

## Unit 26 • Session 3

# The Last Supper

### **BIBLE PASSAGE:**

Matthew 26; Mark 14;  
Luke 22; John 13

### **STORY POINT:**

Jesus commanded His disciples to remember His sacrifice.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Philippians 2:8

### **BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

## LEADER Bible Study

As the Passover celebration drew near, Jerusalem hummed with excitement. Everyone wondered if Jesus—teacher, miracle-worker, and prophet—would come for Passover. (John 11:56-57) The Passover meal was a permanent statute God intended for every Israelite family to observe each year. (See Ex. 12:1-28; Lev. 23:5-8.) But it was no secret the religious leaders were determined to kill Jesus. Jesus had warned His disciples what would happen this Passover. (Mark 10:33-34; Luke 18:31)

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.

What the sacrifice of the Passover lamb could not do—take away sins once and for all—the perfect Lamb of God was going to do. Jesus, the perfectly sinless Son of God, was going to take the punishment for sin upon Himself. (See Heb. 10:1-10.) As Jesus' disciples prepared for Passover, Jesus prepared to die. By dying on the cross, Jesus brought forgiveness and made the way for people to know and love God again.

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 that Jesus will return.

Not all the kids you teach will be ready to take the Lord's Supper at church. Gently explain that the Lord's Supper, like baptism, is an ordinance of the church and is a celebration for those who have repented of their sin and trusted in Jesus for salvation.

## The **BIBLE** Story

### **Bible Storytelling Tips**

**Display props:** Consider showing the Bible story picture, a toy lamb, a water jug, a depiction of the Last Supper, unleavened bread, and grape juice.

**Use a flannelgraph:** Print pictures of people and elements in the story (a man carrying a water pitcher, Jesus, the disciples, a long table, bread, and a cup) on heavyweight paper. Use hook-and-loop fasteners to stick the pieces to flannel as you tell the story.

## The Last Supper

*Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 13*

**Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.** Long ago, God delivered His people from slavery in Egypt. He sent ten plagues to Egypt and during the tenth plague, the firstborn of the Egyptians died. The Israelites smeared the blood of a lamb on their doorposts, and God kept them safe; He passed over their houses. God said that once a year, the Israelites should celebrate the Passover to remember how He rescued them. He told His people when and how to celebrate.

**On the day when the Jewish people were supposed to kill the Passover lamb, Jesus sent Peter and John to get the meal ready.** He said, "Go into the city, and you will meet a man carrying a jug of water. Follow him."

Jesus said that the man would go to a house, and the homeowner would show Peter and John a large room upstairs with furniture in it. That was the place Jesus wanted them to get the Passover meal ready. So Peter and John did as Jesus said.

**When the Passover meal was ready, Jesus and His disciples reclined to eat. Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray Me.” The disciples were upset, but Jesus knew this was part of God’s plan. Peter said he would never betray Jesus, but Jesus said Peter would deny Him three times.**

**Then Jesus took the bread, gave thanks to God for it, broke it, and then gave it to His disciples to eat. Jesus said, “This is My body, which I am giving for you. Do this to remember Me.”**

**Jesus took the cup and gave it to His disciples. They drank from it, and Jesus said, “This is My blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many.”**

**They sang a hymn together, and then they went out to the Mount of Olives.**

Jesus knew He would be arrested and would suffer. Then He would die on the cross to take the punishment for the sins of the world. On the third day, Jesus would rise from the dead.

*Christ Connection: Jesus showed His disciples with the bread and the drink that He is the true Passover Lamb. God’s people had broken the old covenant, and God promised to make a new covenant to forgive sins. The new covenant says that everyone who turns away from sin and trusts in Jesus’ death and resurrection will be forgiven of his sins and will have eternal life.*

## APPLY THE STORY

**Session Title:** The Last Supper

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 13

**Story Point:** Jesus commanded His disciples to remember His sacrifice.

**Key Passage:** Philippians 2:8

**Big Picture Question:** What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

Whom did Jesus send to prepare the Passover? (*Peter and John, Luke 22:8*)

What two items did Jesus share with His disciples as a way to remember His sacrifice? (*the bread and the cup, Luke 22:19-20*)

What did Jesus say Peter would do three times before the morning came? (*deny that he knew Jesus, Luke 22:34*)

Why is the Lord's Supper so important? *Guide kids to think less about the specific foods used and more about the symbolism of the meal. Remind them that Jesus' sacrifice was a choice. He did not have to allow His enemies to hurt and kill Him. The Lord's Supper is a meaningful way for us to honor Jesus by obeying Him. The Lord's Supper is a beautiful picture of what Jesus did for us in dying on the cross.*

Who can participate in taking the Lord's Supper? *Guide kids to think about the importance of the bread and the cup. Remind them that only those who have faith in Jesus' death and resurrection have salvation from sin. Those who reject Jesus*

*or who have not yet come to faith do not participate in the Lord's Supper.*

What other ways do we remember and celebrate Jesus' sacrifice for us? *Direct kids to think about when most churches gather. Discuss the hymns and songs we sing. Remind the kids that we celebrate Easter in the springtime. Talk about the burial and resurrection symbolism of baptism.*

Say • **Jesus commanded His disciples to remember His sacrifice.** Christians today remember the same way.

## REFLECTION AND PRAYER

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?

What does this story teach me about myself?

Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.