Jesus and the Last Supper

Lesson Aim: To see communion as a declaration of the new covenant between God and sinners.

**THE WORSHIP**

Who God is: The King Who Loves

**THE WORD**


What He Has Done: Jesus gave His disciples a way to remember Him.


**THE WAY**

Christ Connection: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Bible Memory Verse

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24

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**TEACHER’S ENCOURAGEMENT**

This week, read 1 Corinthians 11:17-26. Please join us in praying, “Thank you for giving us a way to remember You. Sow these truths into the hearts of the children that You will be glorified with each communion they take. Amen.”

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**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.
Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today’s question.

Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite thing to eat for supper?

GAME: RACE TO SUPPER

Purpose: Children will race to prepare dinner tables to learn about the last supper and communion.

Supplies: Paper plates, cups, napkins, tablecloths (or large sheets of paper, plastic, or cloth), prepare for use during The Way: bread rolls (or crackers), juice

Christians celebrate a special meal called communion. Who knows what communion is? (Sharing bread and wine/juice to remember Jesus.) Today we are going to discover why we celebrate communion. The first communion was Jesus’ last supper with His disciples before He died on the cross. First, let’s play a game and see which team can set their table correctly first.

Directions:

1. Form equal teams of five or six players. To each team, give one tablecloth and enough plates, cups, napkins, and bread for each person on that team. Note: Save the juice for after the relay.
2. Space the teams so that each team has its own table or spot on the floor. Have each team form a line near their spot.
3. On your signal, the first player in each team’s line spreads the tablecloth on the table or floor. Have each team form a line near their spot.
4. That player tags the next player in line and goes to the end of the line.
5. The next player chooses one item (cup, plate, or napkin), sets it in place on the table, and tags the next player. Only one piece may be set by a player during his/her turn. Continue until the entire table has been set, including a piece of bread on each plate.
6. After the table has been set, each player must sit down in front of a place setting. The goal is to be the first team to be seated.
7. Leave the tables set for use during The Way.
Jesus as the King who loves

**THE WORSHIP**

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

**The Seven Stars of Lent**
If this lesson is taught during the Lenten season (the 40 days before Easter), we recommend the Seven Stars of Lent activity located at ResourceWell.org under Children - Other Resources. Choose one star for each week of the Lent season.

**Jesus wants us to spend time remembering Him. Today, as we give our offering and sing to Him, remember who Jesus is and what He has done for the people in Bible Times and for us now. Think about the way He gave His own life for us, so we could have life forever close with God.** Read John 6:51.

Part of remembering Jesus includes remembering why He had to die for us. It was because of our sin. He died to take the punishment for our sins. During our Bible Memory Verse Song, let’s ask God to show us any sin in our life today, and lead us so that we can stop sinning and follow Him.

Sing Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song, “Search Me, O God.” You may also choose to sing songs that focus on the life of Jesus.

Perform Kingdom Adventures script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 3, Lesson 15.
Jesus gives His disciples a way to remember Him

**THE WORD**

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children’s focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God’s Word, let’s go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: “I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God’s Word; knowing God is my goal.”

Last time, we learned Jesus washed His disciples’ feet to show He loved them and to teach them to serve others. Today, we will learn how He gave His disciples a special way to remember Him. His last meal with them was a Passover meal they shared in an upper room in the city of Jerusalem. Jesus spent the last days of His life in that city. If a map is available, show Jerusalem.

Let’s play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today’s Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Luke 22:14-23, 31-34. **Let’s see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let’s highlight our Key Verse:** Luke 22:19-20.

Before we read, let’s stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who’d like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. Be seated.

Let’s read in the Bible to find out more about Jesus’ final meal which is called the Last Supper. Read Luke 22:14-23, 31-34.
Jesus gave us a way to remember Him

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Use the table setting from The Welcome game or create a supper setting by seating
the children in a circle or at a table. Have a snack of juice and bread or crackers. This snack is not to be
viewed or referred to as the holy sacrament of communion. Instead, use it as an interactive way to
teach that Jesus gave His followers a way to remember Him.

