



Your Faith Your Family

Follow Jesus, Lead Your Family

Celebrate Maundy Thursday At Home!

Background:

The Thursday before Easter we remember Jesus at the Passover Meal with His Disciples, transforming the celebration into what we now observe as communion. The Lord's Supper is practiced differently by various Christian denominations and we encourage you to explore and discuss your own church's teachings. The overall theme of the night is the same in Scripture though - Jesus expressing to his disciples the unity they have in the forgiveness that is theirs through the sacrifice He is about to make for them, and us. And although one will betray Him, He stresses that they must love and serve each other. He demonstrates this in John 13 with the washing of feet. In a time when footwear was sandals, feet were dirty. Reclining next to each other at a low table meant you were in close proximity to feet. Ordinarily the job of the lowest servant, Jesus, who just days before was hailed as King, took on the job to teach about love and service.

Start with the reading from John 13 below (or for kids use an age appropriate story Bible).

As appropriate for ages and comfort level in your family, do an activity where you serve each other:

- You could have a dessert or treat and have each one deliver it to another at the table.
- You could eat a large sundae together - with the rule that you must only feed others and not yourself
- You could actually wash feet.
- Whatever you choose, seek to serve each other equally, but as a parent (authority) be sure you are leading by example.

Things to discuss:

- What is your favorite way to serve others?
- What is difficult for you to do to serve others
- In a family who serves more - Parents or Kids (depending on age, be prepared for some honest answers - it may lead to other discussions later)
- Remember the ultimate way Jesus served us. Point ahead to Friday, when we'll focus on the death of Jesus and Sunday when we celebrate His resurrection.

End with prayer, such as:

Dear Jesus, Help us to use the ability and things that you give us to serve others. Remind us we love them because you love us. Amen

Resources:

"Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him... When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

John 13:3-5,12-17

Key Chapters for Maundy Thursday:

Luke 22; Matthew 26; Mark 14; John 13