

A Different Kind of Dinner

Maundy Thursday Dinner Worship for All Ages

Materials: Bread, Drink, Bowl, Towel, a Reader, and a “Do-er”

AT THE START OF DINNER... the Readers says: Tonight we remember when Jesus asked his disciples to set the table for their Passover meal. Passover is when Jews celebrate how God saved their ancestors from slavery.

The Do-er does this: Break the bread, and give some to everyone.

The Reader says: On this night, Jesus blessed the Passover bread, broke it, and gave it to his friends as they ate together.

Everyone: Take a bite together. How does it taste?
How does it feel to share?



IN THE MIDDLE OF DINNER... the Do-er raises a cup and others follow raising theirs,

The Readers says: Tonight we remember Jesus & his friends lifting up the cup, celebrating how God saved the people from death. Jesus said “Whenever you eat this bread & drink this cup, remember that my love is stronger than death.”

The Do-er does this: Raise the cup higher

The Reader says: We remember & celebrate that Jesus’ love is stronger than death.

Everyone: Take a sip from your cup. What’s something you love about Jesus?
How does it feel to share?



AT THE END OF DINNER... the Do-er gets a large bowl of warm water & a towel.

The Reader says: Tonight we remember how before everyone left the table, Jesus got up and used a towel and a water basin to wash the disciples’ feet like a servant. He did this to show his love for them.

The Do-er does this: Wash someone’s hands saying, “Jesus loves you. And I love you.” Dry their hands with the towel, and then they wash someone else’s hands.

Everyone: What are some ways we show each other love in this family?



AFTER YOU’VE CLEANED UP... the Do-er gathers everyone in a circle.

The Reader says: Tonight we remembered Jesus’ last meal with his disciples. It started as a meal to remember what God had done in the past. But by the end of it, it was a different kind of dinner that shows us examples of Jesus loving us as God loves us. When the dinner was over, they went off together to pray.

The Do-er does this: Invite everyone to hold hands.

The Reader says: We remember Jesus calls us to love one another as he loves us. And so we pray the prayer he teaches us saying... **Our Father...**



MAUNDY THURSDAY INFORMATION SHEET

Information about the Passover Meal

Jesus and his disciples were all Jewish. The Jews are the people that God chose to help the whole world see the love of God. Passover is a holiday for Jews to remember how God rescued them from slavery in Egypt, brought them to freedom through the Sea, and gave them a land to live in beyond the Jordan, all out of love.

You can read that story in the book of Exodus.

In the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus' Last Supper was a Passover meal shared with his disciples.

Information about the Lord's Supper

At the last supper, Jesus interrupted the normal Passover ritual. When it was time to remember the Passover story of a sacrificial lamb, Jesus instead broke the bread saying, "This is my Body." Then, when it was time to drink the cup remembering how God saved them through the blood of a lamb, Jesus raised the cup saying "This is my Blood." He was showing them that he was ready to give up his life to show them God's love.

When we take communion, we also call it the Lord's Supper based partially on this Last Supper.

Information about the Foot Washing

In Jesus' day, when you would go to someone's house for a dinner, they might have a servant wash your feet. People didn't have great shoes at that time so their feet would get very dirty. A servant would wash feet as a sign of hospitality.

When Jesus washed the disciples' feet, though, it was a big shock. Jesus was not the servant! He was the leader! But he was choosing to serve his followers anyway.

After he washed their feet, he told them "As I have done to you, so you should do to one another." People remember this by washing each other's feet and hands on this night every year to this day.

Information about the Exit to Pray in the Garden

Before they left dinner, Jesus said "I give you a new commandment: that you love one another." The Latin word for commandment is *mandatum* and that is why tonight is called Maundy Thursday, it's from that Latin word. Tonight we remember the commandment Jesus gave his disciples to love one another as he loves us.

After the dinner, Jesus and the disciples all go to the garden where Jesus tells them to "watch and pray." Soon after that Jesus will be arrested and go on to show us the love of God by giving his life for the sake of the whole world.