



Maundy Thursday

Welcome back to the Holy Week series of Faith at Home for Families sheets! The next important day in Holy Week is Maundy Thursday. On this day, Christians remember that Jesus washed his disciples' feet and that he celebrated the Last Supper with them. But why is it called 'Maundy' Thursday? The word '**Maundy**' comes from the Latin word 'mandatum'. This means commandment, or 'something I tell you to do'. It is '**Maundy Thursday**' because during the Last Supper Jesus commanded his disciples (told them) how to remember him.

Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet

I don't know about you, but feet are a bit funny, aren't they? They're odd looking, they're very ticklish (or at least mine are!) and sometimes they get sweaty and a bit smelly... But this story about Jesus is all about feet.



Our last story was on Sunday, Palm Sunday, and now we have moved to the Thursday of Holy Week. It was just before a special Jewish festival called Passover, when Jews remember how God saved them from being slaves in Egypt. Like all good festivals, there was food. Jesus was with his disciples having a meal when he got down from the table, wrapped a towel around his waist, took a bowl of water and started to wash their feet.

If you want to read this part of the story, it's in John's gospel, chapter 13, verses 1-17.

I wonder if you have ever had your feet washed during a meal? No, me neither. Jesus' disciples were confused and a bit shocked. Why would their leader, who they knew was a King, bend down to wash their dusty, dirty feet? It seemed all wrong to them, and one of Jesus' closest friends, Peter, told him so.

Now, do you remember the donkey in the Palm Sunday story? How Jesus was using the donkey to tell people something? Well, it's the same with the foot washing. Jesus was telling his disciples that he was the kind of King who

helps other people, serving them instead of people serving him. Not only that, but he wants his disciples and followers to help other people too.

I wonder what you can think of to do, to help someone you know this week?

Activity

You can make footprints in paint on big sheets of paper, then have someone wash your feet, like Jesus did for his friends!

Once the paint has dried, you can cut round the footprints and put them on a card to send to someone. Maybe someone in your family who you haven't seen for a while, to make them smile!



The Last Supper

As we have already found out, it was time for the Jewish festival of Passover, and Jesus was sharing a meal with his friends. If you want to read about the Last Supper in the Bible, it is in Mark's gospel, chapter 14, verses 12-26.

I wonder if you know why it's called the Last Supper? It's because it is the last meal Jesus eats before he dies. That's sad, isn't it.

Do you remember how happy everyone was on Palm Sunday, waving their palms and singing 'Hosanna'? Well, the problem with a parade is, everyone notices it. There were people in Jerusalem who didn't like Jesus, and even more than that, they didn't like all the people saying he was their King. After all, there already was a King – the Roman Emperor Caesar, and his Governor Herod. They were in charge, along with the Jewish leaders in the Temple.



Those in charge saw Jesus as a threat to their power and so they decided he had to die. Jesus knew he was going to die, so he needed to show his friends and followers how to continue his amazing work of healing people and forgiving their sins, after he is gone. This is what he did at the Last Supper.

We've already seen how he shows his friends to help other people, when he washed their feet. Now he shows them how to remember his death by sharing bread and wine among them, not so they can be sad about it, but because his death is going to be really good news for everyone.



If you have been to St Mary's church, or any church, when it's a Communion service, you will see that Christians still remember the Last Supper more than 2,000 years later! The Vicar says the same words Jesus used when he said 'thank you' for the bread and the wine at the Last Supper. We'll find out more about what the 'good news' is, in the session about Good Friday.

Activity

Maybe you can act out the story of the Last Supper, using some bread and some blackcurrant squash. I wonder who will play Jesus in your family? You could take it in turns. Here is a model of the Last Supper that you can make.



Prayer

Here's a prayer you can say on Maundy Thursday in Holy Week:

Dear God, we thank you that you show us what is important – how to remember you, and how to help other people. Keep us following you this Holy Week. Amen.

What happens next...

If you are reading this and you want to find out more about who Jesus is and what the church is doing in Bottesford, Muston, Redmile, Plungar and Barkestone, you can contact St Mary's Church either by ringing our Office on 01949 842859, emailing stmbottesford@gmail.com or sending us a message on our Facebook page. We'd love to hear from you!