

The Last Supper
(Children's Lesson – 2nd-3rd Grade)

Theme: The Last Supper – (*Establishing of The Lord's Supper*)

Teacher Pep Talk: The Last Supper is not only the last time Jesus ate with His Disciples. It is also the time where He gave them a picture of the New Covenant which He had come to establish between God and mankind. We call this picture "The Lord's Supper" (or Communion.)

Teaching young children about The Lord's Supper is a sweet and meaningful thing. Children seem to understand that one thing can stand for another. The bread represents Christ's body, (broken for us) and the wine represents Christ's blood (shed for us.) This is similar to how Christ represented us (or died for us) on the cross.

During the lesson you may wish to distribute crackers and grape juice to illustrate the bread and wine. **If so, you may wish to seek approval for this from your Pastor prior to the lesson.**

Your Pastor might even be willing to come to your class one day to talk about The Lord's Supper with the children! (*Ask early!!*)

You will need: Crackers and grape juice, small paper cups

Major Points: On the night before His arrest, Jesus had a Last Supper with His disciples. After the meal, Jesus gave the disciples a picture that we are to remember, of the New Covenant He had come to establish between God and Mankind. The picture is what we now call "The Lord's Supper" or "Communion."

The bread represents Jesus' body, which was broken for us. And the wine represents Jesus' blood, which was shed for us. Jesus told His Disciples to "Do this in remembrance of me."

Scripture Ref: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Memory Verse: *...do this in remembrance of me.* 1 Corinthians 11:24

LESSON:

The Last Supper

- On the night before His arrest (and His Trial and Crucifixion that followed) Jesus had a Last Supper with His disciples.
- During that supper He gave us a picture of the New Covenant that He had come to establish between God and Mankind.
- The picture that He gave us is something we now call “The Lord’s Supper” or “Communion.”

The Lord’s Supper

- Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-25 ...*The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*
- The picture Jesus gave us is of what His death on the cross meant to us. Jesus established the New Covenant between God and Mankind, when He went to the cross on our behalf.

The Bread represents Jesus’ Body

- Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-24 again: *The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”*
- The Bread was a picture given to us to help us remember that Jesus’ body was given for us on the cross.
- Jesus once referred to Himself as “the Bread of Life” which had “come down out of heaven.” John 6:51 *I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”*
- [Fun Fact: Bethlehem, the name of the town where Jesus was born, literally means “House of Bread.”]

The Wine represents Jesus’ Blood

- Read 1 Corinthians 11:25 again: *In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*
- The Wine was a picture given to us to help us remember that Jesus’ blood was shed for us on the cross.

- During His ministry on earth, Jesus referred to people drinking his blood to have life. John 6:53-56 *Jesus said to them, "Very truly I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them."*
- This was really repugnant to Jews of the time, as they were NEVER to drink human blood. Many of Jesus' followers left Him because of these statements. But later His Disciples realized that He was talking about this picture given at the Last Supper.
- [Another Fact: In ancient times a covenant had to be sealed with a blood sacrifice. The one that God made with Abraham was. (Reference: Genesis 15)]
- When Jesus died on the cross His blood was offered in sacrifice for us and it created a New Covenant with God so that whoever would believe on Jesus would be saved!

We are to observe the Lord's Supper until He comes back.

- When Jesus finished His work on the cross, and was buried, He came back to life on the third day (The Resurrection.)
- Those of us who believe in Jesus are to remember what He did for us to save us!
- The Bible tells us that we are to observe the Lord's Supper (or Communion) to "proclaim the Lord's (Jesus') death until he comes. 1 Corinthians 11:26 says: *For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*
- That means that by observing The Lord's Supper we are saying that we believe that what Jesus did on the cross for us makes a difference. It makes us right with God!
- One day Jesus will come back, and then we will always be with Him forever.

Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus and that He gave us a picture to help us remember what He has done for us.

PRAYER: Dear God,
Thank you for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.
Thank you that He died on the cross for us.
Thank you for giving us the picture of the Lord's Supper to help us remember all that Jesus has done for us.
Amen.

Suggested Activities:

Bible Verse Look-Up and Fill in the Blank

Distribute Bibles and teach the students how to look up the Scripture Reference for this lesson. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26.) Read the passage aloud.

Using the attached Activity Sheet, have the children fill in the blanks with the missing words from the verses. The NIV translation is used. If NIV Bibles are available, have the children look up the verses and fill in the blanks by looking at the verses in the Bible. If NIV Bibles are not available, then write the verses on the board and let the children fill in the blanks while looking at the verses on the board.

Allow the children to draw the Bread and the Cup on the bottom of their Activity page.

Re-enact Last Supper/ Demonstrate Communion

NOTE: If you plan to do this Activity, **please be sure to check with your Pastor first** to make sure that it is alright for you to do so. Your Pastor may prefer to come to your class personally, either during this class or at some point in the future, to speak to the children about what Communion is and how it is practiced in your church.

Also, be sure to check ahead of time for food allergies.

Bring grape juice, crackers, cups and napkins to class: enough for each child to partake.

Have the children sit together as if at a large, low table. (Ideas include putting a large sheet or folded-up table on the floor and having them sit around it, or pulling chairs around in a circle so that the children may all sit together.)

Distribute sips of grape juice in small cups for each child. Distribute a cracker to each child. Discuss in your own words what happened on the night of the Last Supper. Tell the children how Jesus took the bread, broke it and said *“This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”* Then tell the children how Jesus took the cup and said *“This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”* Explain how Communion is the celebration of The Lord's Supper, just as Jesus told His disciples to do. We are to remember Jesus when we celebrate Communion. Then, allow the children to have their crackers and juice.

Learn the Memory Verse

Help the children practice and learn their memory verse for the day.

1 Corinthians 11:24 ...*do this in remembrance of me.*

Word Scramble: Write out the verse on 3x5 cards: “do this” “in remembrance” “of me” First, scramble up the cards and have the children sort them out and say the verse. Next, have the children stand holding the cards and put themselves in the correct order. Lastly, have the children say the verse as a group and individually. Give awards!

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

²³ ...The Lord _____, on the night he was betrayed, took _____, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my _____, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the _____, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my _____; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s _____ until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:24 ... *do this in remembrance of me.*