

# THE LAST SUPPER

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 22:1-34



*The Last Supper was the last Passover*

## The STORY

Pray with children to start class.

### Teaching Points for Class Discussion:

**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.

**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.

**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.

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### WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

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."



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### ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Read the following Bible passage from the Old Testament. Use the following questions to help the children understand how this passage points to Christ in the New Testament.

**Bible Passage: Zechariah 11:12,13**

**Connecting the passage to Christ:**

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.

**Questions for reflection:**

- 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.)

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*



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### ACTIVITIES & OBJECT LESSONS

*Use the following activities for practical application and discovery of this lesson. For the younger children, review the preschool questions and use them to help the children relate to the passage. For older children, ask them why they think this passage is in the Bible for us today. How is it supposed to affect our lives?*

#### LINE UP THE MEN

Use this illustration to help the children see how easily we can argue over who is the greatest.

Ask the ladies to line up on the right side of the classroom from shortest to tallest. Observe the way they converse to do it. (Most likely they will politely line up without arguments.) Then ask the young men to line up on the opposite side of the classroom according to height. Observe again the way they do it and how long it takes. If this does not produce the desired result, or if you just want to have some additional fun, ask them to rework their line. This time they should line up the weakest to the strongest! That will get them going.

Have the class sit down and read Luke 22:24-26.

Ask the boys how many of them were willing to let others ahead of them, making them look weak. How many of them were tempted to think they were taller or stronger than they actually are?

What does Jesus say defines true greatness? (Luke 22:26 says "the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.")

How did Jesus live out this definition of true greatness? (Jesus, who had no sin, became a servant and took our sin upon Himself. The One who was supremely great, became despised and rejected by God for our sake.)



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### A BETRAYER AMONG YOU

**Supplies:**

- a large bag of chocolate candy kisses

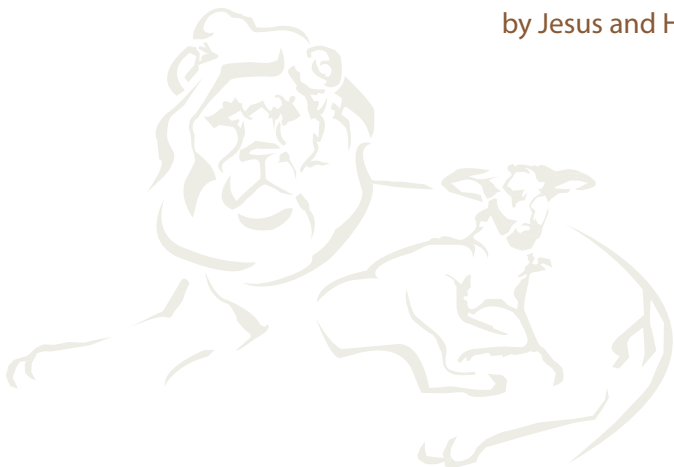
Prior to class enlist the help of a betrayer. Explain to this student that you are going to ask the men in his group for a number between one and five and he is to give you the answer by lightly raising his fingers the number of times to give you the answer.

Divide the class up into groups of five. Tell each group they are to think of a number between one and five. Tell every member of their group and you are going to demonstrate your ability to guess.

You will be blind guessing all the groups except for the one with the traitor. Each group that stumps you gets one candy for each person in their group. After about five rounds the group with the traitor should be getting upset. Once you think the exercise has gone on long enough or if the traitor is found out, stop the exercise, tell them what you did, and give their group an equal share. Ask them the following questions:

- How did it feel to be betrayed? (Draw them out.)
- Why is betrayal such an evil sin? (It takes advantage of trust and reveals the deception of faking friendship.)
- What does Judas' betrayal tell us about him? (He was unfaithful. He was not a true friend to Jesus.)
- Should we look down at Judas or are we like him? (Apart from grace we would be just like Judas. People all around us are mocking the Lord and doing what they want for their own gain. People also cheat and betray their spouses and their friends. They are no different than Judas.)

Read the assigned passages and talk about the amazing kindness shown to us by Jesus and His sacrifice for us on the cross.



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### KNOWING THE FUTURE

#### Supplies:

- bottle of root beer
- bottle of white grape juice
- cups enough for the class
- volunteer dressed in jeans
- volunteer dressed in a suit and tie (Clothing can be altered to suit your volunteers but they should be different from one another.)

Talk to the class about the amazing way Jesus knew just what was going to happen. At some point, mention to the class:

“Wouldn’t it be wild if I told you a man wearing jeans was going to come into our class with a bottle of . . . root beer and it happened? Can you imagine your amazement if I said a man in a suit was going to come in with a bottle full of grape juice and it happened? You would think it was amazing!” Then go on with your lesson. (Have another teacher give the signal and have your volunteers come in. Have the second one come in a minute after the first. Pretend like you had no idea, and then pretend to blame the other teachers, saying that they are trying to trick you.)

Then say, “Wait a minute. How would you know what I was going to say?” Ask one of the students to taste what is in the two jars. Have a volunteer ready with a cup. Keep up your charade as long as you can, then pass out cups and give everyone a drink and ask them if they were surprised. Tell them your stunt was a simple trick, but Jesus was for real!

## PRAYER

Pick several children to pray based on the day’s scripture passages.

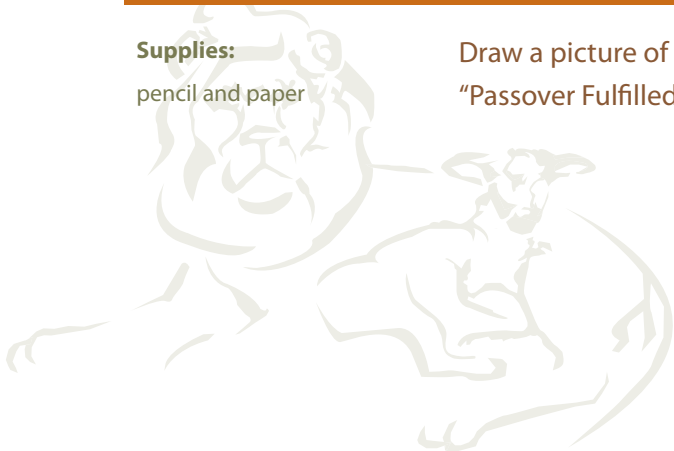
## IN CLASS PROJECT

### AN ACTIVITY

#### Supplies:

pencil and paper

Draw a picture of a lamb with a cross in the background on a hill. Write the words, “Passover Fulfilled” on your paper.



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### FOR THE OLDER GRADES

#### HARMONIZE THE STORY

**Supplies:**

- white board and markers

Using the account of Luke as a baseline. Look up Matthew 26:1-35, Mark 14:1-42 and John 13:1-38 and compare the accounts. Look for details Luke left out and write them on the white board. Next to each one list the verse they logically follow in Luke's account. Ask the class what the benefit might be of reading all the Gospel accounts together.

### A LITTLE BIT MORE

**Judas the betrayer** – Right from the beginning of his introduction in each gospel account (Matthew 10:4, Mark 3:19, and Luke 6:16) Judas is listed as a traitor. Judas was the treasurer among the disciples. He handled the money. Judas showed his greed and love of money in criticizing the wasting of perfume on Jesus (see Matthew 26:6-13). We don't know why Judas joined the disciples of Jesus. Perhaps he was looking for an earthly kingdom; to profit from being close to its leader. When Jesus announced His certain death, close to the time of the Passover, Judas seemed to cut his ties with Jesus and work towards betraying Christ. Judas did betray Jesus with a kiss. After trying to return the blood money and being rejected, Judas killed himself.

