

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.*

LEADERNOTES:

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.

TEACHING FOCUS

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.

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.

Worship & Story Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today."

What You Do: Introduce the story

"The night before He died, Jesus ate a special meal with His friends. Jesus loved His friends, and Jesus washed His friends' feet. Jesus' friends were confused, but Jesus said, "I am showing you what you should do for each other." Jesus told His friends about God's plan. Jesus gave them bread and wine to show God was making a new, wonderful promise. Jesus was going to die on the cross to rescue people from their wrong choices, but God would make Him alive again. Jesus said, "When you eat this special meal, remember what I have done for you."

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Check diapers and serve snack.

Activities

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

1. Jesus eats with the Disciples

What you Need: play food, plates, cups

What You Do:

- Invite toddlers to play out a meal with toy dishes and toy food.

- As toddlers play out the meal, talk about the Bible story.

What You Say: Jesus ate a special meal with His friends and prayed for them. Jesus told His friends to remember Him. I can know that Jesus loves me because He died on the cross for me.

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What you need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include "**This is real love** (draw a heart)—**not that we loved God** (point to heaven), **but that he loved us** (point to each kid) **and sent his Son** (rock a baby)**as a sacrifice to take away our sins** (make a cross with your body). **1 John 4:10**

What You Say: Who loves you? (allow kids to answer) Who loves you most? (allow kids to answer). God loves us most. He sent Jesus to live a perfect life as God, die on the cross, and raise in 3 days so that we could know God. That is real love.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pray- " God, thank You that Jesus loved and helped us by doing for us what we could never do—dying on the cross to rescue us from our sin. Help us to love and serve others like Jesus loved and served us. Amen.

What You Say: Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home the coloring page and tell families, we are talking about Jesus sacrifice for our sins and God's love for us in allowing Jesus to do and be that for us.