

Easter FS- KS2

PROGRESSION OVERVIEW

	FS	KS1	LKS2	UKS2
Content and Big Idea	Zacchaeus the tax collector Jesus enters Jerusalem Palm Sunday Jesus the Messiah	Last supper Bread and wine Holy communion/ eucharist	Foot washing Maundy Thursday Radical humility	Christian interpretation: John and Matthew, Pope Francis I
Text	Zacchaeus the tax collector Palm Sunday	Bread and wine (Matthew) 'No servant is greater than his master' (John)	Foot washing in John	Comparison of Matthew and John
Jewish Context	Pilgrimage festivals Jerusalem	Passover meal Covenant	John- who, where and when?	Matthew- who, where and when?
Christian history	Palm Sunday	History of Christianity in Britain	Maundy money	St Francis, Pope Francis

LKS2: Foot Washing

Big Idea: Foot Washing in Christianity
<p>This is a key part of Easter actions for Christians all over the world. There are events in Easter Week that are found in all Gospels, the first 4 books of the New Testament that give information about Jesus' life, such as Palm Sunday and the Last Supper. However foot-washing is only found in John's Gospel.</p> <p>What does it Mean to Wash Someone's Feet?</p> <p>In his book about Christianity called <i>Dominion</i>, Tom Holland argues that Christianity contains a radical message. Jesus was born to a simple family, lived a humble life and died a humiliating death. Crucifixion was reserved for criminals and those who threatened the Roman state, yet Jesus' followers believed he was sent from God. Holland suggests that at the heart of Christian belief is an overturning of wealth, privilege and power and a call for justice and equality. This can be found in many of Jesus' teachings and actions. Foot washing is a good example of this. A person with status, such as Jesus himself or a priest or the Pope, washes the feet of someone else. This shows an overturning of hierarchy and a message that the greatest thing we can do is love and serve others. For Christians, Jesus' death on the cross symbolises giving all you have for love and justice, including your life. Tom Holland argues that the love that Jesus talks about is not sentimental or romantic love, it is love that must be put into practice, it is a way of acting in the world. Love in the Gospels is the driving force for creating a fairer world.</p> <p>Reference: Tom Holland (2019) <i>Dominion: the Making of the Western Mind</i></p>
Text
<p>Jesus Washes His Disciples' Feet (John 13: 1- 16)</p> <p>13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.</p> <p>²The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³Jesus knew that the Father 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</p>

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.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

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

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ 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." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² 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. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

Jewish Context

Who was John?

We don't know much about John, but we know he was a Greek-speaking Jew living in the Roman Empire, probably in present-day Turkey. This means that although he was Jewish in culture and religion, he lived outside the Jewish homeland of Israel. Greek was the language spoken in much of the Roman Empire because it had been the Greek empire previously, and many people spoke Greek in public rather than the Roman language of Latin.

John seems to be writing for a Greek-speaking audience who do not know about Jewish belief. We can tell this because John translates words like 'rabbi' (master or teacher) and 'messiah' (saviour) into Greek, which a Jewish audience would not need translating. John also talks about Jesus' 'new commandments' to love God and love your neighbour. A Jewish audience would know these are not 'new' commandments, but are well-established Jewish commandments going back to Moses.

John's book is one of 4 books about Jesus. John did not know Jesus, he is believed to be inspired by the Holy Spirit in sharing the true message of Jesus for people to hear. John's book was written around 90- 110 CE.

What does John's book tell us about Jesus?

In John's book about Jesus, or his gospel, he describes Jesus as a great spiritual teacher who is aware of another world, the world of God and heaven. Jesus as described in John's gospel shows people that he is the messiah (saviour) in his teachings and guidance. Jesus in John's gospel seems to know about God in a way that suggests a closeness to God, and he advises people on how they should live to please God.

John describes Jesus as the 'Word'. This is a Greek idea rather than a Jewish idea. It is a complicated idea, but can be summarised to mean God's power. Jesus is presented as an outpouring of God's power, love and wisdom, in a human form. In Greek this word is translated as 'Logos'.

John 13

The 13th chapter in John's gospel is seen as particularly important for Christian belief. This also contains the foot-washing at the Last Supper. In it John makes clear what he believes about God and Jesus' role on earth.

Here are some passages from chapter 13 that show what John is trying to communicate in his gospel:

- Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. (John 13: 1)
- Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God (John 13: 3)
- "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. (John 13: 13)
- I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. (John 13: 15).
- Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. (John 13: 16)
- "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13: 34)

Christian History

Maundy money/ Maundy Thursday

In Easter week, 'Maundy Thursday' is the day before Good Friday. This is the day when Christian leaders and those with authority traditionally wash peoples' feet. There are different ideas as to where the name comes from.

One explanation of where the name 'maundy' comes from is the Latin word '*mandatum*' meaning 'commandment' (the word 'mandatory' in English is from the same root). In John's Gospel, where the most detailed account of Jesus washing his disciples' feet is found, Jesus says, "'A new commandment I give unto you: That you love one another, as I have loved you, that you also love one another.'" In John 13. Washing feet represents serving other people.

Another explanation is from the Latin '*mendicare*' meaning 'to beg' (the English word 'mendicant' comes from this root). The French language was influential in England from 1066 when William the Conqueror's Norman forces invaded, and in French the word is '*mendier*'. On Maundy Thursday, the king attended Mass (holy communion) and would give out coins to ordinary people. The coins were placed inside 'maundy purses'.

Although we do not know the root of the word, or it may be a mixture of both '*mandatum*' and '*mendicare*', the two ideas are connected. The king would distribute money *because* of Jesus; commandment to 'love one another'.

