

LESSON 33

The Last Supper

LUKE 22:1-34



BIBLE TRUTH

THE LAST SUPPER WAS THE LAST PASSOVER

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 22:1–34 from the Scriptures or read story 111, “The Last Supper,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

A Betrayer among You

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a large bag of small candy-coated chocolates

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Line Up the Men

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 33—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Knowing the Future

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ bottle of root beer
- ✓ bottle of white grape juice
- ✓ cups enough for the class
- ✓ two volunteers—one wearing jeans and one in a suit and tie (or dress) (Clothing can be altered to suit your volunteers, but they should be different from one another.)

TOTAL 80 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

The trap was laid—The passage tells us that Satan entered Judas (Luke 22:3), who then went to the chief priests to make arrangements to betray Jesus. The chief priests were looking to kill Jesus (John 11:53). In the daytime the Pharisees often knew where Jesus was by the throngs of people who followed him to hear him speak and watch him heal the sick. But the crowds intimidated the Pharisees, who lived for the approval of man (John 12:43). It would serve their purpose to arrest Jesus when he was away from the crowds. A nighttime betrayal would enable the Pharisees to arrest and convict Jesus before the general populace even knew what had happened. Judas’s betrayal of Jesus fit nicely into the Pharisees’ plans.

The true Passover Lamb was soon to be sacrificed—Jesus directed the disciples to prepare for the Passover and accurately predicted just how the preparations would unfold (Luke 22:10–12). We are left to wonder if Jesus made arrangements earlier or if the details were supernaturally arranged by God. In any case, events unfolded just as Jesus said. While the disciples were purchasing a lamb to be slaughtered and used for their Passover meal, Jesus the Lamb of God (John 1:29) was preparing to become the last Passover Lamb, sacrificed upon the cross for our sins.

The disciples didn’t have a clue—Here Jesus is, only hours away from the cross on which he would give himself as a substitute for sin, and the disciples are arguing about which of them is the greatest (Luke 22:24). They didn’t realize Jesus was about to suffer and die. They still expected Jesus to win an earthly victory. The stage was set for Jesus to be anointed King of Israel. Only recently the road had been lined with people shouting “Hosanna” and calling Jesus the “King of Israel” (John 12:13). In spite of all Jesus had told the disciples about his need to suffer and die (John 12:32), they seemed oblivious and were more concerned about their own status.

Jesus warned the disciples that they would all fall away (Matthew 26:31). But Peter boasted “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away” (Matthew 26:33). Peter drew his confidence from Jesus’ power but little did he realize Jesus did not come to fight an earthly battle; he came to win a greater war against sin and death. The disciples, still looking toward an earthly kingdom, had no idea Jesus would allow himself to be arrested, tried, and crucified. Jesus, who knew the road of suffering ahead, informed Peter that even he would soon deny him. Matthew 26:35 records Peter’s response: “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” All the disciples said the same.

Where Is the Gospel?

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

The Passover meal was the clearest picture of God's redemption in the Old Testament. The first Passover took place in Egypt, when the angel of death "passed over" the homes where the lamb's blood was painted on the doorposts and lintels. On the night before Jesus' crucifixion, at the Passover meal, the disciples learned that Jesus, the Lamb of God, was going to shed his blood for all mankind. For those who believe, Jesus' blood covers their sin so that when the judgment of God comes in their direction, it will pass over and bring them no harm.

The Passover story points to the new covenant, which Jesus introduced at the Last Supper. A covenant is a promise or commitment. Jesus introduced his commitment and promise to the disciples. His blood was shed and his body broken so that we might be forgiven and brought into fellowship with God. Jesus summarizes the last Passover this way: "I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God" (Luke 22:16). Today, we celebrate the Passover in the new covenant celebration of the Lord's Supper, also known as "Communion."

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Luke 22:1–34 from the Scriptures or read story 111, "The Last Supper," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

A Betrayer among You

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a large bag of small candy-coated chocolates

Prior to class, enlist the help of a “betrayer.” Explain the rules of the game (below) and tell him to secretly tell you the number his group decides on by putting a hand behind his back and holding up one, two, three, four, or all five fingers.

Divide the class into groups of five. Tell the class that each group is to secretly agree on a number from one to five, and you will demonstrate your skill at guessing the number they picked.

You will be blind-guessing numbers for all the groups except for the one with the betrayer. Each group that stumps you gets one candy for each person in their group. After about five rounds, the group with the traitor should be getting upset. Once the exercise has gone on long enough or if the traitor is found out, stop the exercise, tell the betrayer’s group what you did, and give them all an equal share of the treat.

Lead a discussion by posing the following questions:

- **Ask the group with the betrayer how it felt to be betrayed.**
(Draw them out.)
- **Why is betrayal such an evil sin?**
(It takes advantage of trust and reveals the deception of faking friendship.)
- **What does Judas’s betrayal tell us about him?**
(He was unfaithful. He was not a true friend to Jesus.)
- **Are we like Judas?**
(Apart from God’s grace to turn away from our sins, we are sinners just as Judas was. People all around us mock the Lord and do what they want for their own gain. People also cheat and betray their spouses and their friends. In this way they sin in the same ways Judas did.)

Read today’s story and talk about the amazing kindness shown to us by Jesus and his sacrifice for us on the cross.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 15 MIN

Line Up the Men

Use this illustration to help the children see how quick we are to want to be the greatest.

Ask the children to line up according to strength, from weakest to strongest. Observe the way they do it and how long it takes. This will likely cause some confusion as some will not want to admit who is weaker than the other. Once you allow this exercise to go on for a bit, have them also get in line from shortest to tallest.

Have the class sit down and read Luke 22:24–26. Then discuss the following questions:

- **Why did it take so long to line up according to strength?**
- **Who here did not want to admit they were weak?**
- **How many of you were willing to let others ahead of you, making you look weak?**
- **How many of you were tempted to think you were taller or stronger than you actually are?**
- **What does Jesus say defines true greatness?**
(“Let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves” [Luke 22:26].)
- **How did Jesus live out this definition of true greatness?**
(Jesus, who had no sin, became a servant and took our sin on himself. He who was supremely great was despised and rejected by God and man for our sake.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 33—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What is the name of the disciple who is going to betray Jesus?**
(Judas)
- **Which person in the picture is Judas?**
(Judas is the one frowning and close to the door. He will leave the dinner early to go and betray Jesus.)
- **What did Judas get for betraying Jesus?**
(The religious leaders gave Judas thirty pieces of silver.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day’s Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 10 MIN

Knowing the Future

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ bottle of root beer
- ✓ bottle of white grape juice
- ✓ cups enough for the class
- ✓ two volunteers—one wearing jeans and one in a suit and tie (or dress)
(Clothing can be altered to suit your volunteers, but they should be different from one another.)

Talk to the class about the amazing way Jesus knew just what was going to happen. At some point, mention the following to the class:

“Wouldn’t it be wild if I told you a man wearing jeans was going to come into our class with a bottle of root beer and it happened! Can you imagine your amazement if I said a man in a

suit was going to come in with a bottle of grape juice and it happened? You would think it was amazing!” Then go on with your lesson. (Have another teacher give the signal and have your volunteers come in. Have the second one come in a minute after the first.)

Ask one of the students to taste what is in the two bottles. Have a volunteer ready with a cup. Ask the class if they think that is amazing and draw them out. They will likely say you set the whole thing up. Keep up the charade for a bit, but then tell them the truth. Pass out cups and give everyone a drink and ask them if they were surprised. Tell them your stunt was a simple trick, but Jesus’ ability was real!

