

LAKE SIDE

KIDS MINISTRY

HOLY THURSDAY PRAYER STATIONS

SUPPLIES

FOOT WASHING

- A bowl of water

THE LAST SUPPER

- Bread
- Grapes

GETHSEMANE

- Candle(s), one for each person if possible
- OR Flashlight or lamp
- Lighter/matches, if using candle(s)

PETER'S DENIAL

- Blank sheet of paper
- Writing utensils, a different color for each person if possible

FOOT WASHING

— SCRIPTURE —

JOHN 13:3-5, 12-15 31B-35 (THE MESSAGE)

Jesus knew that the Father had put him in complete charge of everything, that he came from God and was on his way back to God. So he got up from the supper table, set aside his robe, and put on an apron. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with his apron.

After he had finished washing their feet, he took his robe, put it back on, and went back to his place at the table.

Then he said, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Master,' and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet.

"Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples—when they see the love you have for each other."

— MEDITATION —

Who has the stinkiest feet in your family? No matter whose feet you picked and how stinky they are, they are probably nothing compared to the disciples' feet. They walked around outside all day in sandals, every road and path was made of dirt or rocks, and they didn't take a bath very often.

When you went to someone's house for dinner, usually someone who worked for the family washed your feet off. But on this special night, instead of one of the servants washing the disciples' dirty feet, Jesus decided he would do it.

This was CRAZY! Jesus was their leader, their boss, their teacher. He was supposed to be in charge, not doing the dirty work. But that was the opposite of what Jesus was trying to demonstrate.

We often think that the more important you are, the more people you get to boss around. But Jesus was teaching the disciples that being a leader meant love and serving others, not having them serve you.

Not only that, but Jesus was saying that when we love other people by serving them, it will make us stand out as different. And that's how people will know that we are friends with Jesus.

— ACTIVITY —

Touch the water in the bowl and say this prayer out loud: **Dear Jesus, teach me how to see what other people need. Help me figure out ways to help them and love them. Amen.**

THE LAST SUPPER

— SCRIPTURE —

MARK 14:22-25A (THE MESSAGE)

In the course of their meal, having taken and blessed the bread, he broke it and gave it to them. Then he said,

Take, this is my body.

Taking the chalice, he gave it to them, thanking God, and they all drank from it. He said,

This is my blood, God's new covenant, poured out for many people.

— MEDITATION —

Have you ever played in a big cardboard box? They're pretty cool because they can be anything you want them to be! By using your imagination, a cardboard box can be a rocket ship, a bakery, a castle, or a million other things. Sometimes, the cardboard box is more fun than the toy that came inside.

Did you know that cardboard is just a special kind of thick, strong paper? What else can you make with paper? Paper airplanes, snowflakes, a beard, origami, and of course you can draw or paint or write on paper too!

When you look at a blank piece of paper, it might not seem very special. But you can transform it into something special!

That's what Jesus did at a dinner we call the Last Supper. He took regular old bread and a cup of grape juice and turned them into something incredibly special! Do you know what he turned them into? Communion!

When we meet as a church in person, we take communion by taking a piece of bread, dipping into a cup of grape juice, and eating it. And while it might remind you of snack time, it is one of the most important things we do at church!

And just like an ordinary piece of paper can become something beautiful, this simple meal of bread and grape juice becomes something special too.

When we take communion, it reminds us of Jesus and how much he loved us. As you get older, you will learn how these very ordinary things represent the greatest gift we could ever receive.

— ACTIVITY —

Eat a bite of bread and a grape if you have them. While this isn't communion like in church, it is what we call a love feast! If you have some extra bread and grapes, take turns feeding them to the other people in your family.

After you're done eating, say this prayer out loud: **Dear Jesus, thank you for using ordinary things in special ways. Remind me that if you can turn bread and grapes into something special, you can use me in special ways to teach people about your love too. Amen.**

GETHSEMANE

— SCRIPTURE —

MARK 14:32-42 (THE MESSAGE)

They came to an area called Gethsemane. Jesus told his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." He took Peter, James, and John with him. He plunged into a sinkhole of dreadful agony. He told them, "I feel bad enough right now to die. Stay here and keep vigil with me."

Going a little ahead, he fell to the ground and prayed for a way out: "Papa, Father, you can—can't you?—get me out of this. Take this cup away from me. But please, not what I want—what do you want?"

He came back and found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, "Simon, you went to sleep on me? Can't you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert, be in prayer, so you don't enter the danger zone without even knowing it. Don't be naive. Part of you is eager, ready for anything in God; but another part is as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire."

He then went back and prayed the same prayer. Returning, he again found them sound asleep.

