

Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday is observed as the night before Jesus was crucified, where Jesus shared the Last Supper with the disciples.

Share a simple meal together.

Dinner conversation questions:

- Share a high and a low from your past week.
- What's a way you've grown in your faith over the past year?

After eating together, spend time in worship and prayer.

- Choose a worship song to sing together.
- Take turns as you feel led praying in thanksgiving, "Thank you God, for _____."

Maundy Thursday Reading

Choose different readers for each part, then go through the guide.

Read unhurriedly, and with expression.

Reader 1: Today we observe Maundy Thursday, where Jesus shared the Last Supper with the disciples before he was crucified.

Reader 2: Passover was instituted in the Old Testament. The people of Israel had been held captive for 400 years in Egypt, where they were slaves. Through Moses, God had sent 9 plagues to Egypt, in order to persuade the Egyptians to let the Israelites go free. But the Egyptians refused.

Reader 3: So God told Moses to prepare the Israelites for one last plague: God would kill all of the firstborn in Egypt, both people and livestock. But God would not harm the people and livestock of Israel. After that, Egypt would let the Israelites go free, as God had promised centuries before that time.

Reader 4: Let's read about the Passover in [Exodus 12:14-30](#). (Read the Bible passage aloud.)

Reader 5: After these events happened, Egypt freed the Israelites. This event is called the Exodus. "Exodus" means "a going out."

Reader 6: Today the Exodus and Passover have profound meaning for both Jews and Christians. As Christians, we see Jesus as the sacrificial Passover lamb, who died on the cross for us, and rescued us from the eternal devastation of sin.

****Leader: How has God rescued you? (Invite everyone to answer)**

Reader 7: Before Passover, Jesus instituted Holy Communion. He thereby became the Passover Lamb who would take away the sins of the world.

Reader 8: Read [Luke 22:7-23](#).

Communion

1. Having the leader serve someone first, take turns going to someone to serve communion, *with the leader being served last*.
2. Before they are served communion, tell them how they have been a blessing to you.
3. Say "the body and blood of Christ given for you."
4. That person breaks off a piece of Matzah, dips it in the juice, and eats.
5. That person takes the elements and repeats this until the leader is served last.

*** Put any unconsumed Matzah and juice outside on the ground for birds. Do not put any in the trash or sink.

Closing: Listening and Prayer

- Have someone read this prayer aloud: *Jesus, you stepped into history to serve others and love the lost. As we reflect on the last supper before you were betrayed, we are reminded of the ultimate sacrifice that you made for us, and we are filled with gratitude and humility. We anticipate with joy the feast in heaven where we will see you face to face. We pray that we might point others toward the hope we have in you. Amen.*
- Break up into groups of two or three and pray for one another. Before you pray for each person, leave space to listen to God. Notice if there is anything you see, sense or feel that could be of encouragement for that person.