

# Last Supper ~ Lord's Supper

## Video Workshop

### Summary of Activities

Students will watch and discuss the 26 minute animated video "The Last Supper" from the highly recommended (new) Superbook Video series.

### About our choice of video

We looked at a lot of clips for this lesson and the new [Superbook "Last Supper" video](#) stood out for a number of reasons.

- The new Superbook series is the most current looking of the animated videos.
- It can be viewed for free, if you sign up at the Superbook website.
- It's language is kid-friendly, words and concepts are explained. This is especially helpful to kids who may be new to the story.
- It provides context for the Last Supper. We see that the authorities are unhappy with Jesus and planning to arrest him. The foot-washing scene is included, which is one of the central life applications we can take from the story of the Last Supper: "Be a servant like Jesus." Several other parts of the Holy Week story are included that reinforce the central message: this is what Jesus wants us to be like.
- Many of the "live" actor films out there depict the Last Supper in dark, gloomy, hushed tones. Without context, children would have trouble identifying who's who at the table.
- Most of the scenes of the Last Supper on film are very short.
- The Superbook Last Supper video is ***strong on life application***. This is not always something we get from "Last Supper" videos. They tend to focus on the sacramental words, and meaning of bread and cup, whereas this particular video focuses on JESUS as a teacher and role model, right up to his last night.
- The age range on this video is **K-5<sup>th</sup>**

### Scripture for the Lesson

The words Jesus speaks in the video at the Last Supper come from **Matthew 26:17-30** and **John 13:1-30** Jesus washes the disciple's feet. The video is scriptural, such that you do not necessarily have to read the scriptures since you will see them.

**Memory Verse:** For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. John 13:15 (NRSV)

### Lesson Objectives

See the [Bible Background](#) (at the end) for this set's complete list of objectives. The video's main life application is reflected in the memory verse: *Jesus is our example*.

What's amazing about that statement, is that even on his last night, he was focused on being an example.

This lesson is also one of the few that includes the part of the Last Supper where Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. As such, this video doesn't act like an "overview of the story" in the same way other videos sometimes do. Last Supper-Lord's Supper is a big story which will get covered many ways at various times in Sunday School. This video does a great job of highlighting some special aspects of the Last Supper story which kids can immediately apply to their lives.

### Preparation and Materials

- Read the [Bible Background](#) and scripture.

- Preview the video for free at CBN's [Superbook site](#). The entire video can be viewed from their site if you have a good internet connection, computer and big monitor/projector/tv. Otherwise, you can purchase the video from your usual Christian video sources or CBN.
- A towel and bowl of water for the Reflection.

## Lesson Plan

### Open

Write the following questions on a piece of paper and tell your students that the answers to these questions are found in the video, so look for them!

- What does a person have to do to become popular or considered "great" in our world?
- What makes a person "great" according to Jesus?
- What does Jesus mean when he says we should wash each other's feet?

### Show the Video

Show almost the entire video, pausing at the 23 minute mark when the music video starts . Hold a discussion, and then finish by watching the ending music video, "Salvation Poem." It recaps the story they have just seen and it meaning.

### Reflect

Return to your opening three questions and ask your students to answer them.

#### To close:

One thing that's amazing about Jesus, is that even on his last night, just before he was going to be arrested and crucified, he was focused on being an example.

**Pull out a towel and bowl of water and ask,** "Are you willing to be an example like Jesus told you to be? ...to show others that you are here to serve them?"  
Who wants to give it a try!

#### Questions for follow up:

How does Jesus change your life?  
What does it mean to say you "live for him"

# Last Supper ~ Lord Supper

## Bible Background and Lesson Objectives

### Scripture:

**Primary Bible Story:** Matthew 26:17-30

### Additional Scriptures:

Exodus 12:1-42 The Passover

Mark 14:12-26

Luke 22:7-20

John 13:1-30 Jesus washes the disciple's feet.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Paul repeats Jesus' "words of institution."

### Memory Verses:

"Do this in remembrance of me." Luke 22:19d (NRSV)

"Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Matthew 26: 26-28 (NRSV)

### How's your memory?

All four Gospels include the story of the Last Supper, but there are interesting differences which if you're not aware of, may surprise you and some of your older students. We have chosen Matthew's version as the "go-to" text, but it isn't the only one that the lessons will reference. Check out this [website](#) for a side-by-side comparison.

### More about the Gospel differences

Jesus' "words of institution" about the cup and bread are some of the most quoted words in Christian worship, yet none of the four Gospels have exactly the same words. In Matthew 26:26 and Mark 14:22, Jesus says, "*Take, eat: this is my body.*" Luke 22:19 adds the familiar words, "*which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me.*" Luke also adds some other words which complicate the reading for children, and John adds an entire speech(!) — which is why neither of those two Gospels has been chosen as the primary text for this lesson set.

About the cup, Mark writes that Jesus said, *This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many* (14:24). To which Matthew adds (in 26:28) *for the remission of sins.* (You can always count on Matthew to add explanation.) Whereas, Luke writes, *This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you* (22:20, KJV).

Complicating our scripture choice and likely confounding a few memories, are the words of the Apostle Paul, who wrote in 1 Corinthians 11:24-25, what are considered the EARLIEST version of the words of institution: *"...and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."* (Notice Paul doesn't use the words "take, eat" as the Gospels do.) *In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."* Paul wrote these words some 25 years before Mark and Matthew wrote their accounts, and Luke seems to echo them.

People have spent their lives divining the differences. The differences tell us that, thankfully, **the early Church was not obsessed with harmonization, and saw the teaching merit in each account.** These differences also serve to remind us that the Gospel is a LIVING thing, and not merely words on a page, or tied to a particular way of doing or saying

something. Jesus is remembered and revealed to us like sunlight bursting through a crystal. Every time we celebrate Jesus' words with bread and cup, we can experience a living presence and new insights.