They simply couldn't keep their eyes open, and they didn't have a plausible excuse.

He came back a third time and said, "Are you going to sleep all night? No—you've slept long enough. Time's up. The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up. Let's get going. My betrayer has arrived."

— MEDITATION —

After Jesus had dinner with his friends, they walked over to a place where a bunch of olive trees were growing. This picture is from the real place where Jesus went to pray. It is called the Garden of Gethsemane.



Take a look at the olive trees in the picture. How would you describe them? Bumpy? Twisty? Knotted?

Have you ever felt on the inside the way these trees look? Have you ever been nervous or even scared, and it made your insides feel all twisted? That's how Jesus felt while he was praying in this garden. God had given him a job to do that was going to be very hard, and he didn't really want to do it. In his prayers, he asked God if there was an easier way to get the job done.

But by the end of his prayer, Jesus had decided that he was going to do what God was asking him to do. Whatever God asks us to do is always the best even if it isn't easy. And by finishing that hard job, Jesus made it possible for us to love God and be loved by God forever.

There are some other characters in the story too – the disciples! Jesus had asked his friends to come and pray with him, but while they were praying, they fell asleep! Has that ever happened to you?

When Jesus found them asleep, he asked them to try hard to stay awake. But they fell asleep again! Jesus asked them one more time, and guess what? They fell asleep AGAIN!

This made Jesus sad. He really wanted his friends to be there for him, but they had let him down. Praying together was really important to him, but they were not acting like it was important to them.

We can be like Jesus' friends sometimes. He asks us to do important things like being kind to our friends, but we are mean instead. He asks us to care about other people, but we spend a lot of time thinking about ourselves. And just like with his disciples, Jesus asks us to wake up!

— ACTIVITY —

Light the candle(s) or switch the flashlight on and say this prayer out loud: **Dear Jesus, I am awake and ready to turn the lights on. Let's get busy doing what you have asked me to do. Amen.**

PETER'S DENIAL

— SCRIPTURE —

JOHN 13:36-38, 18:25-27 (THE MESSAGE)

Simon Peter asked, “Master, just where are you going?”

Jesus answered, “You can’t now follow me where I’m going. You will follow later.”

“Master,” said Peter, “why can’t I follow now? I’ll lay down my life for you!”

“Really? You’ll lay down your life for me? The truth is that before the rooster crows, you’ll deny me three times.” ...

Meanwhile, Simon Peter was back at the fire, still trying to get warm. The others there said to him, “Aren’t you one of his disciples?”

He denied it, “Not me.”

One of the Chief Priest’s servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, said, “Didn’t I see you in the garden with him?”

Again, Peter denied it. Just then a rooster crowed.

— MEDITATION —

Peter was one of Jesus’ best friends. But on this particular night, Peter wasn’t acting like a very good friend.

We just learned that Peter fell asleep 3 times after Jesus asked him to stay awake and pray. Later that same night, Jesus is arrested after some people lied about the things he said and did. Jesus had done nothing wrong, but sometimes doing the right thing isn’t always popular.

As the soldiers were taking Jesus to the house of the community leader, Peter followed along at a distance. He wanted to see what was going on, but he was scared that he would get in trouble too.

While waiting around outside the community leader’s house, someone recognized Peter and asked if he was one of Jesus’ disciples. Because he was scared, Peter lied and said that he wasn’t a disciple.

Someone else said that Peter looked like one of the people who had been in the garden with Jesus when he was arrested, and again Peter lied.

Earlier in the night, when they had been at the Last Supper, Peter boldly declared that he would follow Jesus anywhere. He could not have imagined that just a couple hours later, he would deny that he even knew Jesus.

It is easy to say that we love Jesus and will do the things he asks us to do – like being kind and loving other people. But sometimes, we aren’t kind. Sometimes we make mistakes that hurt other people’s feelings. Sometimes we do the opposite of what Jesus wants us to do.

When we make mistakes like this, one of the most important things we can do is say sorry. We

can apologize to God and to the friends or family we have hurt. And because God loves us so much, God will always forgive us and give us another chance to do the right thing.

— ACTIVITY —

Take your paper and draw a handful of dots spread out across the blank sheet. Next to each dot, have someone in your family write the names of bad things people do sometimes. For example, you could write saying something mean, bullying, not sharing, making fun of people, hitting or pushing, and calling names.

Slowly connect the dots in a random order. Have each person in the family connect the dots with a different color and a different order.

When you are done, say this prayer out loud: **Dear Jesus, sometimes we all do bad things. This picture is a prayer web, and it is our way of saying sorry for the bad things we have done. Help us do the right thing more often. Amen.**