



# Our King's Example and Command

## SUPPLIES Needed



### TO PRINT:

- Large Memory Verse to hold up (1 copy)\*

### TO GATHER:

- Hymnal/lyrics for songs\* (*Optional: guitar or music to sing along with*)
- Basket for offering\*
- Hearing the Word supplies needed: crayons, markers, stickers, "coupon books" (attached); sheet of butcher paper, prayer postcards (attached)

### OPTIONAL:

- Kid's Activity Sheet (1 copy/child)
- Elements of Worship Icons\* (*Found in the introduction section.*)

\*These items will be needed every week.

## LEADER'S Review

Traditionally in the Church, the evening before Christ's crucifixion is known as Maundy Thursday\*. It is commonly believed that the word "Maundy" comes from the Latin word *mandatum* which is translated "commandment."

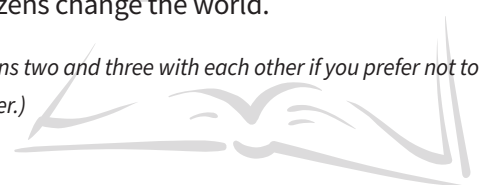
After He had washed the disciples' feet and revealed one of them would betray Him, Jesus gave the remaining eleven at the table a new commandment: "... just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35). Thus, the day is named.

Think about it. Jesus entered that room knowing that He was The Sacrificial Lamb to which every Passover had pointed. Within hours, He would be subjected to the most painful, indignant torture and death sentence used by the Roman Empire. God the Father would turn away from Him—the greatest agony of all—as Jesus bore the sins of all His people. Yet, as He knew of the suffering to come, Jesus did not dwell on thoughts for Himself but for His disciples—those present and those to come.

Although the other three gospels describe in detail the institution of the Lord's Supper (covered in depth in the Unit on Sacraments), only John focuses on the last direct teachings of Christ to the disciples that evening. Jesus did not mince words during His final hours with those whom He loved: Serve all—those who love you and those who hate you—and love one another.

As we lead the children through the story of Maundy Thursday, we want them to see it differently. That fateful night Jesus was preparing His followers to be a part of a different kind of kingdom, a kingdom built on love, sacrifice, and service, an unseen kingdom, whose citizens change the world.

\*(You may exchange lessons two and three with each other if you prefer not to use them in chronological order.)



## Call to Worship – Mark 11:9

**Let the children join you in reciting the following verse. (1 minute)**

Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## Praise

***Sing worship songs with the children. (5 minutes)***

- “The King of Glory Comes”
- “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”
- “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

## Tithes and Offerings

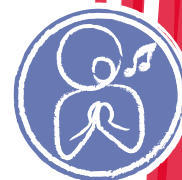
***Sing the Doxology before passing around the offering basket. (2 minutes)***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

***Lead the children in confessing their faith by reciting the Apostles' Creed. (3 minutes)***

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.





## Reading of the Word

*Read Scripture. (1 minute)*

John 13:1-19, 31-35

<sup>1</sup> Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup> During supper, when the devil had already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him, <sup>3</sup> Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, <sup>4</sup> rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. <sup>5</sup> Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" <sup>7</sup> Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." <sup>8</sup> Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no share with me." <sup>9</sup> Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "The one who has bathed does not need to wash, except for his feet, but is completely clean. And you are clean, but not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was to betray him; that was why he said, "Not all of you are clean." <sup>12</sup> When he had washed their feet and put on his outer garments and resumed his place, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have done to you?" <sup>13</sup> You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for so I am. <sup>14</sup> If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them. <sup>18</sup> I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, 'He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.' <sup>19</sup> I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.

<sup>31</sup> When he [Judas] had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup> If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup> Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup> A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup> By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 17:9-11, 15-20

<sup>9</sup> I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. <sup>10</sup> All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. <sup>11</sup> And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one

<sup>15</sup> I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

<sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them in the truth; your

(Reading the Word—Continued)

word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. <sup>20</sup>“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word.

## Prayer

**Have a prayer asking for forgiveness for not loving and serving as Jesus has taught us. (2-3 minutes)**

Dear Jesus, we are sorry that we have not always followed Your example to serve others or followed Your command to love one another. Those are hard things to do, and You know we need help. Thank You for sending Your Holy Spirit to help us, and thank You for praying for us, not only in the Garden of Gethsemane, but even now as You stand at the right hand of the Father in heaven. What a great and loving King You are! In Your mighty name we pray. Amen.

## Hearing the Word

**Teach the lesson to the children using the text below as a guide. (6-9 minutes for lesson; 15-20 minutes for activities)**

What would it be like to be a king? *(Let the children share their ideas. If needed, you can ask questions such as Where does a king live? What does a king do? Does a king have to do things he doesn't like to do, like clean his room?)*

Last week we talked about King Jesus, who is like no other king who has ever lived. Do you remember what makes King Jesus different than all other kings?

