

Holy week: Thursday

Children and Youth Reflections

Ice breaker question: Find out who has the best feet in your house?

- Do you like people touching your feet?
- How about people washing your feet?

Today is Maundy Thursday. It is the celebration of the Last Supper Jesus had with His disciples where He gives His disciples one final command.

Bible reading: John 13: 1-17

*Remember, we must imagine that we are one of the disciples in the reading.

- What example did Jesus set for His disciples and you in the reading?

Jesus has said that the disciples have called Him teacher and Lord. For Jesus to be called this it means that the disciples have great respect for Him as they wouldn't call just anyone that. We also read that Jesus washed His own disciples feet. Do you think all our leaders would wash our feet? Probably not! By doing this Jesus was showing that He came to serve His people too.

- Where else have we learnt about feet washing?

We all know that feet are one of the dirtiest parts of the body. To wash someone's feet is also seen as the lowliest form of serving them. In those days in wealthy households, only a slave would wash the guest's feet. This didn't stop Jesus from getting down on His knees and washing His own disciples' feet.

- Why do you think Jesus washed His disciples' feet?

It was because he loved them with all His heart and cared for them deeply, just like how He loves and cares for us.

- Where in the Bible does it talk about what love is? Take a quick look at 1 Corinthians 13 if you're stuck.

For a moment, just imagine that Jesus comes down and washes your feet right now. How would that make you feel? Loved? Special? Respected? But Jesus doesn't want us to keep His love to ourselves He also wants us to share it with everyone we see.

Bible reading: John 13: 33-35

- What do you think Jesus means when He said He would be with them for only a little longer?

Jesus knows that His time on earth is limited, that He will be returning to be with His father. So, indeed He will be going to a place where nobody who is living can follow Him. This must have really hurt His disciples and made them sad because they have been following Him everywhere and they

gave up everything to be with Him. It is in this moment that Jesus gives His disciples a very important command.

- What command did Jesus give the disciples?
- How different do you think the world would be if we all practiced that command? If we all loved people like it says was love is in 1 Corinthians 13?

Maundy Thursday is the last night of Jesus' life before His crucifixion. He knew that He was going to be betrayed, arrested and killed yet He still chose to love unconditionally and he did this by washing His disciples' feet. When we know we are going to get in trouble, loving others may not even be a thought in our minds but it was for Jesus.

As we head into the Easter weekend. Remember that it is because Jesus died for our sins and rose three days later. If it were not for Jesus' sacrifice we would be living very different lives.

- How different do you think the world would be if Jesus hadn't died on the cross?
- What are three things that Jesus has done for you?
- Are you a friend or a disciple of Jesus?
- How can you be friends with Jesus?
- Have you asked Jesus to come into your life?

In verse 35 Jesus says, 'By this, all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

Memory verse:

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Activity:

Follow the example of Jesus and take turns to wash your family's feet tonight.