Create your background:
 Glue fish and marine life at the sides and back of the box. For more depth, pictures of fish can be hung from thread.



The Bahamian Flag

Let's color by numbers!

1=Black

2=Aquamarine

3=Gold