

## FAITH FORMATION AT HOME - HOLY WEEK

### Holy (Maundy) Thursday

**PRAY:** *Lord, thank you for being an example of how to serve. Let us learn and remember how to serve others as well.*

**Discuss:** Ask your household why washing hands and feet is important (especially around this time). Discuss what your household has learned about washing hands recently. (Demonstrate best methods for hand washing).

**READ:** John 13: 1-17

**DISCUSS AS A HOUSEHOLD:**

- Why do you think Jesus washed his disciple's feet?
- Washing people's feet and hands is dirty work, why would Jesus do this?
- How would you feel if Jesus washed YOUR feet?

**ACTIVITY:** As a household, wash each other's feet (or hands) together. You may want to gather around a sink to do this or outside with a garden hose. You can organize it where the oldest person washes the hands/feet of the person younger than them, and go through the whole household ending with the youngest washing the oldest's feet.

**DISCUSS:**

- What did it feel like to wash someone else's hands/feet?
- What did it feel like to have someone wash your hands/feet?
- How is this activity serving/helping others?
- What are some ways we can help others outside our family/household and in the future?

You will need: Sink or Hose,  
Towels & Soap



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### Good Friday Cross

**PREPARE:** Mark your Bible to Luke 23:32-47 and 1 Peter 1:3-5. Cut two long pieces from the poster (we recommend 4"X28" and 4"X15"). Position the two pieces to form a cross. Tape the paper together on the back.

**PRAY:** *Dear God, help us to learn more about the cross. Amen.*

**DIRECTIONS:** Place the cross on a protected work area (covered in newspaper to prevent spillage). Invite family/household members to tell about crosses they have seen, perhaps in jewelry, around the house, in a church or in a book. Explain that the cross is important to Christians because of what Jesus did on Good Friday.

**READ:** Read aloud Luke 23:32-47 from your Bible. Encourage family/household members to tell what this reading causes them to wonder about.

**ACTIVITY:** As a household, work together to personalize your family's cross. You can choose to have the family paint their hands and 'stamp' handprints on the cross with paint or trace your handprints with markers. Repeat until the cross is completely covered.

**TOGETHER:** Look at the cross. Wonder together about the following questions:

- How are we connected to the story of Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus died on the cross?
- What do we celebrate Easter Sunday?

**READ:** Ask someone to read 1 Peter 1:3-5 in a language that is appropriate for the ages of your family and household members and from your faith traditions. Discuss the good news of Easter: Forgiveness, new life, belonging to the body of Christ, God's love that never ends.

Your family or household can choose to display the cross in your home. You may want to gather near it for bedtime prayers.

You will need: Bible, white poster board or similar, paint markers, paper towels, tape.



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### Easter Eggs

**PREPARE:** Hard boiled eggs (1+ egg for each household member) Cover a table or workspace. Prepare egg dye.

**PRAY:** *Great God of all, the mystery of Easter is so much greater than we can imagine. Thank you for your son and the joy of his resurrection. Amen.*

**DIRECTIONS:** Have each family or household member write their name on a slip of paper, fold it and place it in a small basket or container. Pass around the container and have each person draw out a name. Silently read the name on the paper and ensure no one reads it (very young children can partner with an older member). Each person then decorates an Easter Egg for that person, but they are not to tell who it is for. Follow the directions on the egg-colouring package to dye the eggs. You may choose to add personalized decorations. Set aside the eggs to dry.

**READ:** Read aloud Luke 23:50-24:5.

**DISCUSS AS A HOUSEHOLD:**

- How is an egg similar to a tomb?
- How is an egg similar (or different) to the rock placed in front of Jesus' tomb?
- How is decorating eggs for one another a way to celebrate Easter?

**TOGETHER:** Family or Household members can then 'gift' their eggs to each other, and may share something they are thankful for in that family or household member.

**VARIATION:** Write the name of the person on the egg you decorate. When you hide and search for Easter eggs, you can hide these along with them too and let each person find the egg with their name on it.

Don't forget to refrigerate the eggs and enjoy them on Easter for breakfast or during the week..

You will need: Bible, commercial egg colouring kit or homemade egg dye, cups or mugs, measuring spoons, water, vinegar, eggs, cooking pot, permanent markers, slips of paper, pens/pencils, small basket or container, old newspapers or table cover.



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