

WEEK FIVE

ROTTEN

FAMILY ENCOUNTER

SUPPLIES:

- Bible
- Sacred Candle & Matches/Lighter
- A Roll of Toilet Paper
- A Pen (or very thin marker)—no pencils

WELCOMING GOD:

Gather together, and welcome God into this time and space through the lighting of a candle. Take this moment to pause briefly and sit quietly in this light for a few moments allowing time for everyone to relax their body, mind, and spirit for this time. In these moments, the invitation is to become aware of God's presence with and amongst you as a family.

*This week, place the toilet paper inside your sacred space on the table.

Sharing with God and One Another:

Say: "If anything is on our minds that makes it difficult for us to focus, let's share it now and then let it go."

-Whoever leads this portion might share what is on his or her mind to model this. Give time for each person to respond. When everyone who desires to has responded, invite everyone to place their hands out and lift them up as we give these distractions to God

OR

you can invite the family to pray together as one person leads saying the following:

Dear Loving God,

The One who knows our hearts, celebrates our victories, grieves with us during our losses, and gives us the strength to overcome our challenges. Please help us to let go of the distractions we name now, so that we can openly share with our family and may encounter you in a special way today. Our distractions are: (let there be silence here, so everyone has an opportunity to name aloud what is distracting them).

In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Encountering God:

Read: Read aloud Matthew 26:14-16

- Take turns reading the scripture or have a different family member read the scripture each week.

Matthew 26:14-16

“Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What will you give me if I betray him [Jesus] to you?’ They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.”

Encountering Each Other:

Say: Religious leaders were looking for a way to arrest Jesus. They couldn’t arrest him during the day and didn’t know where he stayed at night—until this moment. When Judas went to the chief priests, he asked what they would give him to betray Jesus and took the 30 pieces of silver; his betrayal began. He looked for his moment to tell the leaders how to find—and arrest—Jesus.

Judas was one of the 12 disciples. He traveled with Jesus during his ministry. It was Judas who kept the disciples’ money. It was Judas who criticized the woman for anointing Jesus with expensive perfume instead of selling it and feeding others. And, it was Judas who went to the chief priests.

Discussion Questions:

-Why do you think Judas went to the chief priests?

Say: In the end, Judas betrays Jesus. He finds the opportunity he was looking for, and he was paid for it. He turned his back on a friend to help himself.

For the last few weeks, people have been searching frantically for toilet paper. Some are stockpiling it. Some have even fought over it in an effort to take care of themselves—at the cost of a neighbor being cared for.

Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Have we, or others, betrayed him for toilet paper?

Discussion Questions:

-How does buying so much toilet paper and keeping it from others compare to Judas taking 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus? How can this be an act of betrayal?

Say: Something else has happened during the last few weeks, too: there are those who have shared toilet paper and food and paper towels and soap and... the list goes on.

Activity: Each family member take a square of toilet paper. As you do, think of a person (or group of people) who may be in need or may

be caring for those in need. Write their name(s) on that toilet paper square. Pray together that these people's needs would be met and that God might show you how you can help meet the needs of others. And, pray for those who fear – that they might begin to see how God can meet their needs.

When you finish, find a place to hang the toilet paper square, so you will see it and remember to pray for the needs of others as well as ways you can help throughout this week.

Encountering God Together:

Say: May we pray together as a family...

- Let us share our prayers for the world: for our country and leaders, for other countries and their leaders...
- Let us share our prayers for the church, ministers, and spiritual leaders...
- Let us share our prayers for our teachers, first responders, friends, and others in the community...
- Let us share our prayers for our family and our own specific needs...

If you would like to record the people for whom you pray, use the next few lines to do so:

*You can also record these requests in a family prayer journal if you are using one.

Encountering Transformation Together:

Pray aloud together:

God, we welcomed you here and read Your Word,
we prayed and we spent time with you,
we rested in your love for us,
and we did this all together.

Now, we promise to love one another and others as you love us.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Blessing One Another for our Encounters with the World:

Invite family members to bless one another using any of the examples below or their own blessings.

Examples:

“I love you. God loves you. I pray God blesses you.”

“God loves you exactly like you are—and so do I.”

“I love the gifts God has given you and how you bless the world with them.”