

THE HOUR OF DARKNESS

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

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

Key Verse: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God. Believe in me also.” —John 14:1 NIV

Resource: *The Story for Children*, Chapter 26: “The Hour of Darkness”

PARENT TIPS

Read the key point from the Sunday school class your child(ren) attended. Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table during the week. The Living Faith activity guides family members to 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

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

TABLE TALK

- 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 pinching each other have 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?

LIVING FAITH

In a poignant act of service, 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 children the way you want to serve them (i.e. by providing food and a 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 children 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?