

The Last Supper

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 26:26-30; John 13:1-15

MAIN POINT: Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover.

KEY PASSAGE: Luke 4:18

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why do believers share the Lord's Supper?

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death and to proclaim Him until He returns.

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KIDS WORSHIP

- Countdown
- Introduce the session (2 min.)
- Big picture question (1 min.)
- Giant timeline (1 min.)
- Tell the Bible story (10 min.)
- Christ connection
- Group demonstration (5 min.)
- Review (4 min.)
- Key passage (5 min.)
- Group game (5–10 min.)
- Sing and offering (3–12 min.)
- Missions (6 min.)
- Announcements (2 min.)
- Prayer (2 min.)
- Additional idea

Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus knew it was time for Him to die. He sat down with His disciples for the Passover meal and did something very unusual. Jesus washed His disciples' feet. This humble act was usually reserved for a servant. The footwashing symbolized a spiritual cleansing. The disciples were already positionally "clean" before God (see John 13:10) but even redeemed people still sin and need daily cleansing. (See

1 John 1:9.) In this, Jesus also set forth an example of love and humility for His disciples to mirror in their own actions toward one another. (John 13:15)

As they ate the Passover meal, Jesus broke bread and gave it to His disciples. He shared the cup with them too, explaining that the bread and cup represented His body and blood. Jesus established a new covenant.

In the Old Testament, God made a covenant, or promise, with His people. He gave them commandments to follow so they could live in right relationship with Him. But God's people broke the covenant. They didn't obey God, and they didn't love Him. By dying on the cross, Jesus brought forgiveness and made the way for people to know and love God again.

Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover, a time when God's people remembered how God had rescued His people from the Egyptians—passing over the houses marked with the blood of a lamb. Jesus instituted a new memorial, to Himself—the Lamb of God whose blood would bring salvation to the world.

Believers take the Lord's Supper to remember what Jesus did for us in His death and resurrection. We remember God's faithfulness, and we look forward to the day He will return.

Not all the kids you teach will be ready to take the Lord's Supper at church. Gently explain that the Lord's Supper, like baptism, is an ordinance of the church and is a celebration for those who have repented of their sin and trusted in Jesus for salvation.

Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://www.gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Display props:** Display foot-washing supplies (pitcher, bowl, towel) and communion elements (bread and cup).
- **Act it out:** Move around as you tell the story, mirroring Jesus' actions. Recline and then kneel. Sit and motion as if breaking bread and lifting a cup.

The Last Supper

Matthew 26:26-30; John 13:1-15

Jesus' disciples went into the city to prepare the Passover meal. When the meal was ready, Jesus and His disciples reclined at the table. Jesus knew His time on earth was almost over and He would soon return to the Father in heaven.

Jesus got up from the table, laid aside His outer robe, and wrapped a towel around His waist. Then He poured water into a basin and began washing His disciples' feet. In Bible times, a servant would wash someone's feet when he entered a house. Jesus—the King of kings—was doing what a servant would do! **Peter did not want Jesus to wash his feet. “You will never wash my feet—ever!” Peter said.**

Jesus replied, “If I don't wash you, you have no part with Me.”

Peter said, “Lord, not only my feet, but also my hands and my head.” Jesus told Peter that one who has bathed only needs to wash his feet because he is already clean. Jesus wasn't talking about physical cleanliness. He was talking about someone who has been forgiven of his sins by repenting and trusting in Jesus. A Christian should repent when he sins, but he only needs to receive salvation once.

When Jesus had washed His disciples' feet and put on His robe, He reclined at the table and said, “Do you understand what I have done? You call Me Teacher and Lord. I have given you an example to follow. You should wash one another's feet.” Jesus was telling the disciples to serve one another.

While they were eating, Jesus took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. Jesus said,

“Take and eat it; this is My body.” Then He took a cup and gave thanks. He gave it to His disciples and said, “All of you drink from it; this is My blood of the covenant, which is shed for many for the forgiveness of sins.”

After the supper, Jesus and His disciples sang psalms and went to the Mount of Olives.

Christ Connection: At the Passover, Jesus shared His last meal with the disciples before His death and resurrection. Jesus said that His death would establish a new covenant. God’s people had broken the old covenant, and God promised to make a new covenant to forgive sins. God forgives the sins of those who trust in His Son, Jesus.