

Bible Lesson

35. The Last Supper

Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 13



Jesus said, "This is my body given for you. Do this to remember me."

Luke 22:19

The Last Supper

The time had come for Jesus to go back to his Father. Now, he would show the world his great love.

Jesus ate a dinner with his 12 disciples. It was the last time they would all be together. Looking upset, Jesus said, "One of you will betray me." The men felt sad.

"Not me, Lord," they said. "I would never hurt you."

Peter said, "I will die for you, if I must."

Jesus said, "Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny me three times." Jesus told them that Judas would betray him. Judas would turn him over to his enemies.

Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. "Take and eat," he said. "This bread is my body. It is given for you. Do this to remember me."

Jesus took wine. He gave thanks. "Drink," he said. "This wine is my blood. I am giving my blood so that sins will be forgiven."

Kneeling down, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. "I have done this so you will remember to serve each other," he said. "As I have loved you, so you must love each other.

They all sang a song. But not Judas. He slipped out into the night. The other disciples followed Jesus to a garden to pray.

Questions

1. How did Jesus show his great love for us?
2. What did Jesus do with the bread and wine?
3. Jesus said, "Do this to remember me." This is called communion. Have you ever taken communion?
4. King Jesus washed the dirty feet of his disciples to teach them to serve. Which of your Christian brothers and sisters can you serve?

Pray this prayer:

Dear Jesus,
You gave your life so
that my sins could be
forgiven. Thank you for
your beautiful example
of giving and serving.
Help me to also give
and serve.
Amen

Write in the picture how you
can serve others.



Story S-t-r-e-tch-ing

35. The Last Supper

Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- How does your family remember someone who you love or loved?
- What do you usually do at special family meals?
- What do you think that Jesus and his disciples did at their last supper together?

After you read:

Blood Still Saves

The Last Supper celebrated the Hebrew holiday called the Passover. Read Exodus 12. Give each child five wide craft sticks and have them write on the back of them with permanent marker, "The blood will be a sign... when I see the blood, I will pass over you." (Exodus 12:13) Paint the front of the sticks red and form them into the shape of a door frame. Then read about the last supper in Mark 14. Now rearrange the sticks to look like a cross and say a prayer of thanks to Jesus, the perfect Passover lamb, for giving his blood. Explain that when God sees the blood of Jesus covering our sins, judgment of death passes over us, and we are saved.

Remember Me Bread

In Bible times, there were no photographs, so the Jews put customs as "pictures" into special holidays. God told them how. The broken bread is now a symbol – a picture – of Jesus giving his body on the cross. The poured-out wine is now a symbol – a picture – of Jesus' blood that saves us. Take a round tortilla. Simulate blood using red dye in water. Use a q-tip to paint a picture of Jesus while the leader reads Exodus 12:21-28 and also Luke 22:13-20. Break it in half to represent his death. Bow down and worship like the Israelites did.



New Covenant Ring




A rainbow is a symbol of a covenant, which is a special promise between God and man that God will never flood the earth again. When two people marry, they wear a ring as a symbol of the promise to love each other forever. The broken bread and the cup of wine were symbols of the new covenant. They were signs pointing the way to Jesus. No longer would we have to kill lambs to cover our sin. Jesus IS the Lamb of God. When we believe in him, we come into a brand new covenant. We promise to love him forever. It is the most special of all relationships – the love between God and us. Write on paper 1 Corinthians 11:25-26 and turn the paper into a ring to remind you of that love. With scissors, cut and glue the image above onto your ring.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S_veCYAKFGk




Communion

We Christians today obey Jesus when he said, "Do this in remembrance of me." We take a small sip of juice or wine and a small piece of broken bread. We call it communion. In most churches, this is one of their most special and holy times. In the Catholic church, they call it the Eucharist, and the children go through classes to make sure they are ready in their minds and hearts to take communion seriously. Are you ready? Talk to your parents and your church leaders to find out how they handle communion. Before you take communion, go through this checklist to obey the words of Paul and Jesus.




Do I believe that...

- Jesus gave his body to save me? 
- Jesus gave his blood to forgive me? 
- Jesus died, rose again, and is the Lord of all? 




Am I taking communion to...

