

## Beautiful Feet!

*"The message is very close at hand. It is on your lips and in your heart. And that message is the very message about faith that we preach." Romans 10:8*

*"And how can they call on Him to save them unless they believe in Him? And how can they hear about Him unless someone tells them? And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That's why the scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news." Romans 10:14-15*



This verse has always made me chuckle. I don't think feet are beautiful at all ... at least not mine. I have had several surgeries on my feet to relieve bunions and then the results of infections, lack of care on my part, a joint replacement and finally joint removal and an ugly "Stubby" toe. No, my feet are not beautiful! But let us delve deeper into this verse. It doesn't stop at "feet." It *qualifies* those feet as it continues on to "of them that preach the good news."

We have been challenged in our three-year initiative to "Meet People Where They Are," to "Tell Your Story," and now, this year to "Step Out."

*Meeting people where they are* involves an act of the heart. It involves being non-judgmental, respectful, loving and kind in all we say and do. Yes, like Jesus would have us be in relation to other people. Our own journey begins in within our hearts - understanding, believing and receiving the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, and then allowing the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, words, and deeds.

### Questions for Discussion:

*Share with a neighbor your own faith journey – What, or who has been important in that journey. Next – talk with your neighbor about where you are right now in your faith journey. Share in the group ways you have stepped forward to meet people where they are? On newsprint, list all the ways that your women's group tries to meet people right where they are.*

Telling our story means we must have a story to tell. It isn't complicated. Remember, there are many ways to hear God's voice. Elijah heard just a "still small voice" and Jonah had to be swallowed by a whale before he listened to God. Life happens to everyone - good, bad, boring, indifferent, exhilarating, depressing, challenging, and all of the above. How a Christian handles life circumstances is the story we tell. There is someone who needs to hear your encouraging story of overcoming a circumstance with Jesus at your side.

### Questions:

Share with someone the story of what your life was like before Christ, how you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and then what a difference having Christ in your life has made. If you can't remember "life" before Jesus, talk about how being a Christian has influenced your decisions. Is there a significant faith story that has made an impact upon your life - one that made a difference in how you saw yourself in your circumstances? Is there someone you know that needs to hear your story? Share that story within your group.

And that brings us to this year's theme - "Step Out." You are the messenger with the Good News,

and you just need be willing to use those feet to share that message with others. Willingness is what makes my ugly feet beautiful. We never know what moccasins God has asked someone we know to walk in each day. Meeting them where they are, sharing a message of encouragement and overcoming adversity begins by taking that first step. Becoming vulnerable is scary, but not when Jesus calls you to step out and holds your hand all the way. I have very often said that God doesn't really NEED me. There really isn't anything special about me. I'm pretty ordinary. If I don't respond to God's leading and nudging, He will get someone else to listen to Him and minister to that person in my path. And then who misses out? ME!!! The person I was to minister to was indeed sought out by someone else who was willing to Step Out. God is faithful to those who are seeking Him.

### **Questions:**

*What are some of the feelings that pop up inside you as you think about "stepping out" to share the love of Jesus with others? Have you ever told someone about Jesus and they rejected the message? How did that make you feel? Have you ever shared the good news with someone and their response was positive and affirming? How did that make you feel? What do you think would be important to prepare yourself to "step out" with the good news of Jesus Christ?*

Feet can be stinky, dirty, and calloused by the roads we are led to walk. Those roads may be made easier by walking with a companion ... someone who knows what the road is like and can lead you through it. Are you that person? Are you willing to have your feet made beautiful?

### **How can I Step Out? How can I minister?**

- As a starting point, wash each other's feet at your next women's ministry meeting.
- Consider going as a group to a nursing home, domestic abuse shelter or homeless shelter to give manicures or paint toenails. This would be a great way to include the teen girls in your church in women's ministry and in acts of love.
- Keep a journal for one week logging where you see Jesus each day. Share your journal entries with a family member, or with someone in church.
- Pray for random people who are pumping gas alongside you at the gas station this week.
- What other ideas can you think of to meet people, tell your story, and step out!

As long as you are stepping out, step out of the box and search for new areas of ministry that have not been touched. And then just Step Out with BOTH FEET!!!!

"How beautiful are the feet of those that messengers that bring good news!" Share the good News that God loves them. Be His eyes, ears, hands, heart and feet.

### **Prayer:**

*Thank you loving God, for giving me a beautiful story to tell of your great love. Give me the courage to step out with that story so that others will be able to hear of your great works. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

