



Maundy Thursday

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MAUNDY THURSDAY

John 13:1-17



John 13:1-17 • illustratedchildrensministry.com

INTRO

Tell the children a time when someone really hurt your feelings. What happened and how did it feel?

SCRIPTURE READING

John 13:1-17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

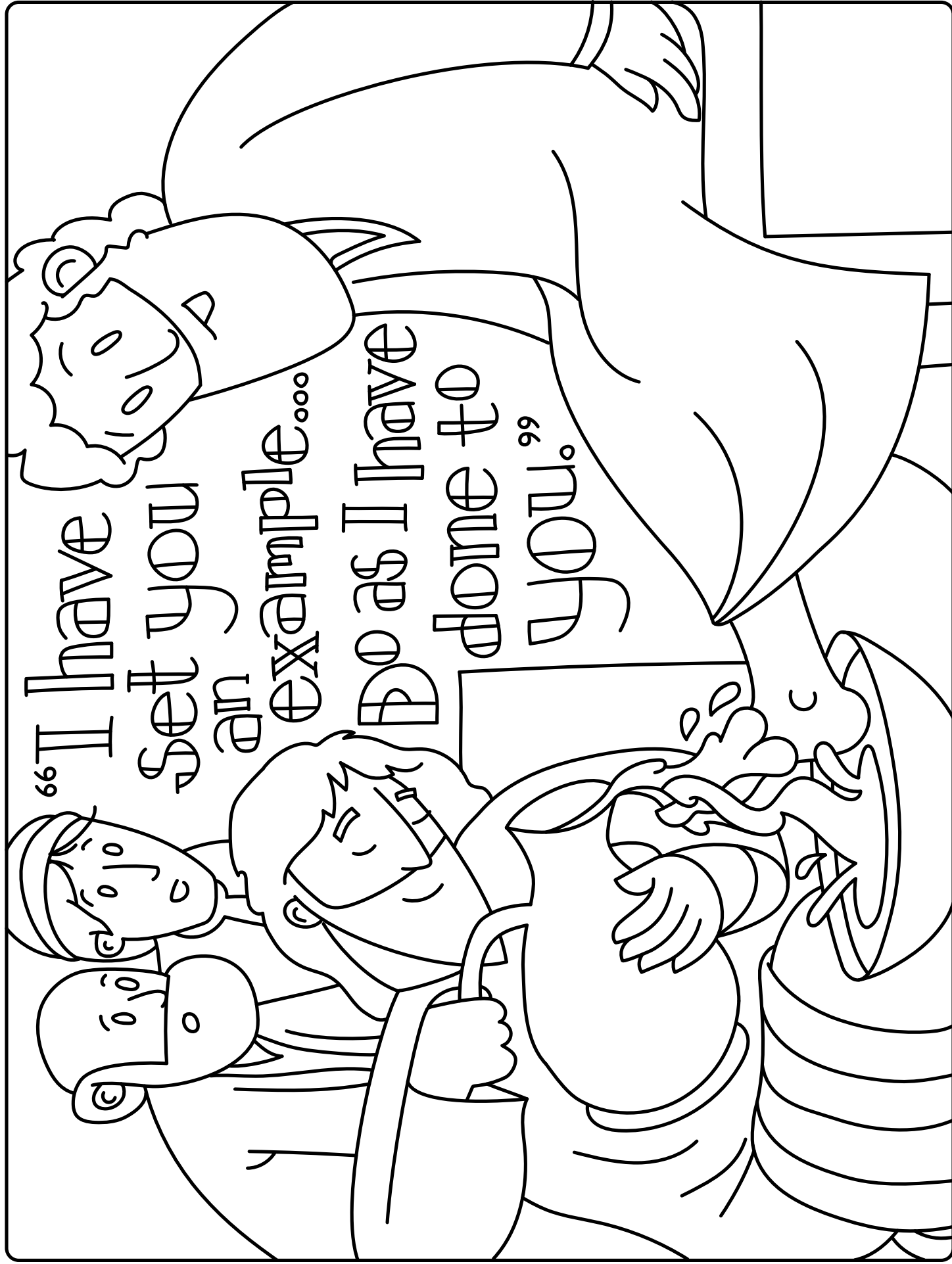
- Have you ever had your feelings hurt by a friend or sibling?
- How did it feel to have someone close to you do something that hurt you?
- What did you do in return? Or what did you *want* to do after they hurt you?

