

THE LAST SUPPER

Did you enjoy last week's activities? This week's lesson contains two stories, one giving the background of the Passover meal, and one looking at the meaning of communion. It is aimed more at the older children, but Miles can enjoy the stories from the children's Bible, enjoy acting out washing of feet. When you have supper you can remind him that Jesus shared a special supper with his friends.

Bible reading: Luke 22:7-23

The Story: Source: <https://missionbibleclass.org/new-testament/part1/life-of-christ-late/the-last-supper/>

To begin our story we are going to learn about something that happened long long ago. It was long before Jesus was born as a baby. We can read about it in the Old Testament book of Exodus. At that time God's people lived in the country of Egypt. God's people (the Jews) did not like living in Egypt. They had to be slaves and work all day long. They never even got paid any money for all their work.

God wanted His people to have their own country to live in. He told a man named Moses to help the people leave. When Moses tried to help the Jews leave, Pharaoh (the ruler of Egypt) would not let them go. God thought of a special way to make sure Pharaoh would let the people go.

He told all of the Jews to put the blood of a lamb on their doorframes. If they obeyed God in this special way then they would be safe and danger would "pass over" them. If anyone did not obey God then the oldest child in his or her family would die. Moses and the other Jews obeyed God. They put the blood on the doorframes and then stayed in their houses and ate a special Passover Meal.

Pharaoh and the Egyptians did not obey but Moses. They were very sad because all of their firstborn children died. The Pharaoh finally decided to let the Jews leave Egypt and go to their new country.

God saved His people. Has anyone ever saved your life? If they did, do you think you would remember it or do you think you would forget? God saved the Jews and he wanted them to always remember about it. He decided that a good way to remember would be to tell the Jews to eat a special Passover Meal every year. Then they would remember how he made the danger pass over them.

Hundreds and hundreds of years later the Jews still wanted to remember what God had done. Every year they ate the special meal to remember the Passover.

Jesus and his friends wanted to eat the special Passover Meal. Jesus told Peter and John to go into Jerusalem and get things ready for the meal. He did not tell them the place to go. He just told them to follow a man carrying a water jar. That man would take them to the house where they would have a special meal in an upstairs room.

Peter and John did exactly as Jesus said. They followed the man carrying the water jug and he led them to the house where they would have the Passover Meal.

When Jesus and his disciples arrived they ate the Passover Meal together. This was the way that they remembered what had happened long ago in Egypt. When they ate the meal they also remembered how God took care of his people.

Jesus and the apostles followed all of the special instructions that God had given for the celebration. They ate bitter herbs to help them remember the bad times that the Jews had had when they were slaves in Egypt. They ate roasted lamb and they remembered the lamb's blood that was put on the doorposts in the Old Testament. They drank grape wine and ate unleavened bread.

Jesus and his friends liked the unleavened bread. They liked to dip it into a tasty sauce and eat it. During the Passover meal Jesus and his disciples were dipping the bread into the bowl of sauce. Jesus told them something while he was eating. He told them something very sad.

He said, "Someone here is not really my friend. He will do bad things that will make me get into trouble. One of the ones who is dipping the bread in the bowl with me will betray me."

Judas knew that he was the one. Judas did not remember the good things that God had done. Some bad chief priests had already given him money to make sure Jesus got in trouble and got arrested. Judas knew that Jesus had never done anything wrong but he said yes to the chief priests because they offered to give him money.

Lesson – Life in the Blood (Source: <https://ministry-to-children.com/last-supper-lesson-john-6/>) More about understanding communion.

Does anyone know what two things we eat and drink during communion?

We have bread, which represents the body of Jesus, and we have wine/juice which represents the blood of Jesus.

Jesus Himself actually served the very first communion. He was having Passover dinner with His followers,

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." – Luke 22:19-20

Now this might sound normal to us, since we hear it every time communion is served, but for the people at that Passover dinner, it sounded crazy!

And I think, if I was in that room and hearing that for the first time, I would think it sounded crazy too.

