

Lesson 4

The Last Supper

The Passover with the disciples

On the first day of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples said to him, 'Where do you want us to go and make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?' So he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you; follow him, and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, "The Teacher asks, Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?" He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.' So, the disciples set out and went to the city and found everything as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover meal. (Mark 14:12-16)



Jesus washes the disciples' feet

Watch this clip and then read the account below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bv5ajWNrnt4>

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said



to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you

are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. (John 13: 1-17)

Answer these questions.

1. How did the disciples feel about Jesus washing their feet?
2. What was the point of Jesus washing the disciple's feet?
3. What could a group of friends today do for each other to show that they are all important?
4. What does this part of the story teach Christians?



Words spoken at the Last Supper

Watch this clip and then read the account:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaiYNF5uchA>

When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him. He said to them, 'I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.' Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. (Luke 22: 17-20)

Answer these questions.

1. What does Jesus say the bread and the wine represent?
2. What does Jesus ask his disciples to do when they eat bread and wine?



How do Christians remember Maundy Thursday?

Even if a church does not hold a specific Maundy Thursday service, the Last Supper is remembered regularly in the majority of Christian churches through the communion service or shared meal. These can be held as often as once a week by some.

A Maundy Thursday service is a time when people meet together for a shared meal and have a communion service together. In many Roman Catholic and in some Church of England churches, services are held on Maundy Thursday that re-enact the things that Jesus did at the Last Supper.

Three things happen:

- The Ministers wash the feet of twelve members of the church, remembering that Jesus washed the feet of his twelve disciples. In some churches the Priests dress as Deacons, wearing their stoles diagonally. A Deacon's job is to serve the people.
- Broken bread and wine are shared in Holy Communion to remember the meal that Jesus shared with his disciples
- The service ends with a 'Prayer Watch' or 'Prayer Vigil' to remember that Jesus asked his disciples to pray with him after the Last Supper.



In England it is traditional for the King or Queen to give out Maundy money to some of their people, often to elderly people who are in need. This is a small bag of silver coins that have been specially made for the occasion. The tradition of giving Maundy money began in 1662 when the reigning monarch stopped the practice of washing the feet of some of his people and decided to give money to the poor instead.

Answer these questions.

1. What do Christians do on Maundy Thursday today?
Why do they do this?
CHALLENGE: Use a quote from the story as evidence.
2. Why do you think the Queen gives out silver coins to people living in the UK? What does this represent?
3. How is the Last Supper like the Passover meal?



Match the following.

The links between Passover & the Last Supper

Passover

Bowl for bitter herbs in the Passover meal.

Words spoken by the head of the family.

Have to use red wine in the Passover meal

Passover requires Jewish people to sing hymns

The Last Supper (from Mark 14)

And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body.

And he answered and said unto them, It is one of the twelve, that dippeth with me in the dish.

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.

And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many.

Imagine you have been to a Maundy Thursday service. Write a postcard to a friend explaining what happened and why.