



Christian Education

Bulletin Insert

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Maundy Thursday, March 24

On Maundy Thursday we remember how Jesus shared the Passover festival meal with his closest followers - the Last Supper before his crucifixion. To get to

the house where the supper was served everyone had to walk through the dusty streets of Jerusalem, and it was the custom for a servant or slave to wash people's feet before they ate. None of the disciples wanted the job, but Jesus himself took the towel and bowl of water and washed their feet. He told them they must show the same love for others, always being prepared to serve even in the humblest of tasks.

Have your own family **foot washing** ceremony. Do it in the kitchen or somewhere where there is a hard, easily washable floor. First put some fairly thick finger paint or tempera in a large shallow baking tin. Have a large sheet of paper spread out on the floor ready, and a washing up bowl of warm soapy water with a face cloth in it. Each person in the family first steps in the paint and then onto the paper until all the family's footmarks are on the paper. Afterwards take turns washing the paint off each other's feet. On the page of footmarks, print Jesus' words, "Follow me!"

A Travel Activity

If you are travelling to spend Easter away, try asking the children to make a game out of counting crosses that look like t's. You can see them in telephone poles, some fence posts etc.

Good Friday, March 25

Make **cross necklaces** out of salt dough. You will need 1½ cups flour, ½ cup salt, ½ cup of water, a nail to make a hole and some yarn or string to thread through it. Mix the flour, salt and water

well until the mixture is smooth. Shape it into two or three cross shapes, and make a hole at the top of each cross. Bake on a parchment or foil covered baking sheet in a 275° oven for an hour. Once the crosses have cooled, paint them with tempera paint and thread the yarn through the holes to make necklaces.

One of the best **hymns** for children to learn to sing on Good Friday is "Were you There When They Crucified My Lord?" The language is simple and straightforward. You can find it in Mission Praise, #745, and in Common Praise, #192.

Easter Sunday, March 27

Talk about the **symbols** of Easter with children. Eggs, baby bunnies, butterflies, and chicks are all signs of new life and the resurrection.

Sing "Jesus Christ is Risen Today." The youngest children will be able to join in the Alleuias.

When the women discovered that Jesus' body was gone from the tomb where he had been laid, they saw that the great stone with which the tomb had been sealed had been rolled away. Have an **egg rolling** contest, and explain to the children that it symbolizes the rolling away of the stone.

There may well be too much snow at the end of March to do this outside, so do it in a largish living room. Have a hard boiled egg for each member of the family and, before the race, colour or dye each one differently. Use large tongue depressors for each person to push his/her egg along the course. (Since eggs are ovoid they do not roll straight which adds to the fun)

Discussion

Talk about what it would feel like if Jesus was really dead and had never risen. Discuss the difference it makes to our lives to know he is still with us and will never leave us.

For Fun

Why shouldn't you tell an Easter egg a joke?

Because it might crack up.