### Review Questions:

- Where was Jesus born? *In a stable*
- Where did Jesus grow up? *In the home of a carpenter in Nazareth*
- How did Jesus ride into Jerusalem? *On a donkey colt*
- What was special about that? *Other kings would ride on beautiful large animals to show their power. It also fulfilled the prophecy that the everlasting king would come riding a donkey's colt.*
- What was the name of the prophet who had written that the king would come on a donkey colt? *Zechariah*
- What else did the verse in Zechariah say about Jesus? *He would be righteous and humble and carry salvation.*
- How many prophecies from the Old Testament did Jesus fulfill while He was on earth? *More than 300!*
- How will Jesus come back? *In His full glory and honor with His followers marching triumphantly behind Him*

Now imagine something for a minute. Have you ever walked around barefoot outside? Or





*(Hearing the Word—Continued)*

walked through sand or mud with sandals on? What were your feet like afterwards? **(Wait for answers.)** How did your feet smell? **(Let them make faces and noises.)** Now, what if you had to wash the dirty, stinky, sandy feet of everyone in your family? Would that be a pleasant job? No!

In ancient times, when most people wore only sandals and had to walk everywhere in the sand and the mud, the lowliest of jobs, even among servants, was to have to wash other people's feet. Is that a job you would want? No! Is that a job fit for a king? Absolutely not!

But on the night before He died as He shared His last supper, the Passover seder, with His disciples, Good King Jesus took off His coat, tied a towel around His waist, filled a basin with water, and then got on His hands and knees and washed the feet of all twelve of His disciples. He even washed the feet of Judas, the man who would betray Him to the Jewish leaders and have Him arrested. It's bad enough to wash the feet of your family or even your friends, but would you want to wash the feet of your enemy? No! But Jesus did.

When He was finished and put on His coat and sat back at the table, do you know what He told His disciples? He said, "I have given you an example. Now you go and do likewise." He told them to make themselves servants of others, even of people they didn't like or who didn't like them. How do you think that made them feel? **(Wait for answers before continuing.)** For one thing, it probably confused them. They thought Jesus was going to make Himself king of Israel and overthrow the Roman government. They thought, because they were His closest disciples, they would all have powerful jobs in the new government and even have people serve them. In fact, they had just been arguing about who would have the best job in the kingdom. Then Jesus told them they were to be servants—and the lowliest kind at that!

Shortly afterwards, Judas left to tell the Jewish leaders where they could find Jesus and arrest Him. Meanwhile, Jesus continued to teach the other eleven disciples. The first thing He gave them was a command to love one another. That sounded pretty easy; they had been living like a family together for about three years. But is it easy? Do you always love everyone in your family all the time? Sometimes we get really angry with the people in our family, and we may even say mean things to them and about them. Jesus commanded His disciples not to do that. His command didn't stop at loving family and best friends. His command included loving all His disciples all the time. That's really hard! It's hard enough to love people we like, but even people we don't like?

Why did Jesus want His disciples to love each other? **(To show the world we are His disciples)** That's right, when people see Christians loving one another as Jesus commanded, then they see what Jesus is like and they want to know Jesus for themselves. Sadly, Jesus's followers haven't always shown that love for each other, so people who don't know Jesus don't get to see what a great and loving King He is.

Jesus knew it would be too hard for His disciples to serve and love in our own strength, by our own wills, so He provided help for us. On the way to the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told His disciples that when He returned to heaven, He would send a Helper for us. Do you know

*(Hearing the Word—Continued)*

Who that Helper is? He's the Holy Spirit. When we become followers of Christ, the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts to help us live the way Jesus showed us and told us to live. The more we depend upon the Holy Spirit and the less on ourselves, we become more like Jesus, and people who don't know Him start to see Him and know Him through us and our actions.

Jesus didn't stop with just sending us help. He prays for us! That's right. King Jesus prayed the night before He died that God the Father would keep us and protect us. We know He meant us as well as the eleven with Him that night because He said He asked not only for those present but for those who would come to faith through the preaching of the gospel. That's amazing, isn't it? Jesus was about to suffer and die, and He prayed for us. As if that weren't amazing enough, He still prays for us! The Bible tells us in Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 7:25 that Jesus always makes intercession for those who belong to Him. That means He is always praying for His people. What an amazing King we serve—the King Who is always thinking about us and what we need, the King like no other!

**ACTIVITY #1:** Before class assemble the “Coupons for Service” book. Give each child one book and have them color each coupon for service. Tell them as they see the need, to give a coupon to whomever needs that service: a parent, grandparent, neighbor or friend. Coupons include taking out the garbage, cleaning the bathroom, cleaning a room, washing dishes, raking leaves. The coupon book also includes a few blank pages that children can fill in to do other services.

**ACTIVITY #2:** Children will make a mural to illustrate “Loving One Another.” Lay a sheet of white butcher paper across the table (or two sheets across two tables depending on size of class) and provide crayons and markers for each child to draw a picture of how they can show love to others. When drawings are finished, hang the mural on the wall of the classroom to remain there the rest of the year as a reminder of the commandment Jesus gave to His disciples.

**ACTIVITY #3:** At the end of the lesson, ask children if they know people who need to be prayed for today. Open in prayer and then have each child, who wants to, pray for one person. After closing the prayer, give each child a “I prayed for you today” postcard to color and decorate and take home for their parents to address to the person prayed for. Have extra postcards for children who may want to send them to more than one person.



## Benediction

*Recite the following verse. (1 minute)*

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen (Eph. 3:20–21).

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