

MAUNDY THURSDAY HOME WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday is a special day in the Christian church. We remember how Jesus bent down to serve us and commands us to do the same for others. The special gift we are given in the Lord's Supper is brought to the forefront of our minds. We see Jesus begin his long, painful, and yet willing journey to the cross. The first Maundy Thursday was not spent in the temple. It was spent in a secret upper room, with a handful of close friends, some food and drink, and Jesus. Our hope is that this worship experience will allow you to gather your family together to begin an Easter weekend that will make lasting impact.

To use this worship experience:

- *Read through the preparation before Maundy Thursday. Please know that this is adaptable to your family. Choose the elements that will work in your home.*
- *Set aside a few hours for this experience.*
- *During the experience, put away all other devices.*

BEFORE MAUNDY THURSDAY:

PLAN:

- Read through the worship outline and decide which parts your home is going to participate in.
- This worship template is designed for any type of home or family, any age, any number of people. There are additional ideas for small children. Note: Is there a family you would like to share this experience with? Perhaps you can send them this plan and do a video call so you can worship together.

PRIORITIZE:

- Decide when you will do this worship experience. It does not have to be in the evening. Pick a time that works best for your household.
- Pray. Spend time in prayer, asking God to use this worship experience to draw your family closer to Him and to each other. Ask God to prepare the hearts of your family and to give you wisdom in leading this time of worship.

PREPARE:

- Decide which of the meal options you would like to participate in.
 1. *Seder Meal:* This would be a great opportunity to experience a traditional Seder meal. You can find more information on how to prepare this meal here: http://jewishfederation.org/images/uploads/holiday_images/39497.pdf
 2. *Last Supper:* You could try to re-enact a simple version of the Last Supper. Plan to have a loaf of bread, nuts and dried fruit, cheese, grapes, dates, and olives. You could add some lamb if you are feeling adventurous. Have wine/grape juice to drink.
 3. *KID NOTE:* Consider baking the bread with your children to use during the meal.

- Prepare your environment. Set the table. Set up a way to play YouTube videos for everyone to see/hear. Dim the lights. Light candles. Print copies of the extra lyrics page (if you are able). Place a Bible on the table. Remove distractions.

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There are 4 different sections to this worship outline:

Prepare Your Hearts (music and prayer)

Gather Around the Table (enjoy a meal together, discuss scripture)

Wash Feet (scripture, prayer, humility)

Strip the Altar (music, prayer, reflection)

Choose the elements and the time of day that work for your family.

The entire experience will probably take an hour or two as it is written.

You can shorten the meal experience by having just pita bread or crackers and grape juice.

PREPARE YOUR HEARTS:

- Begin in a time of worship music. You can use the songs below (YouTube links) or songs of your own choosing.
 - Abide with Me (hymn):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=84YASWe3_2Q
 - Abide with Me (contemporary, Matt Maher):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GluC9-4aB7Q>
 - The Wonderful Cross:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaO3XOI8P6w>
 - In Christ Alone: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kvFtXphmMU>
- Join in prayer together. Confess your distractions and worries. Ask God to use this time to help you draw closer to Him. Humble yourself to hear God's voice as you worship in your home.

GATHER AROUND THE TABLE:

- Gather together around the table. Pass around the food and drinks. *KID NOTE: Talk about what foods Jesus might have been used to eating. Talk about how bread and wine were important parts of the culture and how Jesus even called himself the "Bread of Life".*
- If you are doing a traditional Seder meal, here are links for some of the songs:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8p1pabOX3fc> Dayenu
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l30lgVThQyE> Song for Elijah the Prophet

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fiytXErdpU> Lashanah Haba'ah bi Yerushalyim (Next Year in Jerusalem)
- Read the story of the Last Supper from Scripture: Matthew 26:17-30.
 - Talk about the emotions Jesus and his disciples might have been experiencing.
 - What would have been confusing to the Disciples?
 - What do you learn about who Jesus is from this story?
 - *KID NOTE: If you have small children, consider also reading this from a Children's Bible.*
 - Talk about the connection of the Passover, Last Supper, and Communion.
- After taking some time to talk, listen to the following song: Carried to the Table: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1APly9KbwM>

WASHING FEET

- After your meal, bring your chairs together in a circle. Place a tub or bowl with water, towels, and a washcloth on the floor, in the middle of the circle.
- Read John 13:1-17 (or find a version in a children's bible).
 - How is Jesus our servant King?
 - What is God calling us to do in this passage?
- Worship along with: The Servant King: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rh4xEvMVQQ>
- Have a time of foot washing and prayer. Pick one person to start in the chair and one person as a foot washer. Everyone else gathers around the person in the chair. While the foot washer washes the feet of the person in the chair, everyone else lays hands on that person and prays for them. When finished, the foot washer moves to the chair and someone else becomes the foot washer. *KID NOTE: If your children are uncomfortable with prayer, you could write out a simple prayer for them to have available during this time. Thank you God for..... Please protect..... Etc.*
- While washing feet, if you need some background music:
 - Christ Be All Around Me: <https://youtu.be/cmge-yclkoo>
 - O Sacred Head Now Wounded: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeIJRn-S37M>
 - At the Cross: https://youtu.be/Zev5tHjCB_s

STRIP THE ALTAR

Stripping the altar is a common tradition in many churches. We remember how Jesus' life was stripped from him by removing decorations, symbols, candles, and leaving the altar bare. We place black cloth on crosses too large to remove. It is a solemn practice that allows us to feel the emptiness we have without Jesus, the grief felt by the disciples, and the darkness that Jesus had to endure.

- Explain the meaning of this practice to your family. Ask them to participate in silence.
- Read Psalm 22:1-2
- Go around your home taking down candles, religious symbols, icons, flowers and such that are easily taken down. Have a storage bin to place them in.
- Completely clear off your kitchen/dining table.
- Together, wash the table thoroughly and leave it bare until Easter Morning.
- *KID NOTE: Talk about how it feels to have those important things missing from your home. What does it feel like when we aren't close to Jesus? How did the disciples feel when Jesus was arrested and taken from them?*
- *NOTE: Saturday night, open the bin and replace all the decorations while others sleep. If you are able, drape the table with white cloth.*
- Close in worship: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vD6tcMroY0A>

LYRICS PAGE (for songs that don't have lyrics in the linked YouTube video)

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Go to dark Gethsemane,
You who feel the tempter's power;
Your Redeemer's conflict see;
Watch with Him one bitter hour;
Turn not from His griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall;
View the Lord of life arraigned;
See the worm-wood and the gall!
See the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn of Him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb
There' adoring at His feet,
Mark the miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete:
"It is finished!" Hear the cry;
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid his breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom;
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes:
Savior, teach us so to rise.

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm

What heights of love, what depths of peace

When fears are stilled, when strivings cease

My comforter, my all in all

Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save

Till on that cross as Jesus died

The wrath of God was satisfied

For every sin on Him was laid

Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay

Light of the world by darkness slain

Then bursting forth in glorious day

Up from the grave He rose again

And as He stands in victory

Sin's curse has lost its grip on me

For I am His and He is mine

Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death

This is the power of Christ in me

From life's first cry to final breath

Jesus commands my destiny

No power of hell, no scheme of man

Can ever pluck me from His hand

Till He returns or calls me home

Here in the power of Christ I'll stand