



## 4. Bible Study

### Clean Before God: Book of Exodus

**Set Up:** If time permits, have each boy wash his hands in a large bucket or basin, symbolizing what the priests had to do before entering the tabernacle. Even though this was a physical washing, it represented cleansing the heart. As the boys wash their hands, ask them to think about how they can clean their hearts. This can get confusing for this age since they think in concrete terms.

**Commander Says:** After Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, God gave them instructions to build a tabernacle, or a place where God could live among them, a place His people could gather to worship Him. The tabernacle had an outer courtyard and an inner tentlike building, which was the actual tabernacle. The tabernacle contained the ark of the covenant, which is where God's presence stayed. It was a special place, and only certain people could go there to meet God.

The priest went into this special place. Before he could enter, he had to make certain he was clean, both spiritually and physically. This cleaning process was a daily ritual that the priest did. The priest washed at the bronze basin. He cleaned his hands and feet.

Do you remember a time when Jesus, in the New Testament, washed the feet of His disciples? On the night He was arrested, Jesus and His disciples gathered for a meal. After the meal, Jesus took off His robe, tied a towel around His waist, and went around the room washing the disciples' feet. He did this to show them that He was a servant of His Father, and to give them an example of how He wanted them to live—clean and pure. Jesus spoke of how we should be clean on the inside too. He will give us clean hearts when we believe in Him.

**Review:** Ask the boys, "How can we make ourselves physically clean? How can we make ourselves spiritually clean?"

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