

April 10 Elementary – Good Friday

Bible Passage: The Last Supper / Matthew 26, John 13

Story Point: Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover.

Memory Verse: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV

Big Picture Question: Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

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.*

*** BIBLE STUDY TIPS FOR PARENTS:**

PARENTS: Our Easter lesson for Sunday will be including Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. Our Good Friday lesson includes the Passover dinner before Jesus' death. Feel free to discuss with your children why we celebrate Good Friday, and why we can consider it good.

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 foot washing 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.

***STORY:**

SAY • Today we're going to learn about Jesus' last meal before He died and rose again. What happened at this last supper was incredibly important. Jesus explained to His followers that God was establishing a new covenant, or agreement, with His people to save them from sin. Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

We have been hearing stories about Easter, the time when we celebrate Jesus' death on the cross and His resurrection. Last week, we learned that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to celebrate Passover. People welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem as their King. Today's Bible story happened on the night Jesus was betrayed and arrested. It's called "The Last Supper." Listen to this.

Use the Bible storytelling tips below to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video, or both!

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.

CLOSER:

SAY • Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord's Supper at Passover. What did God's people celebrate at Passover? [Invite responses.] That's right! Passover was a time to celebrate the way God saved His people from slavery in Egypt.

At this first Lord's Supper, Jesus said that God was starting a new covenant, an important agreement. The original covenant that God made with His people was this: God would give instructions, and people would agree to obey those instructions in order to honor God and receive blessing from Him.

Jesus took the original covenant and turned it around. Instead of asking the people to promise to serve God, Jesus said that He promised to serve people. He showed a small picture of that service when He washed the disciples' feet. But the main way Jesus served His disciples and people is by perfectly obeying all of God's commands and willingly dying on the cross in their place for their sins. That's why He said that the bread was His body and that the cup was His blood. He was telling His disciples that He would die in their place and in the place of all His followers. **Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.**

***Christ Connection:**

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.*

***GOSPEL PLAN:**

(Included in the Activity Pages)

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's

something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

***PRAYER**

SAY • God, thank You for Jesus' example of how we as believers should treat each other. Help us to remember that when we were sinners, Jesus died on the cross to rescue us from sin and rose again to give us the promise of new life with Him. Amen.

***KEY PASSAGE / MEMORY VERSE:**

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6 ESV

***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- What were Jesus and His disciples gathering to celebrate? (*Passover, John 13:1*)
- What did Jesus wash of His disciples'? (*their feet; John 13:5,10*)
- What did Jesus say the bread and drink represented? (*His body and blood, Matt. 26:26-28*)
- Why do you think Jesus made a new covenant? What happened to the old covenant? *Lead kids to remember the old covenant required complete obedience to the Law and repeated sacrifices. No one can obey God perfectly except Jesus! Jesus fulfilled the old covenant and died to be the perfect sacrifice. The new covenant opened up the way for everyone who believes in Jesus to live with God forever. We are saved by grace through faith, not by earning God's love through obedience. (See Eph. 2:8-9.)*
- Why do you think God wants us to serve one another with joy? *Help kids see that Jesus is the ultimate Servant. In His life and death, Jesus showed us how to love and serve one another. When we serve one another with joy, it offers a picture of what Jesus' love for us looks like. When we trust in Jesus, the Holy Spirit guides us to serve others out of love.*
- Whom can you serve this week? *Encourage kids to think of a friend, family member, or neighbor they can serve this week. Discuss specific ways they can serve people. Highlight the fact that different people might need to be served in different ways. When we love Jesus, we will also love who He loves, and that includes everyone in the whole world! Remind kids that God gets the glory when we love one another.*

***ACTIVITIES:**

WORD SEARCH ACTIVITY PAGE & COLORING PAGE

Invite kids to complete “Word Search” on the activity page.

SAY • All of these words were very important in our bible story.

At the Passover, Jesus washed his disciples feet as an act of love and service. He 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.

“The Lord’s Supper” ACTIVITY PAGE

Invite kids to complete “The Lord’s Supper” on the activity page. Kids should use the code to reveal two important parts of the Lord’s Supper. (bread, cup) Each box relates to the corresponding letter’s position in the grid.

SAY • In the Bible story Jesus ate a special meal with His disciples. The meal was usually to remember the Passover, but Jesus used the bread and the cup to talk about something even greater. Jesus and the disciples ate the first Lord’s Supper at Passover. Remember, Passover was a yearly reminder of what God had done to deliver His people from slavery in Egypt.

At this meal, Jesus took the bread and the cup and told the disciples to use these things as a reminder. The bread is a reminder of Jesus’ broken body. The cup is a reminder of His blood given for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus knew His death was coming, and He wanted the disciples to remember its importance. Jesus gave up His own life for our sin.

WASH FEET:

Fill a bucket with a couple inches of water. Set it on a towel in front of a chair. Lay another towel beside the tub. Lead your child to take off their socks and shoes. Invite your child to sit in the chair and place their feet in the bucket. Splash water over their feet. Then use a small towel to dry their feet before inviting them to step on the towel beside the bucket.

SAY • Jesus ate a special meal with His friends. Jesus got up from the table and washed His friends feet like I washed yours. Jesus loved and helped His friends and taught them to love and help one another. Jesus loved and helped us by doing for us what we could never do: Jesus is our King who died on the cross to rescue us from our sin.

HIDE-AND-SEEK DINNER:

Hide the following items around the room: bread (real or fake), plate, grape juice, cup, napkin, and bath towel.

Instruct children to find six hidden items needed to re-enact a special dinner that Jesus had before He died. When children find all six items, ask them which one is not like the others. Ask why they think a towel was included in this special dinner.

SAY • All of these items are similar except for one. Which one seems out of place? That's right, the towel! The rest of these items could easily be used at a dinner party. In our bible story today, Jesus gathered with his disciples to celebrate Passover. At this dinner he got down and like a servant washed his disciples' feet. But the main way Jesus served His disciples and people is by perfectly obeying all of God's commands and willingly dying on the cross in their place for their sins. That's why He said that the bread was His body and that the cup was His blood. He was telling His disciples that He would die in their place and in the place of all His followers.

As a church, we continue to celebrate the Lord's Supper: it helps us remember what Jesus did for us when He died on the cross to rescue us from sin. **Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.**

Believers share the Lord's Supper to remember Jesus' life and death and to proclaim Him until He returns. We can call today Good Friday, because God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. The story doesn't end with Jesus dying on the cross, but conquered death and rose on the 3rd day. This is why today is good and we get to celebrate together on Easter.