What did Jesus say the bread stands for? (His body.) What did He say the cup stands for? (His
blood.) His blood was given for the forgiveness of our sins. Some of us are uncomfortable
talking about blood, but blood working inside your body is good. Blood brings life; it keeps
your body alive! The perfect blood of Jesus brings us life forever close with God.

Jesus knew we would need a special way to remember the importance of His death so He
gave us the bread and cup. The Bible tells believers to gather and remember Jesus by
sharing the bread and the cup. We call it the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper or Holy
Communion. It’s called a sacrament because it is a sacred and holy time. When your parents
say you are ready, you may take part in this sacrament with them. Have any of you seen or
participated in the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper (Holy Communion)? (Children respond.)

At dinner, Jesus announced one of His disciples was going to betray Him. How do you think
the disciples felt to hear this? (Children respond.) Jesus did not reveal it was Judas who would
betray Him. How do you think Judas felt in this moment? (Children respond.) What did Jesus
say would happen to Simon Peter? (He would deny Jesus three times.) What were Jesus’
instructions for Simon Peter? (When he has turned back, to strengthen His brothers.) How do you
think Simon Peter felt to hear this prediction? (Children respond.)

How do the words of Jesus at the Last Supper prove to you that everything was done with
His knowledge and was under His control? (Children respond.)

Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus says the cup is the new covenant in His blood. What is a covenant? (A promise or
agreement.) Through Moses, God made the old covenant with His people. God promised if
they obeyed Him fully, He would make them His treasured possession. Were they able to
always obey? (No, everyone sins.) 600 years before the Last Supper, the Lord described the
new covenant Jesus would bring. Listen for the five actions He promises.

FIND IT FIRST> Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to
reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Jeremiah 31:31-34. Let’s see who can
Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Jeremiah 31:31-34.

What are the five actions the Lord promises to take? (Put His law in their minds, write it on their
hearts, be their God, forgive their wickedness, remember their sins no more.) The new covenant says
they will be His people and each one will know the Lord. Later, we learn the new covenant
is for all who believe in Jesus. If you are a believer, these promises are for you. If you
believe in Jesus, which parts of this covenant have you already seen at work in your life? (ie.
knowing the Ten Commandments, being one of His people, being forgiven, knowing the Lord, etc.)
THE WAY continued...

Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God’s throne. I’m going to lift each one of your names to God’s throne as you pray for each person silently. Then we will pray the Lord’s Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let’s pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ___, ___, ___. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is a communion cup to remind you of the cup Jesus blessed and shared at the Last Supper. Each time you see it, remember Jesus.

W3: Take home today’s W3 Journal Entry #15 as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W3 Journal Entry #15. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Jesus at the Last Supper with His disciples. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse Song, “Search Me, O God,” in the background as children wait to be dismissed.
If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

**GOT TIME?**

**SNACK: REMEMBERING JESUS**

*Purpose:* Connect with your students while enjoying a snack that explores the Last Supper.

*Snack Suggestion:* Prepared tables from “Race to Supper” game

*Teacher Tip:* This snack is not to be viewed as or referred to as the holy sacrament of communion. Rather, it is an interactive way to learn Jesus gave His followers a way to remember Him.

Jesus shared this final meal with His disciples. They had dinner together, just like you eat meals with your family and friends. During the meal, Jesus gave them bread and wine. He told them to remember Him each time they ate bread and drank wine. Let's share some bread and juice, just like Jesus and His friends did.

*Directions:*
1. Give each child a snack and juice.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. As you eat, ask the children to retell a Bible Story they remember from Jesus’ life on earth.

**GAME: I REMEMBER WHEN JESUS...**

*Purpose:* To help children remember what Jesus has done.

*Supplies:* None

*Directions:*
1. Everyone sits in a circle.
2. Teacher says “I remember when Jesus *(share something you remember about Jesus).*” You might say, “I remember when Jesus rode on a donkey.” or “I remember when Jesus washed the disciples’ feet.”
3. Second person repeats the first player’s sentence and adds something he or she remembers about Jesus.
4. Third person repeats what the first two people said and adds their own memory of Jesus.
5. The game continues until everyone has added to the list. The teacher or other children can help each other remember what everyone has said.

