

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.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

What Time is It Mr. Clock?

What you Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Choose an adult leader to be *Mr. Clock*.
- Lead preschoolers to stand at the opposite end of the room from *Mr. Clock*.
- *Mr. Clock* should have his back to the group.
- Lead preschoolers to call out "What time is it, Mr. Clock?"
- *Mr. Clock* then calls out a time that is on the hour such as 1 o'clock or 12 o'clock.
- Preschoolers should take that many steps toward *Mr. Clock*.
- When the group gets to where *Mr. Clock* is—but not past him—and asks the time, *Mr. Clock* may call out "Midnight!" and then turn and chase the group back to the start.
- Play again as time allows.

What You Say:

"If you asked Jesus what time it was in today's Bible story, He would have said it was time for Him to do God's plan to rescue people from sin. Jesus would soon die on the cross and come back to life to save people from sin. Listen to hear what happened on Jesus' way to the cross.

Worship 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."

Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Place a bookmark at John 13 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

What You Say: "The Bible is a true book. The Bible tells us everything we need to know about God and His Son, Jesus. Today's Bible story is in two of the Gospels: Matthew and John. The Gospels tell about Jesus' life on earth."

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Talk about the Bible 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."

Learn the Big Picture Question

What You Say: *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.* 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.

Practice the Memory Verse

Open your Bible to 1 John 4:10. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

What You Say: "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)**

Transition to small group.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life

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experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

1. Invite a church leader to participate in Communion/Lord's Supper with you

What You Need: invite a deacon or advisor to come to your class during small group, bread or chips, juice or water, cups, plates

What You Do:

- Invite a pastor, deacon, elder, or another church leader to visit your class and talk about the Lord's Supper.
- Ask him to talk about how the Lord's Supper is a special event in which only those who have turned from their sin and trusted in Jesus may participate.
- Provide the elements for children to examine.
- Explain how the Lord's Supper helps us remember what Jesus did for us on the cross and helps us look forward to being with Jesus forever.

What You Say " **Jesus ate a special meal with His friends.** Jesus loved and helped His friends and taught them to love and help one another. Jesus loved and helped us by doing for us what we could never do. Jesus is our King who died on the cross to rescue us from our sin.

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.