

The Last Supper

Mark 14:12-25

Learning Objectives

1. The children recall the events of Christ's Last Supper with His disciples.
2. The children explain the symbolic meaning of Holy Communion.
3. The children will discuss what it means to commune with God.

Memory Verse:

"The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared life together. They broke bread and ate together. And they prayed."

--Acts 2:42 (NIRV)

Getting Started

Twenty Dollar Bill Activity

See: www.teensundayschool.com → Object Talks → "Behind a Twenty Dollar Bill"

You will need a twenty-dollar bill or another large bill for this activity. Please see the above website for detailed instructions.

You will use this activity to discuss Holy Communion. If possible, have a minister bring a wafer to class to handle and show the students while the teacher talks about its meaning. Discuss the three drops of wine and the alpha and omega symbols. Note that it should be handled with respect and reverence.) But what makes these small items, these small symbols so special? What makes them so valuable? Today we will be talking about how this wafer is so special and valuable, because of the story behind it.

It is because of the love of God and the sacrifice made by our Lord Jesus, we gather as the Body of Christ during the time of communion to remember His death, his broken body, his shed blood, and to celebrate His resurrection. All of that is behind this wafer. So, when we partake in communion, let us remember what Jesus did, and do so with respect and reverence.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions

Message:

Communion brings us closer to God.

The Lord's Supper

¹² It was the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That was the time to sacrifice the Passover lamb.

Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover meal?"

¹³ So he sent out two of his disciples. He told them, "Go into the city. A man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ He will enter a house. Say to its owner, 'The Teacher asks, "Where is my guest room? Where can I eat the Passover meal with my disciples?"' ¹⁵ He will show you a large upstairs room. It will have furniture and will be ready. Prepare for us to eat there."

¹⁶ The disciples left and went into the city. They found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover meal.

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

¹⁷ When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸ While they were at the table eating, Jesus said, "What I'm about to tell you is true. One of you who is eating with me will hand me over to my enemies."

¹⁹ The disciples became sad. One by one they said to him, "It's not I, is it?"

²⁰ "It is one of the Twelve," Jesus replied. "It is the one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But how terrible it will be for the one who hands over the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks and broke it. He handed it to his disciples and said, "Take it. This is my body."

²³ Then he took the cup. He gave thanks and handed it to them. All of them drank from it.

²⁴ "This is my blood of the new covenant," he said to them. "It is poured out for many. ²⁵ What I'm about to tell you is true. I won't drink wine with you again until the day I drink it in God's kingdom."

Discussion Questions:

1. What was important about the day of the Last Supper? (*It was the traditional day of the Passover feast, where the Jews remembered the Passover events in Egypt with Moses and the Israelites.*)
2. How did Jesus ask to prepare the room? (*He asked for a large upstairs room that was furnished, so he could eat the meal with his disciples, he also asked for a large basin of water, so he could wash the disciple's feet.*)
3. What sad news did Jesus reveal to his disciples? (*That one of them would betray him, and it would be so bad he would wish he was never born!*)
4. What did Jesus say when he broke the bread? (*This is my body, eat it.*)
5. What did Jesus say when he drank the wine and passed it around? (*This is for many – meaning, it represents his blood.*)
6. When does Jesus say he'll partake of communion again with us? (*In His Father's Kingdom – this was indeed the last supper with the disciples.*)
7. What do you think it truly means to commune with God? (*Discuss.*)

Application to Real Life

The Human Knot

See: www.teensundayschool.com → Lessons → Life Applications → Christian Principles → "Observing Communion"

You will need to gather your students together in a tight circle (it doesn't matter how many students are present, just huddle up). Recruit extra volunteer participants as needed.

Have each person grab the hand of another person in the circle. Then have them join their other hand with a different person in the circle. Once done, you've created a human knot. The objective in this game is to untangle the knot without anyone releasing another's hand. (Hands can be repositioned, but always touching.) You might have to twist, turn, walk over/under arms, etc., but most knots, given enough time, can be untangled. In some cases, more than one knot may be the end result.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did it feel when you were all tangled up?
2. How hard was it to figure out how to get untangled?
3. Did you ever want to quit? What kept you going?
4. What did you feel when we finally got untangled?