*Option:* For a competitive version of this game, players who cannot remember the list are out of the game. Play continues until only one person remains.
GOT TIME? continued...

CRAFT: REMEMBERING JESUS PLACEMATS
Purpose: For children to create placemats to help them remember Jesus.
Supplies: Sturdy, colored paper; pencils; markers; scissors; glue; optional: self-stick laminating sheets or clear shelving paper
Prepare: Cut simple bread and cup-shaped templates from sturdy paper. Where children can see it, write: Remember Jesus

Jesus had a special meal with His disciples to help them remember Him. Let’s make placemats to help us remember Jesus when we eat at home. You can use your placemat at the kitchen table to help you tell your family what you remember about Jesus.

Directions:
1. Use a pencil to trace the bread and cup templates onto a sheet of sturdy paper.
2. Use scissors to cut out your bread and cup.
3. Glue the bread and cup pictures to the front of a sheet of standard-sized sturdy paper.
4. At the top of your paper, copy the words: Remember Jesus
5. Draw or write some of the stories you remember about Jesus.
6. Optional: Laminate placemat on both sides. If you are unable to laminate the placemats, encourage children to just display them at home.

DISCUSSION: FROM PASSOVER TO THE LAST SUPPER
Purpose: To understand the connections between the Passover and the Last Supper.
Supplies: Bible

What kind of important days does your family celebrate by having a special meal together? (Christmas, Easter, national holidays, etc.) When families get together, there are often conversations about family memories.

For thousands of years, the Jews gathered every spring to celebrate Passover with a special meal. Passover is a time of remembering how God saved Moses and His people in Egypt when He had the angel of death pass over their homes. The Passover meal uses different types of food as symbols to help everyone remember how God saved His people. (Egg, lamb, herbs, etc.) It’s important to remember this time.

At the last supper, Jesus gave His disciples new symbols to help everyone remember how God saved His people from death forever. What were the symbols used at the Last Supper to help us remember God saves? (The bread and the cup.)


Jesus was perfect and innocent like the Passover lambs and He was slain (killed) for us on the Passover. In 1 Corinthians 5:7b, why do you think Jesus is called the Passover Lamb? (Children respond.) Jesus is also called the Lamb of God and the Lamb who was slain. Which of these names for Jesus is most meaningful to you? (Children respond.)
GOT TIME?  continued…

THE APOSTLES’ CREED STUDY

Purpose: This 10 statement study assists in the understanding and memorization of the Apostles’ Creed. It is divided into 2 parts: Part 1—The Father and The Son and Part 2—The Spirit and The Saints. While designed for ages 10 and above, discussions may be adapted to other age levels.

Supplies: Create a poster or provide individual copies of The Apostles’ Creed for children. For related tips and activities, go to ResourceWell.org.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

Statement 4, Part 1: The Father and the Son

“…suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.”

The Apostles’ Creed is called a statement of faith. Each statement is supported by the Scriptures. Christians believe “God has breathed life into all of Scripture. It is useful for teaching us what is true.” (2 Timothy 3:16.)

Today, let’s say the opening four statements together:

“I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
   I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
   who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
   suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.”

Students repeat the fourth statement. Jesus “suffered under Pontius Pilate.” Pontius Pilate was the Roman governor of Judea. He sentenced Jesus to be crucified, which is death on a cross. Volunteer reads of Jesus’ suffering in John 19:1-3, 16-19, 30. The Roman centurion testified that Jesus died. Joseph of Arimathea buried Jesus in a tomb and sealed it with a stone. Volunteer reads about Jesus’ burial in Mark 15:43-47.

In proving that Jesus truly died, why is it important to have the word of a Roman centurion, rather than only the word of Jesus’ followers? (The centurion was a more objective witness.) Who did the women see sealing the tomb? (Joseph of Arimathea.) Does anyone have questions about this statement of the Christian faith? How does knowing Jesus chose to suffer and die for you affect your relationship with Him? Recite “The Apostles’ Creed” together.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.
   I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
   who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
   suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
   On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven,
   He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.
   I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
   the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
   the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
   Amen.
GOT TIME? continued...