WRAP-UP

Tell the children that in today's scripture from the Gospel of John, Jesus was with his disciples for some of his last moments on Earth. Explain that one of Jesus' friends was going to do something terrible to Jesus. Jesus knew Judas would later report him to the Roman government, which would lead to Jesus' arrest. Tell them that while they ate dinner together, Jesus even told his friend Judas that he knew he was going to betray him. Discuss together how Jesus must have felt being surrounded by his friends and knowing Judas was going to turn him in. Wonder together about how Jesus treated Judas knowing this would happen. Tell the children that in the days Jesus was on Earth, people wore sandals. When you arrived at a home to eat a meal, the host would provide water for you to wash your feet. Explain that if the host was extremely caring, or if their guest was very important, the host would wash the guest's feet for them. Describe to the children how Jesus washed each disciple's feet as a way to show them just how special they each were, even Judas. Wonder with the children about why Jesus washed Judas' feet even though he was going to turn him into the police. Tell the children that Jesus must have seen how afraid Judas was, both of the Roman government and of Jesus seeing him for who he truly was. Explain how that kind of fear pushed Judas to make that decision. Ask the children what Jesus teaches us about love and how they might show love, especially when others may not be acting like good friends. Perhaps this is a good time to bring up how to use social media in helpful ways when so much betrayal happens in that environment for kids. As you close, invite the children to pray with you.

PRAYER

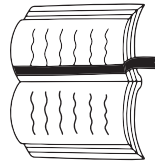
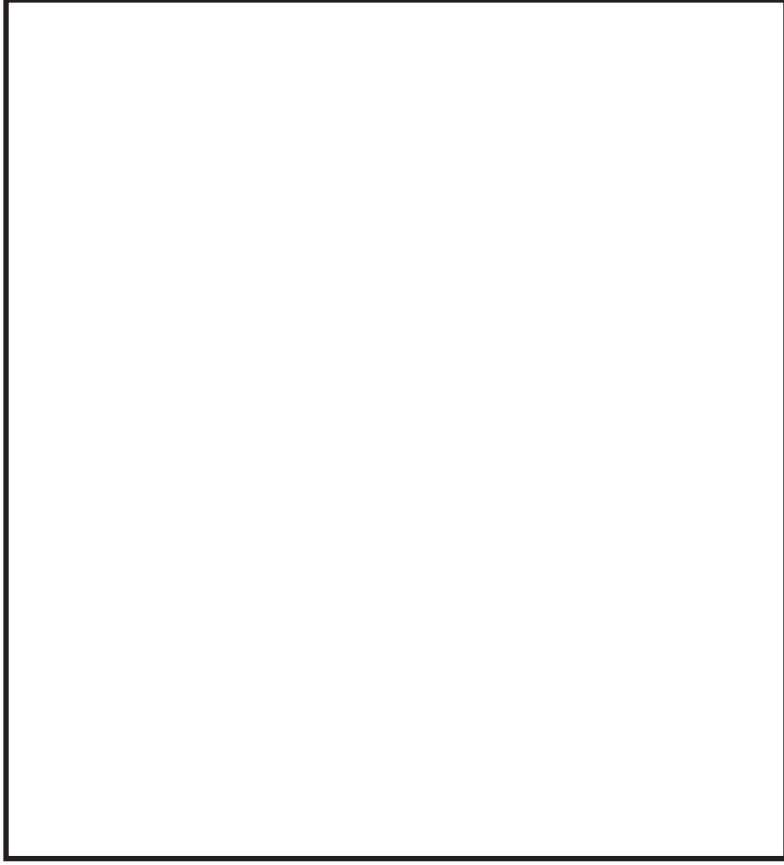
Dear God, thank you for this powerful story about Jesus showing true love, even for those who looked out for themselves. Give us courage to love others like Jesus did, choosing to see them in their best light in spite of their flaws. Amen.



