



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 32

THE LAST SUPPER

The Last Supper was the Last Passover.



MONDAY

THE STORY: LUKE 22:1-6

The trap was laid. The passage tells us that Satan entered Judas, who went to the chief priests to make arrangements to betray Jesus. The chief priests were looking to kill Jesus. But they would likely have known His whereabouts only when He was speaking to the crowds during the day. Judas served their purpose to find Jesus at night, when the crowds were not around.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does it mean to betray someone? (Literally it means “to give someone over.” But the broader meaning can be found in betraying a person’s friendship or trust. Friends are loyal; they trust one another. That trust assumes each will honor and protect the other. Judas despised that trust, and with deception, pretending to be a loyal follower, turned Jesus over to those who hated Him.)

How might we betray the trust of people we love? (We could betray them by lying to them or deceiving them. Gossip is also a kind of betrayal.)

PRAY:

Ask God for the grace to love others and not betray them.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: LUKE 22:7-16

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. We are left to wonder if Jesus had really made arrangements administratively or if God supernaturally set up the Passover meal details. In any case, things unfolded just as Jesus said they would. Jesus was eager to eat the Passover before He suffered. There is no question that Jesus was aware of what was about to occur.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What did Jesus mean by “before I suffer”? (Jesus knew He was soon to be arrested, beaten, and crucified.)

What did Jesus mean when in Luke 22:15 He said He would not eat the Passover again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God? (The Passover lamb was a picture of God’s salvation through Jesus, the Lamb of God. Jesus was about to die as the sacrifice for the sins of His people. On the cross, the true Passover occurred; God poured out His wrath upon Jesus for the sins of the world. Death and judgment “pass over” us and fall upon Jesus, the Lamb of God, instead.)

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for being our Passover lamb.



WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: LUKE 22:17-22

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 Israelites' homes where the lamb's blood was painted on the doorposts and lintels.

This night, before Jesus' crucifixion, 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 sums up the last Passover this way: "I will not eat of it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." Today, we celebrate the Passover in the new covenant celebration of the Lord's Supper, also known as "Communion."

TALK ABOUT IT:

What meal was Jesus celebrating? (The Passover.)

What do we call it when we celebrate it at church on Sundays? (We celebrate a part of the Passover meal, which reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus. We call this the Lord's Supper or Communion.)

Where is the gospel in the words of Jesus? (When Jesus mentions a new covenant in His blood He is referring to His sacrifice on the cross.)

PRAY:

Thank God for giving up His life on the cross and taking our sins as our Passover lamb.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: LUKE 22:24-34

The disciples didn't have a clue. Right in the midst of Jesus' last moments, the disciples began to argue between themselves about who was the greatest disciple. In spite of all Jesus said about His need to suffer and die, they were more concerned about their own status. Jesus warned Peter specifically when he boastfully replied that he was willing to die or go to prison for Jesus' sake. The disciples still were looking toward an earthly kingdom and had no idea what was about to take place. Jesus, who knew the road of suffering ahead, informed Peter that even he would soon deny Christ. Matthew 26:35 records Peter's response: "Even if I have to die with You, I will never disown You". All the disciples said the same.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why was Peter so confident he would never deny Jesus? (Peter thought Jesus would fight any opposition and bring victory. In all the Old Testament stories, those who trusted the Lord won the victory even when greatly outnumbered. Peter was probably thinking there would be a battle and that Jesus would use His power and win. He was not prepared for the Savior's unwillingness to resist the men who arrested him. Peter denied the Lord and shrunk back in fear.)

How can we be like Peter? (We can be afraid to tell people we are Christians for fear of what they will say about us.)

What did Jesus say at the Last Supper to teach the disciples about true greatness? (Jesus said in Luke 22:26,27 that we should be like Him and serve others.)

PRAY:

Ask God to help you long for true greatness and not live for worldly greatness.



**FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

THE STORY: ZECHARIAH 11:12,13

Zechariah, who lived many hundreds of years before Christ, prophesied the amount of the blood money paid to Judas. He also prophesied the name of the field in which he was buried. In the amazing providence of God, the prophets spoke truths that we only understand by looking back.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why did God give the prophets little details like this concerning what He was about to do? (God demonstrated that His plan of salvation was firmly established and that He is able to make all things work together for His glory and our good.)

Can you think of other Scriptures that speak of God's control over all things? (Look up verses such as 2 Corinthians 9:8, Romans 8:28, and Matthew 10:30.)

PRAY:

Thank God that He is in control of all things and works them all together for our good.