But Jesus didn't want His followers to think it was crazy. Or gross, or weird, or scary. Jesus wanted His followers to think about life.

You heard me right, life. Even though communion is about Jesus dying, it is also about Him living, inside of us.

Way back in the Old Testament God gave Moses some rules. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, which we hear about all the time, but He also gave Moses lots of other rules to follow, about what to wear, what to eat, how far to walk, and anything else you can think of.

In the middle of all of those rules there is one that tells us about the life in communion.

This happened WAY before Jesus was ever born, but God had it planned out and knew what this one rule would mean to all of us.

This was the rule: God told Moses that no one could eat or drink blood.

That might sound like Jesus was disobeying God in a huge way, but Jesus was doing exactly what He needed to do. You see, the reason they couldn't eat or drink blood was because the ancient people believed that "the life of the body is in its blood" (Leviticus 17:11).

God didn't want his people to go around thinking that cows and chickens living inside them. And I must say, I don't want cows inside me either! Still today, Jewish people drain the blood out of an animal they slaughter for meat.

But there is one and only one life God wants living inside of us. Jesus!

With Jesus living inside us we have eternal life. And He gave us that eternal life when He died on the cross and shed His blood for our sins.

Taking communion won't save you. And drinking the wine/juice won't make Jesus live inside of you. For that to happen, you have to pray and ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins, and to come live within you. The communion just helps us to understand, think about and remember what that really means.

When we take communion we eat bread and drink wine/juice so we can remember the sacrifices Jesus made for us. And so we can remember just what those sacrifices mean. They mean life! Jesus living inside of us and giving us eternal life in heaven!

Questions:

1. What do the bread and wine/grape juice represent?
2. Why did Jesus tell the disciples that one would betray him?
3. Who offered to pay Judas to betray Christ?
4. What did Judas receive in return for betraying Jesus?
5. What did the feast of the Passover memorialize?
6. What temptation did Judas allow to control his life?
7. Have you ever felt betrayed by someone? How did/would it feel?
8. Describe how all the apostles were feeling as they asked Jesus, Is it I, Lord?
9. Why did Jesus ask his followers to remember him in this way? What are we remembering when we have communion?

CRAFT: Last Supper Keyring/Fridge Magnet

Jesus asks us to remember him when we have communion. You can make yourself a keyring or fridge magnet as a reminder to remember him!

Materials:

- self drying clay (see recipe below)
- keychain loop (purchase from craft store or take off an old keychain)
- Craft foam OR cardboard OR bit of plastic cut from a margarine tub or yoghurt lid
- marker
- scissors
- hole punch
- straw
- piece of wool or string/small magnet and glue

Instructions:

- Shape your dough into a slice or loaf of bread, or/and a chalice (fancy word for a cup for wine).
- Use a straw to poke a hole through the completed shapes
- Cut out a rectangle of craft foam/cardboard/plastic and punch a hole in the corner of it
- Print the words: **Jesus is the bread of life.** on the piece of craft foam/cardboard/plastic.
- Let the clay dry according to the recipe directions.
- Paint the clay if desired.
- Put a piece of ribbon or string through the keychain loop, the tag and the clay loaf. OR glue a small magnet at the back to make a fridge magnet.

How to make self-drying clay:

You will need:

- 1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup salt
- 1/2 cup Cornstarch (maizena) if you don't have this, just use 1 cup flour.
- warm water

Directions:

In a bowl, mix flour, salt and water. Slowly mix in warm water until a dough is formed.

Knead 5 minutes until dough is firm.

Use it to make something (eg beads: roll into balls and stick a straw or sosatie stick through them).

Let it dry for 48 hours (2 days), depending on the weather. It can be painted and/or varnished when dry.

SONGS:

Remember, you can use the instrument you made last week!

- Jesus loves me, this I know

- Oh, how I love Jesus
- He's got the whole world in his hands
- Have you heard the good news I've got for you.