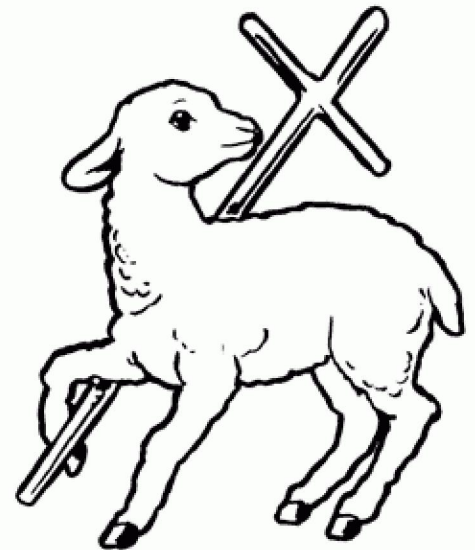
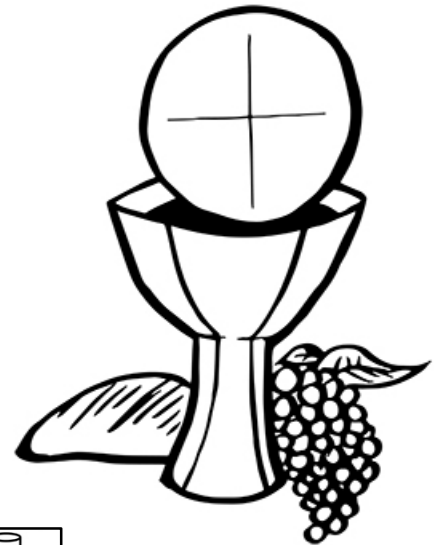
- obey Jesus? 
- remember his sacrifice for me? 
- say to the world, "Jesus died and will return."? 

Have I...

- examined my heart and mind? 
- asked God to forgive my specific sins? 
- forgiven people who have wronged me? 

Do I promise to...

- love others as I have been loved? 
- serve others as Jesus served? 
- respect and remember what Jesus did for me? 



If you checked yes to these questions, you are ready. The table is ready. Come.

Jesus as a Servant, Myself as a Servant

In Judea, where Jesus lived, the roads were usually quite dusty and people wore sandals. It was the custom for a home owner to ask his servant to wash the dirty feet of his guests. At the Last Supper, when Jesus bent down to wash the feet of his disciples, they were shocked. Their king as a servant? Yes. "He now showed them the full extent of his love." John 13:1b. After Jesus had finished with the 12, he said, "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you." John 13:17

Draw a crown on Jesus. Label it "King." Write on his arms "Teacher" and "Lord." Write a prayer to the left of him thanking him for coming as a servant to teach us and die for us. On the disciple, write names of people you can serve. In the towel, write ways that you can serve, especially those in the family of God. To the right, write a prayer asking Jesus to give you the humility and strength to serve others.



Passover Seder

The Last Supper was a Passover dinner. This Jewish holiday is celebrated in the spring to remind Jews of that great miracle when they were slaves in Egypt around 3,300 years ago. God's angel of death passed over the homes of the Jews who had marked their houses with blood. Read Exodus 12. Each part of the Passover meal has special meanings. It was no mistake that Jesus died during the Passover. It was planned from the beginning of eternity.

What's in Passover dinners	What it means to Jews	What it means to Christians	How you can celebrate
washing hands	We must come before God with clean hands and a pure heart.	Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. See John 13:3-17.	Wash the hands or the feet of a friend. How will you serve?
drinking wine	The blood on the door saved the Jews. The angel of death passed over those marked homes.	The blood of Jesus saves us. God's judgment will pass over believers.	Drink some grape juice. Thank Jesus for saving us from judgment.
breaking bread	The Red Sea broke open so the Israelites could escape their enemies.	The broken body of Jesus is his sacrifice to free so we can escape our enemy of sin.	Break bread in half and eat some. Thank Jesus for his broken body.
unleavened (flat) bread called Matzo.	The Israelites did not have time for their bread to rise before they escaped from Egypt to freedom.	The Bible tells us to not delay our decision to escape from our sins.	Eat crackers. Read 2 Corinthians 6:2: Today is the day of salvation.
bitter herbs	The Jews' time of slavery was bitter.	On the cross, Jesus was forced to drink wine vinegar.	Dip some bread in wine vinegar and taste to remember his suffering.
fresh, roasted lamb	The Jews were told to kill a perfect lamb as a sacrifice.	Jesus is the Lamb of God. He gave his sinless life as the final sacrifice.	Eat roasted lamb. Read Isaiah 53:5-7. Explain that this is a prophecy.
salt water	The Jews cried many salty tears when they were slaves.	Jesus wept because the Jews did not know or accept who he was, and is today.	Put salt into water and sip some to remember the tears of Jesus. Read Luke 19:41-44.
hard-boiled egg, roasted	An egg means that life will go on, like the Jewish faith, despite their struggles.	An empty egg can signify the empty tomb of the risen Christ. Write on a piece of paper the verse Mark 16:6.	Hide the verse in an empty plastic Easter egg. Compare it joyfully to the empty tomb.