

## ***Maundy Thursday Family Agape Meal with Dramatic Reading of Scripture***

*In remembrance of Jesus' last supper with his disciples before his death, you are invited to share an agape meal with your family. Choose a simple meal your family would enjoy (e.g. soup, cheese or macaroni cheese, fruit, bread and wine or grape juice) and serve it family style. One of the adults will preside at the meal.*

*Before the meal sit down at table together before the meal is served and assign characters to family members. Begin with the following reading from scripture.*

*Families who have asked will have received a picture of the Last Supper to work on before, during or after the meal. If you have young children, you should be prepared to prompt them with examples they might have experienced.*

### **Jesus Washes his Disciples' Feet**

*Adult* It was now the day before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. He had always loved those in the world who were his own, and he loved them to the very end. Jesus and his disciples were at supper. The Devil had already put into the heart of Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, the thought of betraying Jesus.

*Jesus knew that he was soon going to die and that one of his disciples would betray him to those who would kill him.*

- *I wonder if you have ever felt betrayed by one of your friends.*
- *I wonder what Jesus might have felt knowing that one of his friends at the table were planning to turn him over to those who would arrest him.*

*Adult* Jesus knew that the Father had given him complete power; he knew that he had come from God and was soon going home to God. So he rose from the table, took off his outer garment, and tied a towel round his waist. Then he poured some water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and dry them with the towel round his waist. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him

*Simon Peter* "Are you going to wash my feet, Lord?"

*Jesus* "You do not understand now what I am doing, but you will understand later."

*Simon Peter* "Never at any time will you wash my feet!"

*Jesus* "If I do not wash your feet, "you will no longer be my disciple."

*Simon Peter* "Lord, do not wash only my feet, then! Wash my hands and head, too!"

*Jesus* "Those who have had a bath are completely clean and do not have to wash themselves, except for their feet. All of you are clean — all except one.

*Adult* Jesus already knew who was going to betray him; that is why he said, "All of you, except one, are clean."

*Have bowls of water and soap at the table, and a paper towel for each person. Before continuing as each person at the table to wash their hands thoroughly. As you wash your hands you might like to listen to a recording of "[Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love.](#)"*

- *I wonder why Jesus washed his disciple's feet.*
- *I wonder why we are being so careful to wash our hands a lot nowadays, especially before we eat?*

*After everyone has washed their hands continue with the story*

*Adult*                      After Jesus had washed their feet, he put his outer garment back on and returned to his place at the table.

*Jesus*                      "Do you understand what I have just done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and it is right that you do so, because that is what I am. I, your Lord and Teacher, have just washed your feet. You, then, should wash one another's feet. I have set an example for you, so that you will do just what I have done for you. I am telling you the truth: slaves are never greater than their master, and messengers are never greater than the one who sent them. Now that you know this truth, how happy you will be if you put it into practice!"

- *I wonder what you could do to help with dinner this evening. Can you help serve? Can you see when someone at the table needs water, or more food? Can you tell the people at the table which part of the food is especially delicious tonight?*
- *Can you practice being a servant like Jesus by offering to clear the plates from the table and wash them up?*

## **The New Commandment**

*Jesus*                      And, now I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples."

*Now enjoy your meal!*

*At each table have a wine glass (or pottery wine goblet)*

*After the meal an adult takes the goblet and fills it with wine or grape juice. The adult takes a pita bread or other bread and puts it on a special plate.*

*He/she then reads the passage below from 1 Corinthians. At the appropriate time takes the bread, breaks a piece off and passes the plate to the next person to break a piece of bread for themselves before passing it on to the next.*

*This is repeated with the goblet which is passed among family members.*

## **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

*If you look carefully at the scripture we just read, you will find the answer to these questions.*

- *What did Jesus do on the night he was betrayed, right before he broke the bread and shared it?*
- *Why did Jesus say that the bread was, or was a symbol of, his body?*
- *What is a covenant between two people or groups of people?*
- *I wonder how you feel when you share bread and wine at the altar with others from your St. Peter's community? (Do you miss your friends there?)*

*Now let us say together the prayer our Lord taught us to pray.*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen

When dinner is done, enjoy this [video animation of the Last Supper](#).

