



UNIT 26 | SESSION 2

JESUS SHARED A LAST MEAL

MATTHEW 26; MARK 14; LUKE 22

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus made a new, better promise.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How is Jesus the perfect Priest? Jesus gave His life for us.

MEMORY VERSE

Jesus lived a perfect life. Hebrews 4:15



LEADER BIBLE STUDY

The time came nearer for Jesus and His disciples to celebrate Passover together. Christ knew the betrayal would take place soon, yet He earnestly desired to break bread and recline at the table with His closest friends. He was aware of the suffering that was soon to come, too, yet He still took to the cross for our salvation; He endured it all for the joy set before Him.

The Passover celebrated the works of God on His people's behalf, as He freed them from Egyptian bondage. Each year, they gathered so as not to forget their miraculous deliverance from slavery. Out of these age-old traditions came the Lord's Supper—a celebration of His new covenant.

What was the significance of the last meal taking place on the first day of Unleavened Bread? How did this tie into the promises of God's new covenant in Jesus?

The first day of Unleavened Bread was a time when the Israelites would sacrifice their Passover lambs. They observed this tradition in remembrance of the blood of the lamb, which signified that God should pass over their home amid the last Egyptian plague. Since that event, they would continue to sacrifice a lamb in memory of God's faithfulness in saving His people.

Even though Jesus had predicted His death, the disciples still did not comprehend all that Jesus would suffer. As He offered the cup and broke bread at their side, they could not fathom all that Christ would soon endure for them to have forgiveness and eternal life in His name. While the priests before Him could only offer up a sacrificial lamb in their place, only Jesus could truly be the sacrifice needed to atone for sin. He was the promised eternal Lamb of God who died in our place that we may truly live.

Explain to preschoolers that the disciples did not initially have the full picture of God's great plan of redemption as we do today. Unlike the disciples, we have the entire Bible before us to know Jesus as the object of our faith and experience everlasting life through Him.

Events to Know

The Last Supper: the last meal Jesus shared with His disciples before the crucifixion. This new tradition, a celebratory communal meal, forms the heart of Christian worship and will be celebrated until the second coming of Christ.



OPENING & ACTIVITIES

WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with other children.

ACTIVITY — OPTION 1

Build a Mountain

- Invite children to work together to build a mountain using the cups provided.
- Start building the mountain by lining up six cups upside down. Give each child a turn to build onto the mountain with a new cup. Encourage children to make the mountain wider and taller.
- Show children how to gently place the cups so they do not fall. Assist children as needed.

Say: "That was a tall mountain you built! In today's story, Jesus and His disciples had a very special meal where Jesus told them some very important things. After they finished eating, they went to a mountain outside of the city."

ACTIVITY — OPTION 2

Pass the Bread

- Invite children to sit in a circle. Provide a bean bag to represent a piece of bread. As you play music or sing a song, children will pass the "bread" around the circle.
- Consider playing the memory verse song, "High Priest (Hebrews 4:15)" or sing the song, "Jesus Loves Me." When the music stops, whoever is left holding the bread will name their favorite food.
- Continue until every child has a turn to hold the bread and say their favorite food. Challenge older preschoolers by asking them if they can remember one of the foods their friend named.

Say: "We pretended to pass bread around the circle just like Jesus did when He shared a last meal with His disciples. He was about to give His life as a perfect sacrifice for sin and wanted His disciples to remember this special time together. During this last meal before His death, Jesus broke bread and told His disciples to eat it. How is Jesus the perfect Priest? **Jesus gave His life for us.**"



OPENING & ACTIVITIES

CRAFT

Make a Reminder

- Give each child a piece of yarn, a cross, and several beads. Encourage children to string them as they wish.
- Consider wrapping a piece of tape around an end of each piece of yarn to make it easier for children to string the beads. As children work, talk about the Bible story together and remind children of the things Jesus wanted us to remember about Him.
- When they finish, tie a knot on each end to secure the beads. Encourage them to place their reminders in their Bibles or somewhere they'll see them often.

Say: "This last meal was important to Jesus and His friends. During the meal, Jesus taught them to remember what He would do for them. Jesus knew it was almost time to die on the cross, rise again, and go back to His Father in heaven. Jesus told His disciples, 'Remember Me.' Each time we look at our reminder, we can remember Jesus and how much He loves us. God's people had promised to love and obey God, but they broke their promise. Jesus made a new and better promise. God would forgive people for their sins and help them obey Him."



PREPARE

Open your bible to **Matthew 26, Mark 14, or Luke 22** and tell the following story.

THE STORY

JESUS SHARED A LAST MEAL

Jesus and His disciples were in Jerusalem for a very special time—the Passover celebration—to remember how God had rescued His people from Egypt.

This Passover, though, was the most special Passover because God was about to rescue His people again. This time, He would free people from the power of sin, and He had sent His own Son to do the job!

Jesus sent two of His disciples, Peter and John, into the city to get the Passover meal ready. He said, “You will meet a man carrying a jug of water. Follow him.”

Jesus said that the man would go to a house, and the owner of the house would show Peter and John a large room upstairs where they could get the Passover meal ready. So Peter and John did as Jesus said.

When the meal was ready, Jesus and His disciples sat around the table to eat. Jesus knew it was almost time to go back to His Father in heaven. Jesus said, “One of you will turn against Me.” The disciples were upset, but Jesus knew this was part of God’s plan.

Jesus ate the Passover meal with His disciples. While they ate, Jesus took the bread, broke it into pieces and gave it to His disciples. He said, “Eat this. This bread is like My body that will be broken for you. Do this to remember Me.” Then He took the cup, thanked God for it, and gave it to His disciples. “Drink this,” Jesus said, “This drink is like My blood. My blood makes the new covenant.”

After the meal, Jesus and His disciples sang songs and went to a mountain outside of the city.

CHRIST CONNECTION

God’s people had promised to love and obey God, but they broke their promise. God sent Jesus to make a new, even better promise. God would forgive people for their sins, and God would help them obey Him.



SNACK & CLOSING

SNACK TIME

Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible story?
3. What special meal did Jesus and His disciples eat together?
4. How is Jesus the perfect Priest? **Jesus gave His life for us.**

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible Story Coloring Page or Activity Page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to the children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have the children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return tan storage cubes to **Room 108**

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!