

A Goodbye Meal

The last supper

Matthew 26:14-16; John 13:26-30; Mark 14:12-26

Character Trait: Service

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall that the religious leaders wanted Jesus killed and that Judas betrayed Him.
- Children will identify that the bread and cup of communion represent the body and blood of Jesus.
- Children will share one specific way they can serve someone else.

Supplies:

- *A Goodbye Meal* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Paper cup *(one for each child)*
- Small, paper plate *(one for each child)*
- Coloring supplies
- Glue
- Glitter, sequins, and plastic jewels *(if available)*
- Brown construction paper *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Think of someone you care about. How do you show them you care and remember them? *(Invite a few volunteers to share aloud.)*

SAY: Today, we will learn about what Jesus taught His disciples to do in order to remember the priceless gift He gave us all.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **What did the people do when they saw Jesus riding on the donkey?** *(They remembered the miracles He did and put their cloaks and palm branches on the road before Him to honor Him.)*
- **What did the people say?** *("Hosanna!" "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!")*
- **The Pharisees were not happy. They told Jesus to quiet the crowd of people. What did Jesus say to them?** *("Even if everyone stopped shouting, the stones would still praise Me!")*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *A Goodbye Meal* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Jesus healed sick people and fed hungry people.
- He loved outcasts and taught everyone about God's Kingdom.
- But the religious leaders didn't like His teaching and were jealous of Him.

- They hated Jesus so much that they decided to have Him killed.
- They gave thirty pieces of silver to Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, to hand Jesus over to them.
- Then Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Passover.
- While they ate, Jesus said, sadly, "One of you will betray Me."
- Surprised, they each replied, "It's not me, Lord!"
- "It's true," said Jesus. "One of you, eating here, will betray Me."
- "Not me, Lord," said Judas.
- "You know it is," Jesus replied. "Go! Do it quickly!"
- So Judas left.
- Jesus took bread and thanked God for it.
- He broke it, gave it to His disciples, and said, "Remember Me when you eat this. It's My body, given for you."
- Then Jesus picked up a cup and thanked God for it.
- "Everyone drink from this cup," He said. "This is My blood, poured out so that sins may be forgiven."
- When they had finished eating, Jesus and His disciples sang a hymn together.
- Then they walked to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray.

Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **What were Jesus and His disciples celebrating?** *(Passover)*
- **Who were jealous of Jesus and decided to have Him killed?** *(The religious leaders)*
- **Who betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver?** *(Judas)*
- **What did Jesus say the bread was?** *(His body)*
- **What did Jesus say the cup contained?** *(His blood)*
- **What did Jesus mean by this?** *(Answers will vary but should include that Jesus was using the bread and cup as symbols of what He would soon do for all of us. Jesus would soon give up His body and blood on the cross to take the punishment we deserve for our sins.)*
- **Today, Christians still follow Jesus' instructions to remember His sacrifice. What is this called?** *(Communion or the Eucharist)*

SAY: Jesus knew He would be betrayed by one of His own disciples. He also knew that He would give up His body and blood for all of us. He willingly did this so that our sins may be forgiven. Jesus told His disciples to remember His sacrifice by eating the bread and drinking from the cup. Today, we follow these same instructions when we take communion.

SAY: Even though Jesus knew He would suffer, He still expressed gratitude to God. Jesus knew that—no matter what—God always works things for good (Romans 8:28). Through His suffering and death, Jesus provided a way for us to be forgiven.

God's Bigger Story:
(5 minutes)

SAY: Jesus told His disciples to remember Him when they ate the bread. He wants us to remember that He gave His body and blood on the cross. He freely died to take the punishment for our sins so that we could be forgiven.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

As they were eating *(pretend to eat)*,
Jesus took some bread and blessed it *(hold hands palms up and look up)*.
Then he broke it in pieces *(pretend to break bread)*
and gave it *(pretend to pass bread out to others)* **to the disciples,**
saying, "Take it, for this is my body *(trace two fingers down the sides of your torso)*."

Mark 14:22 (NLT)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Secretly select one child. Then, explain to the group that you have selected a secret person and now you challenge them to figure out who it is. Explain that they may only ask questions that can be answered with "yes" or "no" to figure out clues. Children may guess the secret person's name, but if they are wrong, then they are "out" for the remainder of the game. The game continues until the secret person is discovered. Play the game as time permits.

SAY: During the game, you had to try to guess the identity of the secret person. But Jesus did not have to guess who would betray Him: Judas.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a paper cup and a small, paper plate. Provide coloring supplies and tell them to draw a loaf or piece of bread in the middle of the plate. Then, provide glue, glitter, sequins, and plastic jewels *(if available)*. Tell the children to decorate their plate and cup to take home as a reminder of Jesus' ultimate act of service for all of us.

For younger children...
Simplify the activity for younger children by only providing a paper cup to decorate and take home.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by challenging them to create their own "broken pieces of bread" by ripping small pieces out of brown construction paper and then gluing them to the plate. Have older children complete the activity by copying the memory verse onto the plate as well.

Character Trait: Service

(10 minutes)

SAY: Service is the act of helping, encouraging, or doing work for someone else. At the Passover meal, Jesus explained how He would soon complete the ultimate act of service. Jesus would give His body and blood as payment for our sins.

Encourage the children to think more about service by asking the following:

- **What acts of service can you do for those in your family?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **What acts of service can you do for your community?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How has the service of others helped you?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Why is service important?** *(Answers will vary but should include that it shows that we care about others and want to help.)*
- **How does choosing to serve others honor God?** *(Answers will vary but should include that serving others shows that we care about what God cares about: people.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: There are many different ways to serve others. We can help others by sharing our skills and talents. We can encourage people with our words. We can serve as examples of how to love and live God's way.

SAY: Think of one way that you can serve someone else by showing them God's love. Then, turn to someone next to you and share. *(Provide a few moments for the children to do this. Then, call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but may include sharing encouraging words such as a Bible verse, helping them with a task or chore, or being a good listener while someone else is talking.)*

Challenge the children to follow through on their ideas before the next lesson.

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Service means giving of our time, energy, and talent so that we can help others. Jesus told His disciples that He would do this when He told them the bread was His body, and the cup held His blood. Jesus would soon give up His own life so that we could receive forgiveness from our sins.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
Thank You for Jesus' ultimate act of service. Help us always to remember how much Jesus loves us all by choosing to serve those around us.
Amen.

Notes