Like the cross itself, the Last Supper stands between two worlds. It roots us in a past event that was boldly telling us what to look for in the future: God's Messiah. And then it reveals that Messiah to be Jesus. **Then repeated, the Last Supper becomes the First of Many Suppers in his Kingdom come.**

## Teaching Objectives

**After completing this Rotation of lessons, participants will be able to:**

- Retell the story in their own words: how Jesus celebrated a special last meal, a Passover Seder, with his disciples before his crucifixion.
- Discover that during this meal, now known as the "Last Supper," Jesus gave new meaning to bread and wine and instituted what we today know as "Communion" or, "The Eucharist."
- Recognize that we celebrate Communion to remember what Jesus did for us, and what Jesus wants us to do in response.

### Additional Objectives:

This set includes a Passover Seder Workshop which helps connect the meaning of the Lord's Supper to the ritual meaning of the Passover meal which Jesus was celebrating with his disciples. The Computer Workshop also reinforces this connection.

This set also includes "suggestions" for a Communion Workshop to help your student learn more about your denomination and church's understanding and practice of the Lord's Supper.

## More Bible Background for Your Teaching

Remember What? The Last Supper is a New Testament story based on an Old Testament event that God commanded the Israelites to remember. In Exodus 12, Numbers 9, Leviticus 23 (among other places) God tells Moses, "Let the children of Israel celebrate the passover at its set time."

But as Jesus often did, he took the "old" and gave it new meaning.

Our story begins with "the day of Unleavened Bread," also known as Passover. Jesus and his disciples were devout Jews who celebrated all of the Jewish customs and feasts. Passover was one of the most important, as well as one of the oldest, Jewish festivals.

The first Passover began when God hearing the cries of his people who were suffering as slaves in Egypt. God sends Moses to Pharaoh with the words, "Let my people go," and as expected, Pharaoh said no, until a series of plagues convinced him otherwise. The final plague was especially terrible. All first-born sons in Egypt would die, except those who's doorposts were marked with the Blood of the Lamb.

God's instructs Moses and the people to remember this "Passover" every year. "This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord" (Exodus 12:14). Over the next thousand years, the festival became codified by rules and rituals,

**...and then along came Jesus, AUDACIOUSLY re-directing the meaning of 1000 year old Old Testament feast.**

Jesus' Last Supper words were rooted in the ritual meal of the Passover, but given new meaning by Jesus on the eve of his atoning death. Post-resurrection, his words and action rose and revealed their significance and meaning to his disciples -becoming the central act of their worship together.

- The lamb's body (offering) became his body. This is me. I'm am the offering.
- The lamb's blood (taking away sin) became his blood. This is my blood, a new covenant, a new promise of salvation.

- This time, God's response to the people's cry was a child in the manger. Jesus would become the lamb's blood that saves, the bread that sustains in the wilderness.
- Take, eat, I am with you. I will sustain you. I am your Bread of Life.
- The Passover Cup of Passover, ---the Elijah's Cup which also symbolized the coming of the Messiah, became not only a sign of blessing "for the forgiveness of sins," according to Matthew 26:28, but a Cup of Joy shared with the resurrected Christ.

*This is my body, my blood,*

*This is my grace, my joy, ...for you.*

## Some History

**The Gospels record Jesus celebrating many meals and banquets during his life**, at his resurrection (Emmaus, for example), and after his resurrection. Those meal stories began to help shape our understanding of the Lord's Supper celebration which grew out of the Last Supper event.

More than just a Passover or "Last" Supper, the early church experienced "communion" with Christ's spirit and with each other. The meal became a manifestation of Christ's presence and a source of comfort and strength for his followers, especially those being persecuted for giving their allegiance to Christ.

The word "Sacrament" comes from the Latin (Roman) "sacramentum" — which is most often used to describe an oath of loyalty. And indeed, taking part in the Lord's Supper became one of the prime ways believers expressed their identity, ...which wasn't always a safe thing to do in the Roman Empire. The Lord's Supper was also a way to evangelize new Christians — inviting them into the mystery of Communion with a God who cared deeply and personally for them.

The Sacrament is known by several names, each name revealing something about Church history and different understandings of the Lord's Supper.

- Eucharist: from the Greek word *eucharisteo* meaning "to thank." Reminds us that giving thanks to God for his mercies and grace is part of the meal.
- The breaking of bread (Acts 2:42): We receive strength to love God with all our heart, soul and mind. Our faith is nourished and strengthened every time we partake of Communion.
- Communion: From the Greek word *koinonia* meaning "fellowship" with an emphasis on community. Everyone partaking of Communion is united by the Holy Spirit.
- The Lord's Supper: Reminding us that Jesus is the one who initiated the sacrament and he does the inviting to the table, offering us forgiveness of our sins. We experience his presence with us as we meet him at this holy meal.

### Your denominational view on Communion

The Christian Church has long held differing views on how Christ is present in the sacrament of Communion, and can you blame them? The scriptures are diverse, and the meanings deep, though today we are in closer agreement than ever before. A Roman Catholic understanding (called "transubstantiation") teaches that, while the outward appearance of the bread and wine do not change, the internal reality does; the bread and wine are actually transformed into the body and blood of Christ. Most Protestants believe the change is symbolic. Still others, look past the relics of Old Testament language, towards the Wedding Feast and Great Banquet as interpreters of Jesus' intentions and vision.

United Methodist Theologian J.B. Phillips notes the truth that humbles every honest discussion about the Lord's Supper: "We affirm the reality of Christ's presence, although we do not claim to be able to explain it fully."

We encourage all teachers to become familiar with your church's viewpoint on Communion.

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