



The Last Supper

Bible Passage: Matthew 26:26-30

Memory Verse: 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. 1 John 4:10 (NLT)

Bottom Line: I can know that Jesus loves me because He died on the cross for me.

Big Picture Question: Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to forgive us from our sins and came back to life to show that we are forgiven.

Christ Connection: *At the Passover, Jesus shared His last meal with the disciples before His death and resurrection. Jesus said that His death would establish a new covenant. God's people had broken the old covenant, and God promised to make a new covenant to forgive sins. God forgives the sins of those who trust in His Son, Jesus.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Scrambled Eggs

What You Need: 5 paper bags, 75 eggs (need at least 15 different colored or patterned eggs per group)

What You Do:

- This is a partner game that uses a paper bag and plastic Easter eggs.
- Prior to playing, ask a volunteer to prepare your paper bags.
- You'll need one paper bag filled with mixed-up eggs for each pair of children.
- On "GO," the partners have to work together to take the mixed-up, or scrambled, eggs out of their paper bag and fix them by putting matching tops and bottoms back together.
- The catch? They can each only use one of their hands during this minute... the hand they DON'T write with.
- They have to keep their writing-hand behind their back during the game, working together to take the eggs out, pull them apart, and snap them back together correctly.
- At the end of one minute, the pair with the greatest number of matching eggs is the winner.

What You Say "Way to go teams. Did you think that was going to be easy? In our Bible stories the next few weeks we are going to hear some hard things about Jesus and how people treated Him. The Jewish leaders did not believe He was God. All along though God is working things out in the perfect way to make a way for us to have a relationship with Him. Let's get ready to hear about it now.

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

TEACHING FOCUS (Matthew 26)

We have been hearing stories about Jesus' last week before His death. Jesus traveled to Jerusalem. On the way, Mary anointed Jesus with oil and **Jesus said Mary anointed Him for burial.** Then Jesus cleansed the temple. **Jesus drove out the people who were misusing the temple.**

Today's Bible story is called "The Last Supper." As you might guess, this is about Jesus' last supper before His death—and He wasn't going to stay dead. Listen to this.

Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover. At this meal, Jesus established a new covenant. The Last Supper is the Passover meal Jesus shared with His disciples before His crucifixion. It was designed to be a yearly reminder to God's people of how He had delivered them from slavery in Egypt.

As Jesus and His disciples participated in this meal, Jesus took two familiar parts of the Passover meal—unleavened



bread and the cup—and used them as reminders. The bread is a reminder of Jesus’ broken body. The cup is a reminder of His blood given for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus commanded His disciples to continue to eat this meal to help people remember His death until He returns.

At the Passover, Jesus shared His last meal with the disciples before His death and resurrection. Jesus said that His death would establish a new covenant. God’s people had broken the old covenant, and God promised to make a new covenant to forgive sins. God forgives the sins of those who believe in His Son, Jesus. The Lord’s Supper, like baptism, is a ceremony of the church and is a celebration for those who have believed in Jesus for salvation.

CONTEXT

Jesus knew it was time for Him to die. He sat down with His disciples for the Passover meal and did something very unusual. As they ate the Passover meal, Jesus broke bread and gave it to His disciples. He shared the cup with them too, explaining that the bread and cup represented His body and blood. Jesus established a new covenant.

In the Old Testament, God made a covenant, or promise, with His people. He gave them commandments to follow so they could live in right relationship with Him. But God’s people broke the covenant. They didn’t obey God, and they didn’t love Him. By dying on the cross, Jesus brought forgiveness and made the way for people to know and love God again.

Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord’s Supper at Passover, a time when God’s people remembered how God had rescued His people from the Egyptians—passing over the houses marked with the blood of a lamb. Jesus instituted a new memorial, to Himself—the Lamb of God whose blood would bring salvation to the world.

Believers take the Lord’s Supper to remember what Jesus did for us in His death and resurrection. We remember God’s faithfulness, and we look forward to the day He will return.

TODAY’S TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus shared a meal with his followers because He was going to teach them about His relationship with them.
- Just like God passed over and saved His people in Egypt, He promised to forgive all who believe in Jesus for eternal life.
- Jesus taught this using bread to represent His body that would be crucified and by using wine to symbolize His blood that forgives us.
- Every time we take the Lord’s Supper or Communion, we remember what Jesus has done for us and we look forward to His return.

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Jesus share a meal with his followers?
2. What did He hope they would learn at this meal?
3. What did He use to teach them about the New Covenant?
4. Why does the church today still share the Lord’s Supper?
5. What should we do when we take the Lord’s Supper?

Activity: Upside Down Puzzle

What You Need: 24 piece puzzle, 2 poster boards

What You Do:

- Challenge kids to put together a puzzle with the pieces turned facedown.
- Kids should work the puzzle over a piece of poster board.
- When kids finish, cover the puzzle with another piece of poster board and sandwich them together as you carefully turn over the picture.



All Star Kids

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3rd- 5th Grade

- Ask kids why completing a puzzle facedown is harder.
- Point out that in the Old Testament, the people could not see the big picture of what God was doing.
- They didn't understand that the Passover sacrifice pointed to a greater sacrifice—the true sacrifice of God's own Son, Jesus.

What You Say ” The stories in the Old Testament make more sense to us when we see how Jesus was God's plan to rescue people from sin. Every year, the Jews ate the Passover meal to remember how God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt. **Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover.** At the Passover meal, Jesus got His disciples ready to celebrate a new meal—the Lord's Supper—where they would remember how God rescued His people from sin through the death of His Son, Jesus. Jesus is the Passover lamb who can truly save people from sin and death. Let's say our big picture question and answer together: **Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to forgive us from our sins and came back to life to show that we are forgiven.**

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, strips of paper (1" wide, 30 per group), tape or stapler, pencils

What You Do:

- Pass out strips of paper and instruct children to work together to write two or three words of the memory verse on each strip, using the memory verse poster as a guide.
- Then take the poster away and lead children to make a chain out of the strips of paper by making loops out of each strip and connecting them to each other in the correct order using tape.
- When finished, invite kids to say the memory verse together.

What You Say ” Our Memory Verse is a good reminder of why Jesus died the way He did, when He did and who it was for. Did you ever think about it being out of love? God says, “This is real love!” Real love helped the perfect lamb be lead to slaughter and then rise in 3 days to show that He is God and always was. He was the one God would send to make us “right with Him.”

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Say:

“God, thank You for Jesus' example of how we as believers should treat each other. Help us to remember that when we were sinners, Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin and rose again to give us the promise of new life with Him. Amen.

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about Jesus' last Supper. What was God doing? **BL-** I can know that Jesus loves me because He died on the cross for me.