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DRAW IT

The most important thing Jesus wanted his disciples to know was how much he loved them. To show this, he knelt down on the ground and washed their feet - an act of humble service. Imagine you are with the disciples having your feet washed by Jesus. Draw what this looks to you.



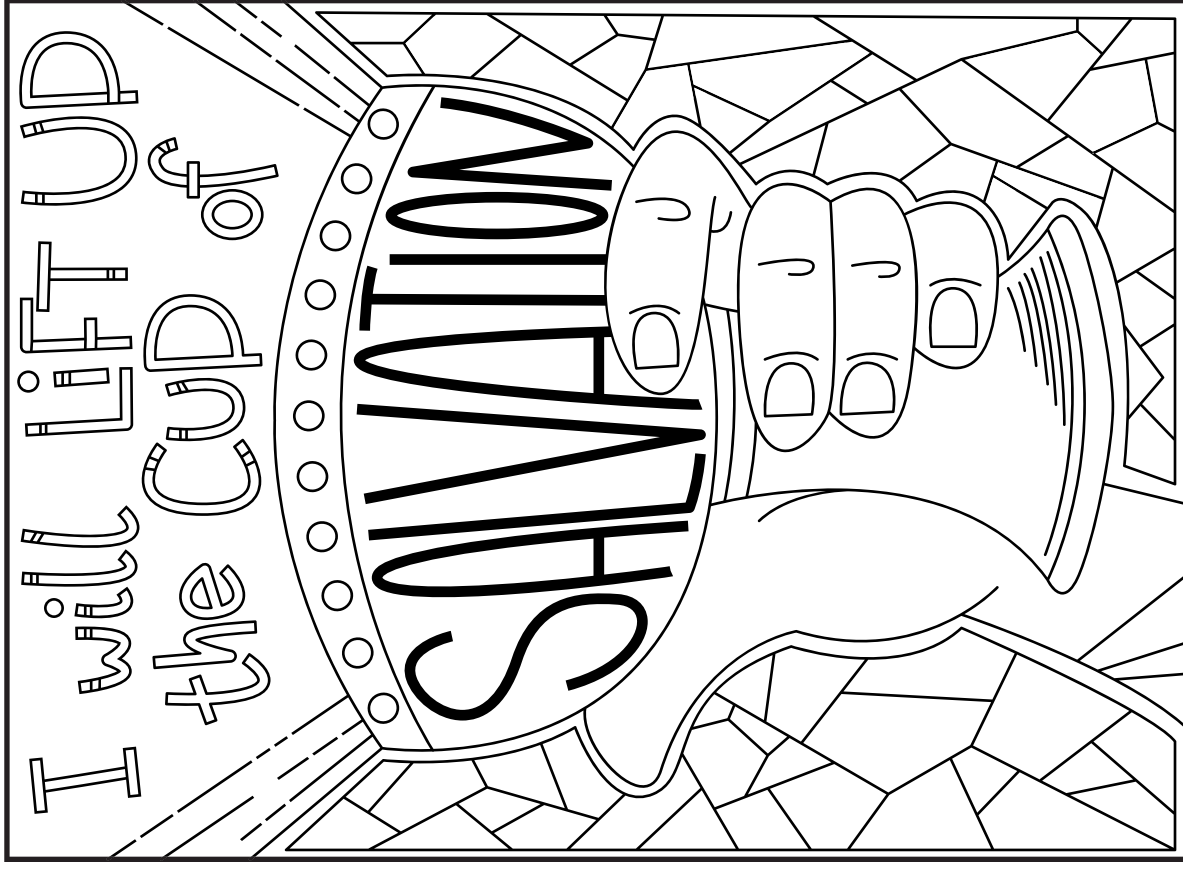
illustrated
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Suggested for use on Maundy Thursday.

