

LESSON 33

The Last Supper

LUKE 22:1-32



BIBLE TRUTH

THE LAST SUPPER WAS THE LAST PASSOVER

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: light brown paper; a red crayon; tape. Cut out three rectangles of light brown or tan paper to represent two doorposts and the lintel. Tape the pieces in the shape of a doorframe in the front of your class.

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 111)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 33—one for each child; markers or crayons

God’s Plan

SUPPLIES: simple costumes made from sheets and a piece of rope.

An Evil Betrayal

SUPPLIES: simple costumes for you and a helper made from lengths of cloth to hang around your neck and drape down over your chest; a bag of thirty quarters to use as the betrayal payment

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children are going to learn about the meal Jesus had with his disciples just before he was arrested.

Before class, gather light brown paper, a red crayon, and tape. Cut out three rectangles of light brown or tan paper to represent two doorposts and the lintel. Tape the pieces in the shape of a doorframe in the front of your class.

To help the children remember what the Passover is all about, read story 31 from the *Gospel Story Bible* aloud and point out the men painting the blood of the lamb on the doorframes of their homes. Then draw red marks on the doorframe you have earlier placed in the front of your classroom.

Tell the children that the blood of the lamb was a clue about how God planned to save his people from their sin. Ask if anyone knows what the lamb that was killed points to. (It is likely no one will know.) Tell the class that around the time Jesus was baptized, John the Baptist said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). While you are saying this, reconfigure the brown paper doorframe into a cross. Take the lintel off. Then place the right doorpost on top of and perpendicular to the left doorpost to form the capital letter T. Then use the lintel to form the upper vertical portion of the cross. Now ask the class again if they can tell you what the lamb that was killed represents. (At this point if they still don't get it, have one of your helpers whisper the answer: Jesus dying on the cross.)

Use this exercise to help them understand that the lamb in the story of the first Passover points forward to Jesus who was the Lamb of God who died for us so that God's anger for our sin would pass over us.

Take time to pray and thank God for shedding his blood to save us. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 111, "The Last Supper," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What meal were the disciples preparing for Jesus to eat?**
(The disciples were instructed by Jesus to prepare the Passover meal.)

- **Why did people celebrate the Passover?**
(In Exodus 12, God instructed Moses to place the blood of a lamb on the doorposts and lintel. When the angel of death came, he would pass over that house since it was marked with the blood of the lamb. God told Moses the Passover was to be a memorial feast that should be celebrated through all generations.)

- **What did Jesus do after supper?**
(Jesus took a cup of wine and a piece of bread and gave thanks. He used these elements to teach his disciples that his body would be broken and poured out for forgiveness of sins.)

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."

SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

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

- **What do the bread and the wine in the Last Supper represent?**
(The bread represents Jesus' body, which was broken and given for us as a sacrifice for our sin. The cup of wine represents Jesus' blood, which was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.)

- **How are Jesus and the Last Supper similar to the first Passover meal?**
(During the first Passover meal, the blood of a lamb on the doorpost protected people from the angel of death. This pointed to Jesus, the Lamb of God. It is by the sacrifice of Jesus covering our sin that we can be saved from death.)

- **Who was the betrayer Jesus spoke of, and what did he do to betray Jesus?**
(Judas was the betrayer. He pretended to love Jesus, but he took money to help arrest Jesus.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

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.)

God's Plan

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ simple costumes made from sheets and a piece of rope

Read Luke 22:10–13 and plan with another teacher to act out this part of the story. Whoever plays the disciple should ham it up, demonstrating a bit of disbelief and amazement while saying things like, “How does he do this? How does he know a man is going to meet me with a water jar? I always get these weird assignments.” Have another teacher play the man with the water jar and have everything work out just as Jesus said.

The point of this exercise is to demonstrate to the children that Jesus wasn't killed by accident. Jesus' death was a part of God's plan. Though men did the evil act, God planned the sacrifice for our benefit and the forgiveness of our sins. So when Jesus was at the Last Supper sharing with the disciples that he was going to die, it was all according to God's plan.

An Evil Betrayal

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ simple costumes for you and a helper made from lengths of cloth to hang around your neck and drape down over your chest
- ✓ a bag of thirty quarters to use as the betrayal payment

Read scriptures to the children and then act out two scenes. Don't feel limited by the lack of details in the passage. Judas would have had more dialogue with the chief priests. Use the skit to emphasize that Judas was going to become a spy for the chief priests to tell them where Jesus was so they could arrest him. Judas could say something like, “I don't care about Jesus. It won't bother me to tell on him. Besides, it is worth the thirty pieces of silver. I could buy something for myself!”

The first scene is Judas going to the high priests from Luke 22:1–6, and the second is from Luke 22:47–48 where Judas betrays Jesus.

After you complete the two skits, talk to the children about the word “betrayal” so they understand what it means. Tell them a betrayer is a traitor. He or she tells you that he is on your side, but he switch sides and fights against you. He pretends to be on your team, but he secretly works to help the other team win.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today’s lesson.

