

PARENTS' PAGE LESSON 26: The Hour Of Darkness

Timeless Truth: God gives eternal life to those who know Jesus Christ.

Bible Basis: John 13:21-30; Matthew 26:26-28; John 14:1-15; Matthew 26:33-35; John 18:4-10; Luke 22:51-62, 23:32-45; Matthew 27:46-49; John 19:30

Key Verse: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God. Trust in me also" (John 14:1).

Resource: *The Story for Kids*: Chapter 26

Parent Tips:

Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table during the week. The Living Faith activity has family members wash each other's feet. The Extra Mile shows your family a couple of videos set to Chris Tomlin's song "Jesus Messiah."

Get the Point:

Preschool: Jesus died for our sins so we can be with him forever. I can accept his love.

Elementary: Jesus died for our sins so we can be with him forever. I can accept his love.

Middle/High School: Jesus died for our sins to allow us to live fully now and have eternal life.

Table Talk

Preschool/Elementary

- If you didn't know how it was going to turn out, this would be the saddest chapter of *The Story*. A lot of terrible things happened to Jesus. He was arrested, his friends let him down, and he was beaten and killed. When Jesus asked his disciples to pray for him, they fell asleep instead. Talk about a time that your friends let you down?
- Why is it so hard to stay awake sometimes when you're praying at night?
- How do you think the disciples could've encouraged each other to stay awake – would've pinching each other worked?
- After all the miracles they'd seen, why did the disciples abandon Jesus? Don't you think they would've had more faith?
- Will Jesus ever let you down? Why?

Note: Young readers will gain understanding of Jesus' last days by reading the three stories on pages 286-309 in *the Jesus Storybook Bible*.

Middle/High School

- Jesus talks a lot about being God in this chapter (John 14:9, etc.). Why is it so important that Jesus is God?

- During his arrest, Jesus is asked if he's Jesus of Nazareth. He responds, "I am he" and everybody falls down. Why did those words have so much power? Why didn't Jesus run away when everybody fell?
- Peter got a little bold when Jesus was arrested and cut off the high priest's servant's ear. Jesus told Peter to back off, picked up the ear, and healed the servant. If you were one of the soldiers, what would you have thought about this Jesus who knocks over people with his words and has the power to heal?
- Because Jesus hadn't done anything wrong, the Jewish leaders had to make up false testimony against him. Why was Jesus ultimately sentenced to death? (Blasphemy – saying he was God.)
- What sets Jesus apart from other people who have claimed to be God?

Living Faith

In a poignant act of servanthood, Jesus washes the disciples feet at the Last Supper. He was the ultimate leader and the ultimate servant. As parents, display that same kind of servant leadership by washing your children's feet. You'll need a basin of warm water and a towel. The idea isn't to scrub and clean the person's feet. You just need to gently bathe the feet with water and dry them with a towel. As you wash their feet, tell your kids the way you want to serve them (i.e. by providing food and place to live, by showing them how to serve Jesus, by encouraging them to be their best.)

After you've washed your children's feet, give them the opportunity to wash yours. If they want to, your kids can let you know how they want to serve you.

When you've cleaned up from the foot washing, put on a video or some music and have family members give each other foot rubs. A good-smelling lotion can make this even more enjoyable. Be wary of family members with ticklish feet – they tend to kick when they're rubbed.

You can add to this experience by reading John 13:1-16 and by asking these questions:

- What most surprises you about Jesus washing his disciples feet?
- Do you think it was hard for Jesus to wash Judas' feet, knowing that Judas would soon betray him?
- Do you think it's important for leaders to show they love and care for the people they're leading?
- What are some other ways that Jesus showed the disciples that he loved them?

Extra Mile

Chris Tomlin's song "Jesus Messiah" has a beautiful message that goes along with this chapter of *The Story*. Watch one or both of these videos on YouTube:

- "Chris Tomlin-Jesus Messiah" is better for younger children and can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIBAf_SKwPQ&feature

- “Easter-Jesus Messiah-Chris Tomlin” features more graphic images and a strong message at www.youtube.com/watch?v=pcSnYTjHmiY&feature

After you’ve watched one or both videos, talk about the parts of each video that you liked the best. What lyrics from the song impacted you?