Application to Real Life – Continued

In today's lesson we learned about communion. In real life we can often get caught up in a lot of things. Communion with our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus helps us to get ourselves untangled, to make things right again and be able to start over, no matter what we have done. Knowing this, how does that make you feel? Talk about it together.

Memory Work Suggestions

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. What Holy Sacrament is most related to today's lesson? Why?
4. What is forgiveness? How does it relate to celebrating Holy Communion? Discuss.
5. Play a game to review an article of faith (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
6. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Activity Ideas

Make it Real

As you go through the "last supper" lesson, have a last supper with the students. Before class, set out plates for each student, and put an X under one to be Judas. The teacher will be Jesus and use bread or crackers and grape juice to represent the bread and wine. Have the students read the lesson with you, and when you get to the part of Judas, have them check under their plates for the X. Continue with the story and talk about the communion we discussed at the beginning.

At the end of the story, go back to discuss Judas. Ask that student how they felt to be Judas and know you would betray Jesus. Now think about how we feel now that because Jesus died for our sins, we can find grace.

Bible Time

Look up in the Bible and carefully read Matthew 14:22-25 together. What does the bread symbolize? (Jesus' body). What does the wine symbolize? (Jesus' blood). When we partake in Holy Communion, we are remembering Christ's sacrifice and doing it in remembrance of him. Look again at the wafer and think about all that we must remember when we are eating this simple wafer and all that it represents.

"Communion" in the Scripture

(Below is a list of every appearance of communion in the book of Acts. Assign verses to individuals or smaller groups of students. Have them read their verses and be ready for a few basic questions afterward.)

Communion in the Book of Acts:

- Acts 2:42
- Acts 2:46
- Acts 20:7
- Acts 20:11
- Acts 27:35

1. What did your verse(s) say about communion?
2. Who participated in it? What were their reasons?
3. How important does communion seem, based on this passage?

Activity Ideas – Continued

Communion Elsewhere in the Bible:

- Matthew 26:26-29
 - 1 Corinthians 10:16
1. What does the bread of communion stand for? (*Christ's body*)
 2. What does the cup stand for? (*Christ's blood*)
 3. In the book of Matthew, when does Jesus say he'll partake of it again with us? (*in His Father's Kingdom*)
 4. What do you think that means?
 5. What do you think it truly means to commune with God?

Journal

Choose One

What have you learned about communion that you didn't know before? Write about it.

Jesus sacrificed his life for us because He loved us so much! What kinds of things can we do to show our love for others? Write about some ways you can make sacrifices for others this week.

Jesus' sacrifice allows us to have our sins forgiven. Write about something you are sorry you did this week, and how you will change in the weeks to come.

Take your Bible and spend time re-reading the verses we've read today. Take some time to experience God and allow yourself to understand that this is exactly what we should be doing when we participate in communion and experiencing closeness with God. Write about what you are feeling.

Homework Ideas

- Read: **Luke 22:39-54** (*Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane*).
- Learn the Memory Verse:
"If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all." --Isaiah 7:9
- Learn the _____ Article of Faith
- If you had the chance to talk to God tomorrow, one on one, face to face, what would you want to tell Him? What would you need His help with? Write about it. Bring your paper to class.

Other Resources

<http://children.cccm.com/curriculum/> → Click on "NT Support Curriculum → See Page 7 for the lesson titled "The Last Supper".

Take Home Page: The Last Supper

Today I learned...

Today your child learned that **communion brings us closer to God**. The children will recall the events of the Last Supper that Jesus celebrated with His disciples. They also explored the symbolic meaning of Holy Communion and talked about what it means to commune with God.

Help me learn my memory verse...

*"The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared life together.
They broke bread and ate together. And they prayed. "*

--Acts 2:42 (NIRV)

Ask me...

1. Why was the Last Supper so important and special?
2. What does it mean to "commune" with God?
3. What do you think about when you take communion? Do you think about Jesus and how He died for you? Why or why not?

Live Your Faith...

Re-create the last supper at home with your children. Provide a bowl of water for washing feet, and fresh bread and grape juice for eating/drinking. (You could also look up what else the Jewish people might have eaten at the Passover meal and explore some of that food with your family.) After you bless the food, talk about the sacrifice that the Lord Jesus was about to make for us as you eat. Allow each one to share how that makes him/her feel about Jesus, considering such a sacrifice.