

## Seedling Group Questions for the week of April 9 – Maundy Thursday

The sermon for April 9, “One Act of Obedience”  
can be found at [www.saidanotherway.org](http://www.saidanotherway.org)

### Questions for opening up

Have you ever washed anyone’s feet? What were the circumstances? If not, would you ever consider washing someone’s feet as an act of worship or devotion? Why or why not?

Which meals are central to your family’s life? Why?

### Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Paul boils down the ritual of Holy Communion to some key components for the Corinthians. What are they? Why are they important?

Paul wants his congregation to be careful (obedient) about their practices surrounding Holy Communion. What effect does being thoughtful and precise about Holy Communion practices have on the church’s common life?

### Read John 13:1-17, 31b-35

What main things do you think Jesus is trying to teach his disciples in the act of washing their feet? How would you sum it up in one word? A three-word sentence?

Explain Peter’s reaction in verse 8? What about verse 9? How would you react in this situation?

What does Jesus mean when he says, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me?”

How does Jesus challenge his disciples’ notions of leadership with this lesson? Of love?

### Putting things together

What are the connections between Jesus’ actions on Maundy Thursday and the cross? The resurrection?

Pastor Phillip says, *“Friends, the best way for us to love one another at this uncomfortable point in our common life is to refrain from celebrating Holy Communion until we can all be together again. The best way we can nurture our congregational community and our bonds of love with one another is, ironically, to fast from the table, because we will all be fasting together.”* What is your reaction to this statement? What effect does fasting from something have on you? On a community?

### Making it personal

Who has been an example of “foot-washing” in your faith life? How has it impacted you?

What action would you undertake for someone that would communicate Jesus’ love?

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

<sup>23</sup>For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, <sup>24</sup>and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” <sup>25</sup>In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” <sup>26</sup>For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

### **John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

<sup>1</sup>Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. <sup>2</sup>The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper <sup>3</sup>Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, <sup>4</sup>got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. <sup>5</sup>Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. <sup>6</sup>He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, “Lord, are you going to wash my feet?” <sup>7</sup>Jesus answered, “You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.” <sup>8</sup>Peter said to him, “You will never wash my feet.” Jesus answered, “Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” <sup>9</sup>Simon Peter said to him, “Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.” <sup>11</sup>For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, “Not all of you are clean.”

<sup>12</sup>After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? <sup>13</sup>You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup>So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. <sup>15</sup>For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. <sup>16</sup>Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. <sup>17</sup>If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.”

<sup>31b</sup>“Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ <sup>34</sup>I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”