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Psalm 139:23-24

**GAME: CIRCLE TAG**

**Purpose:** Children play an alternate version of the traditional game, “Duck, Duck, Goose,” to learn the words of the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

Our Bible Memory Verse uses many action words such as “Search me,” “test me,” and “lead me.” In this fast action game, the leader will say the verse word for word as he or she taps the shoulder of everyone in the circle. The player tapped on the last word (“everlasting”) is to race the leader around the circle to see who can reach the seat first.

**Directions:**
1. Seat children in a circle and say the Bible Memory Verse together.
2. Choose one child to be the leader.
3. The leader walks around the outside of the circle. Each time the leader gently taps a child on the shoulder, the leader say the next word in the Bible Memory Verse.
4. If the leader cannot remember the next word, then the child tapped or the teacher says it.
5. The child tapped on the last word of the verse (“everlasting”) jumps up and chases the leader.
6. If the leader reaches the seat before being tagged by the child he or she tapped, that child becomes the leader. If the leader is tagged, he or she is the leader again or may choose a new child to be the leader.
7. Repeat as time allows.

**GAME: HEART TOSS**

**Purpose:** To help children engage and memorize the Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse: Psalm 139:23-24.

**Supplies:** One heart-shaped pillow, beanbag, or inflatable ball with heart drawn on it; Unit 3 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible

**Directions:**
1. Seat children in a circle.
2. The first child says the first word of the Bible Memory Verse and quickly tosses the heart (pillow, beanbag, or ball) to another child.
3. The catcher says the next word in the verse and quickly tosses the heart to another child.
4. Continue tossing until the verse is completed and all children have had a turn.
5. See how quickly the verse can be recited.
GOT TIME? continued...

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part One studies the life of Jesus (Circa 0-33 A.D.) beginning with the only story of His childhood and then focusing on His relationships, His ministry, His teachings, and the events surrounding His death, resurrection, and ascension. It concludes with a study of His kingdom parables. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

The Triumphal Entry (Circa 30-33 A.D.) How did Jesus enter the city of Jerusalem? (Riding on a donkey.) What did the people do as Jesus entered Jerusalem? (They lay their cloaks on the ground, waved palm branches, and shouted “Hosanna!”) What does “Hosanna” mean? (“Save” or “Here comes the Savior.”)

Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet (Circa 30-33 A.D.) Why did Jesus wash the disciples’ feet? (To show His love and to give them an example of how to show love through serving.) Why was it unusual to have an important person like Jesus wash feet? (It was the job of a lowly servant.)

Jesus and the Last Supper (Circa 30-33 A.D.) What two symbols did Jesus choose to help His disciples remember Him? (The bread and the cup.) What does the bread stand for? (The bread stands for the body of Jesus given for the forgiveness of our sins.) What does the cup stand for? (The cup stands for His blood given for our new life.)

How to create a Bible Timeline for the Life of Jesus:
1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Children can follow in Jesus’ footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

Life of Jesus: Jesus and His Father’s House > Jesus Is Baptized > Jesus Is Tempted > Jesus Calls His Disciples > Jesus Clears the Temple > Jesus Is Transfigured > Jesus Teaches the Beatitudes > Jesus and Nicodemus > Jesus and the Woman at the Well > Jesus with Mary and Martha > Jesus and Zacchaeus > Jesus Is Anointed > The Triumphal Entry > Jesus Washes His Disciples’ Feet > Jesus and the Last Supper > Jesus in the Garden > Jesus and the Cross > Jesus Is Risen > The Road to Emmaus > Jesus Talks with Peter > The Great Commission > The King Ascends

Kingdom Parables: The Lost Sheep > The Sower > The Vine and the Branches > The Workers in the Vineyard > The Great Banquet > The Rich Fool > The Talents > Lazarus and the Rich Man > The Lost Son > The Good Samaritan