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CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and John 13:1-17, 31-35.



WORD SEARCH

Try to find the words from John 13 in the word search below. Words may go diagonal, up OR down and forward OR backward.

G R X Z U W I E M S D W A V K
S J C H I L D R E N E W W O I
G T F T O G V D C D N A R L D
G N D F S P B M L Y O S O S T
L E D E G A I M E I Y H B U O
O M Z O S S V N A O R G E P W
R D D J E S U S N I E L Q P E
I N T Y Z O E V K L V S I E L
F A Z R M V Z L P J E X R R S
Y M N S F E L I B R V I C H F
I M E A L R C U V X F E E T E
H O V Z U S C A U N T G J E C
T C O F I Y N Q E L P M A X E
B Q B D L T W Q J Z B G K Y B
S B A P U T M D E V O L U H Q

PASSOVER	TOWEL	CHILDREN
JESUS	WASH	COMMANDMENT
GOD	FEET	DISCIPLE
LOVE	CLEAN	GLORIFY
SUPPER	SERVANT	EVERYONE
ROBE	BLESSED	EXAMPLE

FOLLOW the PATH

What did Jesus share with his disciples at the last meal they had together, telling them to remember him? Follow the path of letters, and each time you come to a capital letter, write that letter below. See what the letters spell out to learn what Jesus shared.

start
end

m B f + R p i

A j y
u D l c

q b
o k
C

w e N r a n

s g U d v h P z



MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP GUIDE

Introduction

Today is Maundy Thursday, the last time Jesus was with his disciples before he died. During their last meal together, Jesus did something surprising. Let's think back to Jesus' life for a moment. Where Jesus lived, people wore sandals, which meant dirty feet. When people arrived at a home, they washed their feet before entering. The host would provide the water and a towel. But if their guest was really special, the *host* might wash their guest's feet to show deep respect and love.

Overview

On Maundy Thursday we remember the last evening Jesus spent with his disciples before his death. This immersive worship experience will include foot/hand washing and discussion.

Discussion Question

- If a guest at your house had been walking around in the dirt wearing sandals all day, would you want to wash their feet? Why or why not?

Explain the Following

When Jesus gathered his disciples for their last meal together, he showed them what love is like. To do this, Jesus washed each disciple's feet as though they were his honored guest. And, guess what? Jesus even knew that one disciple, named Judas, was preparing to turn him into the Roman police. This would lead to Jesus' death. And Jesus still washed his feet! Another disciple, named Peter, refused to let Jesus wash his feet at first. He then said Jesus should wash all of him because he was so unworthy. Jesus convinced Peter to let him wash just his feet with all the others.

Discussion Questions

- What might it say about Jesus that he washed his disciples' feet?
- What might this have taught his disciples about how to love others?

Activity: Hand or Foot Washing

Materials Needed:

- *Large basin*
- *2 washcloths per child*
- *Warm water*
- *Bag for used washcloths*

Tell the children the following...

To remember and practice the way Jesus taught us to love, we get to wash one another's feet or hands. As we do, imagine what it would have been like to have Jesus wash your feet if you were a disciple.

For leader...

Ask the child if they would like either their hands or feet washed. If the answer from the child is neither, skip the washing part and continue by offering the blessing.

Dampen one washcloth in the basin. Wash a child's feet or hands. Then, use one dry cloth to dry them. Place both used towels in the bag. Holding the child's feet or hands, gently say, "You are fearfully and wonderfully made, loved beyond your imagination." Place used washcloths into bag. Repeat process for all the children.

Discussion Questions

- How do you imagine it felt to be a disciple at that last meal?
- What about being Judas, who Jesus knew would turn him into the Roman police?
- How might Jesus have been feeling?
- I wonder how we can treat others with deep respect, as special guests in our lives, like Jesus did with his disciples?

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for Jesus, who taught us to love others as special guests worth respect and honor. Help us to remember Jesus' example as we carry Maundy Thursday with us all year. Amen.