

Maundy Thursday Kids Guide

Before you begin, print out “Maundy Thursday Holy Week Images and The Road to Easter” document and put out “The Road to Easter” page. Cut out the little images that will go on “The Road to Easter” page and have the family put these in chronological order. Also, cut out the duplicate but bigger pictures. Have each member of the family choose at least one of the bigger pictures. When a passage is read (begin with the Palm Sunday passage and go in order) have a family member place the corresponding little image on “The Road to Easter” page. Then have the family member who has the corresponding bigger picture answer the question or lead in the activity aligned with the passage.)

Matthew 21:1-16 (Palm Sunday) - What is one thing you remember about Palm Sunday (from the Kids Journey Live! class or sermon this past Sunday)?

Matthew 21:12-17 - Why did Jesus turn over the tables in the temple? Have a short time of prayer.

Matthew 26:26-30 - Ask what they think is happening when the church takes communion? (for older kids, you can ask what they are thinking during communion or you can share what you are thinking during communion). If you think some are confused by Jesus’ language you can show that Jesus was speaking figuratively about His body and blood by holding up a picture of someone and say, “This is _____ (The name of whoever is in the picture)”. Do I really think this person is a picture? No, even though I say this is him or her, everyone knows I’m saying this shows us an image of this person. The disciples knew Jesus wasn’t saying that the bread was really His body. He was saying that when we take communion, it is like seeing a picture of Jesus giving His life for us.

Matthew 26:36-46 - Read this meditation. Afterwards allow each person an opportunity to confess sins generally and thank Jesus for paying for them.

Jesus’ struggles in the Garden of Gethsemane were as great if not greater than on the cross. It was there that He sweat drops like blood. It was there that He poured out His desire to avoid drinking the cup of God’s judgement. Why? It was there that He anticipated all that He would experience in the hours ahead: the betrayal by a beloved disciple, abandonment by His intimate friends, the unjust trial, the brutality of the soldier, the mockery of His religious opponents and, most of all, the judgment of the God the Father upon all of the sins every committed. Bishop Fulton Sheen captures this, “... the Redeemer looked to the past and all sins that

were ever been committed; He looked also to the future, to every sin that would be committed....Samson-like He reached up and pulled the whole guilt of the world upon Himself as if He were guilty....He was mentally preparing Himself for the great sacrifice, laying upon His sinless soul the sins of a guilty world.”¹ Jesus counted the cost and prayed, “Father, not my will, but Your will be done.”

Matthew 26:46-49 – Whom do you kiss? What does this say about your relationship? What does Jesus call Judas in verse 50?

Matthew 26:50-56 – How might the soldiers have responded if Jesus called 12 legions of angels? (see the picture). Why didn’t Jesus let the angels help Him?



¹ Fulton J. Sheen. *The Life of Christ*. (New York: Doubleday, 1990) pp. 320-321

Matthew 26:69-75 – Ask why Peter was afraid to say that he was a disciples of Jesus?

Why would you be afraid to tell people about Jesus? **Or**, have them underline the different people who threatened Peter in the passage:

Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you mean.” And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus of Nazareth.” And again he denied it with an oath: “I do not know the man.” After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

Matthew 27:11-14 – Why wasn’t Jesus afraid of those who could sentence Him to death?

Matthew 27:29 – God often takes what people do or mean and gives it a wonderful new meaning. What do the soldiers mean by making a crown of thorns for Jesus? What was the message that God was giving through the crown of thorns? (Genesis 3:17-19)

Matthew 27:32-44 – Share your testimony or what Jesus means to you.

Matthew 27:45 – Was this darkness natural? Was God showing His displeasure for those who crucified Jesus or was He showing His displeasure with Jesus? (Use verse 46 in your answer.)

Matthew 27:57-61 – Have different family members take one of the following questions: When Jesus was buried...

- What might the two Mary’s have been thinking?
- What might the disciples have been thinking?
- What might the religious leaders been thinking?
- What might the devil have been thinking?

Close in prayer thanking God for sending His Son and for Jesus dying for our sins.