Search online for images of the Royal Mint's 'Maundy Money' or 'Maundy Coins'.

TEACHING IDEAS

Foot Washing in Christianity

We will look at this through a sociological lens. We will not be looking at the Christian beliefs as much as what this action means for Christians individuals and groups.

- Show an image of Pope Francis I (the current Pope) washing feet. This is a good photo, or find your own: <https://www.wantedinrome.com/news/pope-francis-washes-feet-of-prisoners-in-italian-jail-on-holy-thursday.html>
- Ask pupils what they think is happening. Explain that the Pope (if you are using this picture) is washing the feet of prisoners in a jail. Give some 'tags' pupils can use to tag the picture. Print these out or write on post-its:
 - Showing humility*
 - Showing service to others*
 - Showing love for others*
 - Showing God you are humble*
 Ask pupils to come and 'tag' the image of the Pope with any of these tags they think describe what they are seeing.

- Using the account from John's gospel (John 13: 1-17), create a simple storyboard. Give a blank storyboard to each group with six squares for images and text. Ask groups to decide on six key events, summarise them for the storyboard and create a symbol or image of the event. Look at each other's storyboards.
- Tell children that the account of Jesus washing his disciples' feet is only found in one of the books about Jesus (you might use the word 'Gospel' if pupils are familiar with this term, but if not describing this as a book is fine). There are 4 books about Jesus in the bible, by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Only John mentions Jesus washing his disciples' feet. You can read about John in the LKS2 and UKS2 information.
- Write 'John', ask groups to record around the edges of this word what we know about the man John; where did he live, when, what sort of person was he? (We do not have a lot of information about John, you can acknowledge this in conversation).
- Read the extracts from John 13. Ask pupils to talk about how John presents Jesus in these passages- what does Jesus say about himself, what does he tell his followers they should do, what actions does Jesus perform? What sort of person is Jesus, as seen in this passage by John? Write adjectives about Jesus inside the letters of 'John' (this is the task you started in the point above).
- Find other images of Christians washing feet at this time. Search online images for 'Maundy Thursday feet washing'. You will see some people are also kissing the feet.
- Give out a foot outline on blank paper. Ask groups to record their thoughts in these outlines. If pupils will find it easier to respond to a question, here are three you could use: *why do priests humble themselves through foot washing? Is foot washing a way to show love for others?*

Maundy Thursday

- Put the two different possible meanings of the word 'Maundy' on the board. Give pupils simplified explanations. Ask them to discuss which makes sense: *mandatum*, *mendicare*, or both?
- Ask pupils to write which meaning they think makes most sense in their own words.
- This link to the Royal Mint shows images of 'maundy money' given by Charles II to the poor on Maundy Thursday. Read the explanation on the Royal Mint website. Scroll down and look at the coins themselves.
<https://www.royalmint.com/shop/ancient-historic/maundy-money/>

Radical Humility

- Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph, welcomed by people calling 'hosanna' (save us!), and laying palm branches across his path, a sign of respect and welcome. You can revisit this in the KS1 work. A few days later Jesus had been arrested and sentenced to death. His disciples must have been utterly devastated. Give pupils time to talk about the shock of this event (NB- there is no need to dwell on Jesus' death if it is too upsetting for class members, avoid this conversation if not appropriate). What emotion words can the class suggest to describe the feelings of the disciples? List these and save for the next task.
- Can pupils suggest *why* Jesus died? Let them have a free conversation suggesting reasons why this terrible event happened. There are different views within Christianity: the main idea is that Jesus sacrificed himself by dying, to clean humans from their sin. His death is seen as the ultimate act of love for humans. Have any pupils suggested this?
- Take an image of Jesus on the cross. If this is upsetting for children, choose an image of an empty cross.
- Give a small print-out of the cross image you have chosen. Give the list of emotion words to groups, ask them to add to the image in any way they like to create a further piece of artwork.
- Print out images of Maundy coins (see section above) for pupils to stick to card. Pupils can add to the cross images and emotion words.
- Take the word 'Humility'- give a definition. Here is one: 'the feeling that you have no special importance that makes you better than others; lack of pride'. Pupils might have heard the word 'humble'- explain that this is how we can show humility in our behaviour. Ask pupils to suggest actions that show someone is humble. Some suggestions are given if it helps:
Giving others your full attention
Not assuming you know what others think
Accepting that you might not be right
Being willing to share something
Being willing to give up your time for someone

Letting other people go first

Letting other people have something you might want

Laughing at someone's jokes

Acknowledging when someone makes a good argument, even if you don't agree

Letting someone do something their way, such as baking a cake or drawing a picture

Letting someone explain to you how to do something

Playing a game according to someone else's version of the rules

You could ask pupils to come up with examples of when humility is shown, such as in school, among friends, in clubs and at home.

- Return to the foot-washing work. How does foot-washing show humility?
- Finally, add examples of acts of humility around the image of the cross, with emotion words and the Maundy coins, to make a rich patchwork of ideas.
- Read this short BBC article about a vicar called Ewen Souter in West Sussex. A modern sculpture of Jesus on the cross has been taken down as Rev. Souter says it is too scary for children. The article contains the image of the crucifix, but you can search online for additional images. Rev. Souter argues that the cross represents hope and joy, and an image of a man dying a horrific death gives the wrong impression entirely. https://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/ni/2009/01/church_removes_crucifix_becaus.html
- Share as much of this as you want to with pupils. Give them time to talk about it.
- What image could be used to symbolise Jesus' sacrifice, that is not his death on the cross? Give groups time to design an image that symbolises humility, hope and joy