

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

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.)

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Who Is the Greatest?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ prize for the winner

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Lamb and Cross

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Harmonize the Story

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class

TOTAL 75 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE*Judas the Betrayer*

In each Gospel account (Matthew 10:4; Mark 3:19; and Luke 6:16) Judas is introduced as a traitor. Judas was the treasurer among the disciples. He handled the money. Judas showed his greed and love of money when he criticized the wasting of perfume on Jesus (John 12:1–8). We don't know why Judas joined the disciples of Jesus. Perhaps he was looking for an earthly kingdom and wanted to profit from being close to its leader. When Jesus announced his certain death, close to the time of the Passover, Judas seemed to cut his ties with Jesus and work toward betraying him. Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss. After trying to return the blood money and having his efforts rejected, Judas killed himself.

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

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BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

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OBJECT LESSON 1 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 to the class the following:

“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 for real!

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Who Is the Greatest?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ prize for the winner

Divide the class into groups of four to five students and give them this assignment: "I want you to decide who is the greatest person in your group." Explain that they should talk to each other about the greatest thing they ever did or saw and then decide who is the greatest person based on who did the greatest thing or saw the greatest sight.

Give the class five minutes to talk and move among the groups to help them. Invite the person chosen by each group to come forward and tell the class why they were picked as the greatest person in their group. By a show of applause, have the class vote on which of the finalists they think is greatest.

Congratulate the winner and then ask your contestants to return to their seats. Continue by asking the following questions:

- **What did it feel like to ask the question, Who is the greatest?**
(See how many felt uncomfortable and then point out how the disciples argued about who was the greatest right at the time Jesus was about to go to the cross.)
- **When are you tempted to compare yourself with others?**
(sports, report card grades, appearance, etc.)
- **How can a focus on personal greatness distract us from following Jesus?**
(Accept any answer.)

- **Did the disciples take their focus off of Jesus?**
(Yes, focusing on their own greatness they all missed Jesus' announcement that his death was imminent.)
- **How did Jesus define true greatness?**
(Jesus said, "Let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves" [Luke 22:26].)

WORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

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

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Lamb and Cross

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Draw a picture of a lamb with a cross in the background on a hill. Write the words, "Passover Fulfilled" on your paper.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Harmonize the Story

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker
- ✓ Bibles for the class

Divide the class into six groups and tell them they will be comparing the Gospel accounts of the Last Supper. Make sure everyone has a Bible and read aloud together Luke's account

(Luke 22:1–38). Have the class use the Luke passage as a baseline with which to compare their assigned passages. Assign each group one of the following passages: Matthew 26:1–17; Matthew 26:18–26; Mark 14:1–10; Mark 14:11–22; John 13:1–11; and John 13:12–38. Have the groups look for at least one detail in their passage that adds to the story Luke told.

After five minutes have each group report and write the new information they discover on the whiteboard. Talk as a class about how important it is to read all the Gospels and how each of the four authors wrote the same story from a different perspective.