

That shiny new feeling

Starter a

Go and wash your face or if you have the time and facilities have a bath. Does it feel nice to get rid of the dirt of the day? Does your skin feel fresher? Do you feel invigorated or very relaxed?

Starter b

Have a girl's night in with facemasks, waxing, plucking, foot soaking etc. Talk about how good it feels to treat your body nicely.

Discussion Questions

Why do we wash?

How do you feel after you are all clean?

If you were getting ready for a party or a wedding would you do more to your body than if you were going to take an exam at school? What sort of things would you do differently and why?

If you had a friend who never washed what would you do?

Read 16: 12 - 15

About you

Imagine being out playing sport on a hot and humid day. By the time you get home your clothes are damp with sweat, your hair is sticking to you and you feel dirty and smelly and horrible. So you dash upstairs peel off your clothes and jump into a cool shower. For sometime you just stand there enjoying the water flowing over you. Eventually, you wash, get out of the shower, and wrap yourself in a big soft towel. You pad down to your room and pick out some clean clothes and you feel like a new person again.

The bible describes the things we do wrong like dirt that sticks to our lives that we can't get off. The only way we can be free from that dirt is to accept that Jesus died in our place and God raised him from the dead and then say to Jesus you can have total control over my life. Then Jesus washes us clean. Free from all the dirty stuff that messes up our lives. Imagine how good and refreshing that would feel.

Jesus washing us clean is even better than a shower. With a shower I can be left with the effects of the dirt, spots and black heads, rashes and dry patches but when Jesus washes us clean we are not left with the effects of the dirt or sin. We are made new, free from everything that made us feel dirty. If we trust Jesus to take control we will feel like new, the old dirty stuff will be taken away and we will be filled with new shiny clean stuff.

Lydia chose to take advantage of this cleanness that God can give us but then she realised that she wanted her family to feel that cleanness as well. So she went and told them all about it. Then she realised that God had made her clean because He had a special thing for her to do. So she set up the first church in Philippi in her house. When we spend a long time getting clean, plucked, shaved, buffed, polished and feeling great it normally means we are going to a special occasion. When God makes us totally clean He is doing it for three reasons. Firstly it means we can have a relationship with

Him forever. Secondly, it means we will feel great. Thirdly, it means He is getting us ready for a special job. Maybe, it is to work with the Explorers in your company. Maybe it is to talk to the bullied kid at school or the grumpy old lady at church. Maybe it is to clean the church once a week. Maybe it is to smile at your leaders, teachers and minister when they are speaking to encourage them. Whatever it is, be sure that God has a special job just for you to do.

To do

Think about what being totally clean means to you. If you once felt that cleanness but don't anymore, spend time talking to God and giving Him the dirt again and trusting Him to have control over your life. Then start thinking about the special job God has for you and try to get involved.