

# Maundy Thursday Small Group Guide

Welcome to our Maundy Thursday time of reflection together. Below you will find an outline to follow with your small group or family at-home to read scripture, ask questions, and also say a blessing upon a time of fellowship together.

## Gathering and Welcome

Introduce yourselves (if necessary). Have someone lead the group in this opening prayer: *God of grace, come to bless us as we gather to remember how Jesus sat at the table with friends. Let us open our hearts and minds to find you here at our tables even today. Amen.*

## Scripture Reading: John 13

Read aloud the scripture below. You may want to have several people read different sections.

### **Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet**

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to God. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that God had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

"No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

"Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.



Threshold by Rev. T. Denise Anderson  
Inspired by John 13:1-17, 31b-35  
Oil on wood panel

### Questions for Reflection

Take time to answer these questions together. Make sure each person has a chance to respond if they'd like.

1. What does the title of the art pictured above say to you? How might this be a threshold time? How is that seen in the image?
2. Simon Peter is prone to an all or nothing attitude. How is that reflected in the scripture? How does Jesus gently correct him?
3. How do threshold or in-between times encourage humility? Have you seen this in your life in any way?

### Prayer of Blessing

*Travel with us God through this Holy Week. Keep us mindful of those we are called to serve and how we are to follow you even in threshold times. Grant us wisdom and courage, we pray. Amen.*