

Good Friday at Home Experience Guide

Theme: A Sacrifice that Brings Life - Matt 26:17-46 “The Last Supper”

Things To Prepare

- **YouTube Clips:** You might want to find the 2 videos you choose to use beforehand so it is easier to find/use as you participate.
- **Communion Elements:** bread/unleavened bread, grape juice/grapes/juice)
- **Foot Washing Supplies:** Basin of warm water, towel(s)
- **Object Lesson Supplies:** At least two pieces of fruit with pits (avocados, peaches, olives, dates, plums, etc.), a plate and a knife. You will need to remove the pit from the fruit before and separate the fruit and the pits. You can also use fruit with seeds.
- **Treats!** After you have prayed consider having a dessert or treat. This is a great way to give people who might not want to participate too much something to look forward to. You can also do this because though we reflect seriously on Jesus’ sacrifice, we celebrate His victory over the power of sin and death because He rose again.

Suggested Order

Watch Opening Video
Foot Washing
Scripture Reading
Object Lesson
Communion
Prayer Time & Response

Home Experience

Watch Opening Video

We will have a video for Good Friday on our YouTube Channel available by 4:00pm on Thursday April 1st that includes a reflection, instructions, and worship to begin your Good Friday @ Home Experience.

Foot Washing

Say: Washing another person’s feet was a cultural activity that would be done by servants to guests as they arrived at a home for a visit, dinner, or special occasion. Though we don’t do that now we can understand that it was not something that most people would want to do to another person. This is why it was often done by servants.

Read: John 13:1-18 or watch on YouTube “LUMO-GOSPEL OF JOHN CHAPTER 13:1-18”

<https://youtu.be/unR29SGgUYc>

- What are some activities in our day and age that are like foot washing?
- What is the underlying principle that Jesus is trying to teach?
- Why do you think Jesus wanted His followers to “wash each others’ feet”?

Say: Later that evening Jesus said “So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” **John 13: 34-35** Foot washing is an illustration to help us understand how much Jesus loves us and a reminder of how we should love each other.

(instructions continue on next page)

If you are with others: Take turns washing one another's feet. Simply cup some water in your hand and pour it onto their feet then pat them dry with a towel. Tell them you love them and/or something you love about them. Pray for them (even a short prayer of blessing).

If you are on your own: Position 2 chairs facing each other with a basin of water and towel between them. Dip your feet in the water and spend some quiet time in prayer with Jesus as He washes your feet. Consider: How is He expressing His love and joy for you? What are some of the things in your life He is washing away?

Scripture Reading & Questions

Read: Matt 27:45-61

Ask one or all of these questions:

- What stands out to you from this passage? What questions do you have?
- What do you think it was like for Jesus to be separated from His Father for the first time because of our sin?
- What was the importance of the curtain in the temple ripping from top to bottom? (if you or others don't know... The curtain separated the room that symbolized the presence of God where only the High Priest could enter. But now our way to forgiveness of sins and relationship with God is through Jesus. There is no need for priests and temples and curtains)
- Why do you think there were earthquakes and godly men & women being resurrected for a time?
- Imagine you were there and had devoted your life to following Jesus. How would you feel once He died?

Object Lesson

What you need: At least two pieces of fruit with pits (avocados, peaches, olives, dates, plums, etc.), a plate and a knife. You will need to remove the pit from the fruit before and separate the fruit and the pits. You can also use fruit with seeds.

Say: All through the Old Testament we read about God's promise to send a Saviour. God kept His promise through Jesus' death and resurrection. Let's look at these reminders of how something that looks dead can grow new life.

Show: Show each pit one at a time.

Ask: What kind of fruit do you think this pit is from? Does the pit look dead or alive? Why? What would happen to this pit if it were planted in the ground and watered?

Show: Show each fruit one at a time. Invite the children to match the fruit to their pits. After each fruit and pit are matched correctly...

Say: Even though the pits, or seeds, look like they are dead, new plants can grow from them. When Jesus died His friends thought they would never see Him again. But God's power made Jesus come back to life.

Read: Romans 6:4 and 8:11

Ask: What do these verses say we may have because of Jesus' death and resurrection? Have you ever decided to follow Jesus and received His gift of New and Eternal Life?

- Thank God in Prayer for His gift of Salvation.
- Pray for people you don't know who aren't saved.
- Lead anyone who wants to decide to follow Jesus in a prayer to accept His gift of salvation.

Communion Ideas

Jesus used bread and wine to remind us that His sacrifice and death brings us new and eternal life. He encouraged us to partake in what we call “The Lord’s Supper” or “Communion” regularly to remember what He has done and to remind us that He is returning.

Here are some ways you can partake in Communion together. Use one or more of these ideas.

1. As we see in John 13, prior to the meal Jesus washes the disciple’s feet v.2-11, then He speaks to them about being a servant v. 12-17 and then following the meal He calls them to love one another v. 34. Take a moment and reflect on how washing feet, serving, and loving one another is linked together. Ask: How are they linked together and what should this mean to us as we partake in communion? Read Matt 26:26-30 and then someone can pray. Eat and drink during a quiet moment.
2. In preparation for communion take a few moments to ask what Jesus might have been feeling that night when He ate the Passover meal with His disciples. He knew the time was near for His sacrifice and that Judas was going to betray Him. He knew the disciples were going to desert Him and that Peter was going to deny Him. As you think about this does it change how you understand what He does and says with the bread and the cup that night? Read 1 Cor 11:23-26 and then someone can pray. Eat and drink during a quiet moment.
3. Pass the cup and bread to everyone. Read Matt 26:26-30 and then someone can pray. Eat and drink during a quiet moment.
4. Pass the cup and bread to everyone. Read 1 Cor 11:23-26 and then someone can pray. Eat and drink during a quiet moment.

In each of the above situations you may want to take a moment to explain to the children present what communion is all about. Involve them in handing out the cup and bread. They may not be ready to participate fully, but use this time to build their curiosity or answer their questions.

Prayer Time & Response

Ask one or all of these questions:

- What has been the most significant part of our time together?
- Is there something that the Lord has impressed on your heart?
- What does it mean for you to know that Jesus sacrificed His life so you could have new and eternal life?
- How could our lives better reflect our gratitude and love for what our Saviour has done?
- How could we better live out Jesus’ example of washing feet with one another?

Prayer Time

Have a time of prayer together, and take some time to thank God for what He has done for us through His Son. Pray for some of the needs you are aware of in your household and with others around you.

Treats!

Enjoy some treats together as you look forward to celebrating Jesus’ resurrection.