



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

Spoon the Eggs

What You Need: plastic spoon (1 per kid), 4 bowls or buckets, plastic Easter Eggs (50 per group), sticker for prizes

What You Do:

- This is a minute to win it game with 2 teams.
- Break your group into 2 teams.
- Each team will take turns (1 player at a time) scooping eggs with a spoon in their mouth to another bucket.
- Each player gets 30 seconds to scoop as many eggs as they can into the bucket.
- When their time is up the next person gets 30 seconds to scoop as many eggs as they can into the bucket.
- Keep playing until all the eggs have been moved or each person gets a turn, whichever comes first.
- Team with the most eggs moved wins.

What You Say "Way to work together to move those eggs. In our stories the next few weeks we will be looking at the last days of Jesus' life. Throughout the whole story we can see where God was working to make everything happen at just the right time to give us a way to have a relationship with Him. Let's get ready to hear about it."

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: Supper Symbols

What You Need: plate, cup, fork, spoon, napkin

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to stand. Make sure there is enough room for kids to move around a bit.
- Display the five objects.
- Explain that each object will be a reminder of something.
- Hold up the objects one at a time.
- Identify what action the object should remind kids of, and then allow kids to practice the action.
- When you set the object down, kids should stand still.
- After reviewing the actions, hold objects up one at a time in random order.
- Kids should react accordingly.



All Star Kids

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Kinder – 2nd grade

- Vary the pace and the order of the objects for an added challenge.
 - cup—Clap three times.
 - plate—Stomp three times.
 - fork—Wiggle your arms.
 - spoon—Do a jumping jack.
 - napkin—Turn around.

What You Say At the Passover meal, the Jews used special foods and drink to help them remember the first Passover when God rescued His people from the Egyptians. God brought them out of slavery and into a new life of freedom. **Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover.**

This was Jesus' last supper before He died on the cross. Jesus died to rescue people from slavery to sin and give us a new life of freedom with Him. 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, Memory Verse Word Cards (printed and cut apart- 1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Review the Memory Verse as a group together out loud a few times.
- Lay the Memory Verse Word Cards on the floor/table face down.
- Take turns picking up a card at a time and putting it in order.
- Keep going until all the words have been turned over.
- Read the verse together one more time.

What You Say "Who loves you? (allow kids to answer) Who loves you most? (allow kids to answer). God loves us the most. He proved by sending His Son to live a perfect life and be the blameless sacrifice for us to be made right with God because of our sins. That is true love."

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.