

FAMILY CONVERSATION # 8

MAUNDY THURSDAY

To prepare for your family conversation, you will need to engage with the devotional reflection for Maundy Thursday (pp. 146–149 in *Water for the Way*).

STORY

Jesus's act of washing his disciples' feet encapsulated the way of life to which Jesus was committed. Share about a time when someone served you. How did it feel to be served? What impact did that act of service have on you?

SCRIPTURE

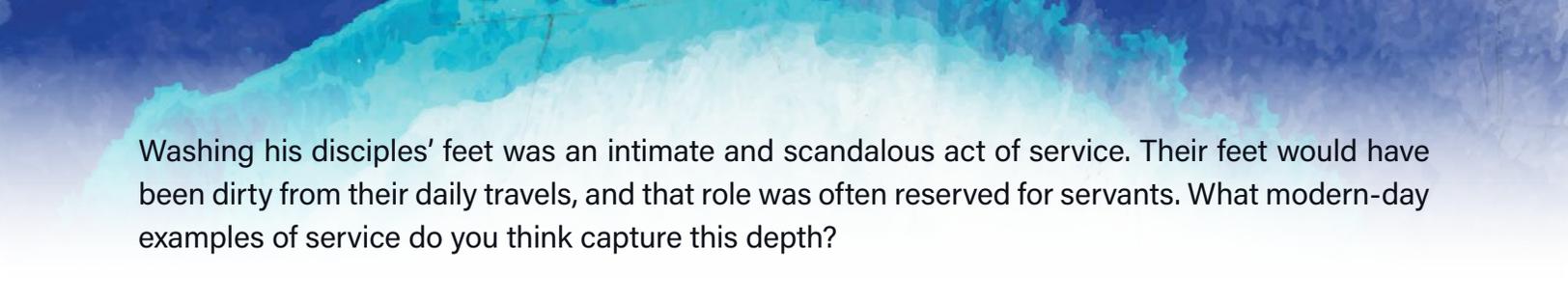
After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had reclined again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, slaves are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

—John 13:12–17 (NRSVUE)

REFLECT AND DISCUSS

What stood out to you from the devotional reflection for Maundy Thursday, or from the Scripture reading?

As a family, talk about the following quote from *Water for the Way* (page 147): "In our service to humanity, may we also not allow the things we do in service to others to lessen who we are. Washing other people's feet sounds dehumanizing and devaluing. It was not so with Jesus. He fully grasped the idea that it was the call to serve."



Washing his disciples' feet was an intimate and scandalous act of service. Their feet would have been dirty from their daily travels, and that role was often reserved for servants. What modern-day examples of service do you think capture this depth?

Share about a time when you served someone else. Why did you decide to serve them? How did that act of service impact the other person? How did it affect your relationship with them?

PRACTICE

As a family or small group, enter the story of Maundy Thursday by washing each other's feet (or hands). As you do this, reflect on the servant nature of Jesus.

PRAYER

As you head to prayer, talk about how you can adapt the way of the basin, water, and towel (service) in your daily life. After you have done that, end your time by saying this prayer, adapted from page 149 of *Water for the Way*, together: *Lord Jesus, may we recognize that our lives have value and purpose in you. May we be confident and content in this so that we may freely love and serve the world as you did. Give us the humility, boldness, and power to live in such a way that you are made known through our acts of service. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.*